

**Appalachian Citizens' Law Center**  
***Whitesburg, Kentucky***

**Mission Statement:** The Appalachian Citizens' Law Center is a nonprofit law firm that fights for justice in the coalfields by representing coal miners and their families on issues of black lung and mine safety and by working with grassroots groups and individuals to protect the land and people from misuse and degradation caused by extractive industries. The Center handles individual cases and engages in strategic litigation and policy work in the areas of mine safety and health, environmental protection and sustainable energy.

**Internship Title: Intern**

**Responsibilities/Projects:**

The Appalachian Citizens' Law Center is a non-profit law office of four attorneys located in the Appalachian coalfields. Our work centers around regulatory law on issues of miners' safety and health and environmental justice. We represent coal miners in mine safety and black lung cases, as well as individuals and citizens' groups in environmental cases. We practice before state and federal courts and state and federal agencies, including the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). We also engage in policy advocacy on legal issues affecting Appalachian citizens. The duties of our interns vary depending upon the interns' interests and Appalachian Citizens' Law Center's current needs. Past clerks have assisted in investigating potential cases, prepared for and attended depositions and trials, and drafted pleadings and briefs.

Interns' primary responsibilities are to engage in legal research and draft pleadings and briefs.

**Qualifications:**

- Legal research and writing skills
- Familiarity or interest in environmental and workers' rights issues in Appalachia

**Is there a language requirement? If so, please specify the language and level of proficiency needed.**

English, fluency.

**Working Conditions:**

Appalachian Citizens' Law Center will provide office space, but interns will need a computer and car.

**On-site Supervisor/Mentor:**

Steve Sanders, Executive Director  
steve@appalachianlawcenter.org  
(606) 633-3929  
317 Main Street  
Whitesburg, KY 41858

**Additional contact:**

**Mentorship Plan:**

Students will be provided an orientation to the region and the Law Center's work. Because the Law Center is small, one-on-one meetings are available anytime the students would like.

**Preparation:**

General materials about Central Appalachian and the history of environmental and workers' rights struggles. Examples include: *Night Comes to the Cumberland*s by Harry M. Caudill, *The Buffalo Creek Disaster* by Gerald Stern, *Harlan County, U.S.A.* (film) by Barbara Kopple, *Lost Mountain* by Erik Reese, *Digging Our Own Graves* by Barbara Ellen Smith

**Does the intern need to provide her own transportation?**

- **Yes it is required**