JusticeCorps Bay Area
Offers Meaningful Community Service Opportunity for Students in Law, Sociology, Public Administration, Foreign Language and Related Fields

In Fall 2004, the California Administrative Office of the Courts piloted the JusticeCorps AmeriCorps program in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. Based on the success of JusticeCorps Los Angeles, JusticeCorps Bay Area members began serving in the fall of 2006, in San Diego in 2007 and in the Capital Region in 2010.

In all, over 4.3 million California court users are self-represented. The majority of these individuals do not obtain legal representation because they cannot afford it.

Resources available to meet the needs of these self-represented individuals are sorely lacking. In fact, the ratio of un-represented litigants to legal aid attorneys in California is 10,000 to one. Inability to resolve legal matters jeopardizes litigants’ ability to secure safe, affordable housing, to overcome barriers to employment, to obtain guardianships, or to avoid domestic violence and elder abuse.

California is experiencing an explosion in the numbers of individuals appearing before the court without professional legal representation on a variety of matters from family law to housing. California courts report up to 90 percent self-representation rates in family law and housing related cases.

JusticeCorps at SJU
JusticeCorps Bay Area will recruit 10-15 students from San Jose State University and to work in a Superior Court self-help centers. Many SJSU students choose to serve in San Jose. The may also choose to serve in the Superior Courts of Alameda, San Francisco, or San Mateo Counties.

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In addition to internship credit, Justice Studies students interested in Family violence can earn a certificate in Collaborative Response to Family Violence through the Institute for Collaborative Response http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/icr/

JusticeCorps members’ daily activities may include:

- Providing litigants with legal information
- Assisting litigants in completing legal paperwork
- In-court assistance to litigants
- Providing litigants referrals to appropriate legal resources
- Assisting in attorney-facilitated workshops
- Translation

JusticeCorps members will:

- Commit to serve 300 hours in one academic year (approximately 8-10 hours per week)
- Receive a $1,132 education award upon completion of their term
- Receive over 40 hours of training (included in the 300 hour service requirement) including specialized training in specific areas of law, professionalism, cultural competency, domestic violence and civic engagement

Other special opportunities for JusticeCorps members may include:

- Shadow days with Superior Court Judicial Officers
- Career days
- Courtroom observation
- Letters of recommendation to law school and graduate school, and much more

For additional information and Application Deadlines Check our website:
http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-justicecorps.htm

or contact:
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