Washington Medical Legal Partnership
Proposal for Summer Internship

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| Location | Northwest Justice Project/Harborview Medical Center  |
| Department | Harborview Medical Center Pediatrics |
| Qualifications | The internship is open to any law student who will have completed at least the first year of law school as of June 2024. Rule 9 eligibility is not required. This is a hybrid position and will require onsite and in-person office hours. |
| Dates  | *8-10 weeks total– healthcare & legal student to coordinate times* |
| Weekly Hours | 10-20 | Stipend | $3200 |
| Health Considerations | Students will work in a clinical environment. Completion of any required vaccination or screening before start of internship is expected. |
| Project | **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Provider Responsiveness and Accountability to Client and Provider needs** |
| Description | This practical, policy-focused project seeks collaboration between healthcare providers and advocates from the Northwest Justice Project to research, analyze and design solutions to address widespread challenges with getting reliable Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services. NEMT is an important benefit for people who need assistance getting to and from medical appointments. In Washington State, the Health Care Authority (HCA) covers NEMT for eligible clients to and from covered health care services through contracts with transportation brokers. Additionally, Medicaid enrollees under age 21 are covered by an important law called the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, which provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health and specialty services. EPSDT applies to all Medicaid benefits, including NEMT. Under EPSDT, HCA and its contractors have special obligations to ensure that youth actually receive all of the care and services they are entitled to in a timely manner. However, MLP has heard reports from its medical partners at Seattle Children’s Hospital and Harborview Medical Center, as well as from patient families, that they are not reliably receiving the NEMT services they are entitled to.Working with clinicians, and with attorneys from Northwest Justice Project’s Washington Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP), summer interns will focus on understanding, researching, and analyzing the widespread challenges with getting NEMT reliably for the patient community. Some examples of NEMT challenges include families missing medical appointments because the NEMT ride does not show up or is canceled at the last minute. NEMT providers limit who can request scheduled rides and request excessive documentation before scheduling rides. Patients and families often have long wait times in hospital lobbies before a ride home is scheduled, which causes unsafe conditions for medically complex children.In addition, summer interns will research and develop strategies to increase accountability and responsiveness to client and provider NEMT needs, including formal or informal legal advocacy with state agencies. The MLP internship includes a capstone project, such as a written report, a presentation to medical or legal advocates, or an internal issue brief or clinically tailored infographic or executive summary. |
| Activities | * Learn about the principles of medical-legal partnership (MLP) and its role in addressing health-harming civil legal needs.
* Participate in any concurrent training activities related to MLP services.
* Review documents and interview key informants to understand the role of NEMT services in the provision of Medicaid services to patients at Harborview Medical Center or Seattle Children’s Hospital.
* Interview MLP attorneys and clinical stakeholders (physicians, pharmacists, social workers) to document areas in which patients, communities, or healthcare systems suffer harm or inequity because of challenges and barriers to accessing NEMT.
* From the health professional perspective, assist legal colleagues in understanding the clinical implications and health system costs of specific barriers to care impacted by lack of access to reliable NEMT services.
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| Products | Internal issue briefClinically tailored infographic or executive summary |
| To Apply | **No later than February 24th, 2025**: please email your cover letter, resume, and writing sample to: attorneyresume@nwjustice.org |