



**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.

JusticeCorps Bay Area recruits undergraduate and graduate college students to serve in court-based legal access self-help centers serving individuals and their families who come to court without professional representation.



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.

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.



JusticeCorps at SJSU

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. They may also choose to serve in the Superior Courts of Alameda, San Francisco, or San Mateo Counties.

JusticeCorps may also have fellowship positions available for college graduates.

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

- Justice Corps 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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Or

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