Columbia Law School

PI/PS Office of Public Interest/ Public Service Law and Careers

GOVERNMENT JOB SEARCH BASICS

The government—whether at the local, state, or federal level—is an exciting place to work and appeals to people with all types of specific interests, including environmental law, civil rights, gun control, voting rights, anti-corruption, international law, domestic violence, economic development, animal rights, consumer protection, education, family law, transportation, health, housing, labor and employment, and tax.

STEP 1: Review Relevant Resources to Generate Ideas:

The PI/PS Job Search Tools page has a section focusing on a government job search. Regardless of whether those materials are geared towards internships or postgraduate employment, review them to have a comprehensive understanding of government entities to which you could apply for a job. In addition to others on the PI/PS webpage, these resources include:

- <u>The Arizona Guide (Government Honors and Internship Handbook)</u> for federal, state, and local government internships. (password: publicservice)
- **USAJOBS.GOV** for a listing of thousands of jobs and internships in the federal government.
- **PSJD.org** for public interest (including government) jobs and employer profiles. Tip: sign up for updates on jobs that fit your search.
- <u>Symplicity</u>
 - For jobs that employers send to us directly. Tip: Watch for PI/PS's weekly job blasts!
 - For students' summer internship evaluations. (Select "My Account," then "Evaluations," and then "Search.")
- <u>New York Public Interest Index</u> for New York-area employers listed by subject area. Note that there is a specific section on government employment, but, additionally, each individual topic area lists applicable government entities that work in that area.

STEP 2: Meet with Alex Hogan–PI/PS Director of Government Programs

After brainstorming areas where you would be interested in working, make an appointment through Symplicity to meet with Alex to discuss these options and see if he has additional suggestions. Alex can also discuss issues with you that are unique to government hiring, including citizenship requirements and background checks.

STEP 3: Apply!

As you draft your application materials, use the Public Interest Job Search Toolkit as your guide. Work with your PI/PS adviser or submit materials to the 1L Resume and Cover Letter Review Portal (under "Resume Review Portals"). The Toolkit also has sample resumes and cover letters!

VISIT THE PI/PS JOB SEARCH TOOLS PAGE TODAY BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!

