



2027 Summer Legal Internship

Overview

Position information

- **Position:** 2027 Summer Legal Intern.
- **Reports to:** Senior Staff Attorney.
- **Status:** Term-limited volunteer position.
- **Dates and Hours:** May 17, 2027–July 23, 2027. 10 weeks, 37.5 hours per week. Dates may be adjusted to accommodate the legal intern's schedule, consistent with organizational needs.
- **Compensation:** 1000 Friends of Oregon will support the legal intern to obtain any available public service funding, stipends, or academic credit as applicable.
- **Location:** Open to remote or hybrid with the opportunity to work at our Portland, OR office.
- **Application Deadline:** October 30, 2026.

About 1000 Friends of Oregon

1000 Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working with Oregonians to improve our quality of life by building livable and lovable cities and towns, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas. 1000 Friends achieves these efforts by building power with Oregonians across the state through land use policy research, advocacy, mentorship and programming, coalition-building, and enforcement.

Across Oregon, the pressure to irreversibly pave over our farms, forests, and watersheds mounts. But, 1000 Friends is built to work with communities to develop housing and industries in ways that improve our quality of life for generations to come. Oregonians continue the strong tradition of resisting pitting two good things against each other like our environment vs. jobs. We continue to show we can build a diversified economy of the future and ground ourselves in nature.

1000 Friends' legal team works to ensure that Oregon's unique land use planning program is lawfully implemented and executed in the spirit of the landmark legislation that created it. Staff attorneys draft comment letters on pending local land use applications and local code amendments, provide policy advice to legislators and county planners, and, as necessary, litigate cases across the state to ensure compliance with Oregon statutes and the Statewide Land Use Planning Goals.

Position description

The 2027 Summer Legal Intern will work with 1000 Friends staff attorneys to ensure that Oregon's land use laws are implemented legally at the local and state levels. This involves providing technical and legal advice and, when appropriate, legal representation to clients. The legal intern's workload will include cases inside and outside of urban growth boundaries (UGB), including urban growth boundary expansion proposals, conditional use permits, requests for exceptions to Oregon's land use planning goals, and administrative reviews conducted by local jurisdictions.

The legal intern will work collaboratively with the staff attorneys and members of the Working Lands team and Great Communities team within 1000 Friends of Oregon to identify fact patterns calling for strategic litigation and to identify existing laws and administrative rules that should be changed to improve and strengthen the land use program. This includes providing technical assistance to other staff as needed in drafting or responding to any proposed legislation and rules.

The legal intern may also be asked to collaborate with the 1000 Friends communications staff to publicize when land use laws are being abused, to demonstrate the benefits to all Oregonians of the land use program, and to advocate for proper implementation of Oregon's land use laws.

Essential functions

Legal services

- Strategically review local land use proposals and applications for changes to city and county comprehensive land use plans, including UGB expansion proposals and related amendments.
- Develop testimony for and participate in local land use proceedings in cities and counties throughout Oregon.
- Manage a docket of local comments and appeals.
- Under supervision from 1000 Friends staff attorneys, assist in litigating land use cases and enforcement actions at the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), the Oregon Court of Appeals, and, if needed, the Oregon Supreme Court and Circuit Court.
- Work with local land use activists, organizations, and Affiliated groups as relevant in carrying out the above responsibilities.

Policy development, communications, outreach, and education

- As needed, assist staff attorneys and other staff with developing legislative concepts and draft bill language, administrative rule language, and local ordinances to strengthen the land use planning program and its implementation.
- In collaboration with other staff, provide education and outreach presentations to local Affiliates and members of the public to increase capacity for advocacy.

- Collaborate with other staff to develop outreach strategies and materials and on communications and media relations.
- Other duties as necessary.

Required qualifications

- Current law student.
- Commitment to the goals and vision of 1000 Friends of Oregon.
- Knowledge of legal research methods.
- Strong analytical ability and technical and persuasive writing skills.
- Self-directed, self-motivated, organized, and attentive to detail.
- Strong public speaking skills.
- Assertive, persistent, and effective in working with public officials and staff.
- Ability to work as part of a team.

Preferred qualifications

- Familiarity with land use law and LUBA.
- Experience working in the non-profit sector.

How to apply

To apply, submit a resume, a legal writing sample, and a cover letter describing how your experience and skills match the needs of the organization. Please address cover letters to John Butterfield, Senior Staff Attorney. **Provide these materials as a single PDF document** and email them to jobs@friends.org with “2027 Summer Legal Intern Application” in the subject line. 1000 Friends will begin reviewing applications once the application deadline has passed and will contact applicants selected to interview in November. A selection decision is anticipated on or before December 4, 2026.

1000 Friends knows that the best candidate for this internship may be someone who doesn't meet every qualification listed. Do not sell yourself short. If you are interested in applying, we encourage you to think broadly about your background and qualifications for the role.

Working environment

We work in a hybrid work environment with the option to work from our main office in Portland, from home, or some combination. The work environment includes desk work with a sit/stand option and using a computer extensively.

Equity statement

We know that land ownership, as well as land use policies and processes, have not always been equitable. Land ownership has been racially restricted, land use entitlements have favored

those with access to decision-makers, and public engagement in land use planning has not reached communities of color and low-income communities. Our work at 1000 Friends carries a special responsibility to address equity, diversity, and inclusion because we deal with land and the land use planning system. We think 1000 Friends must consider equity in the land use system while simultaneously working to accomplish our mission. We will work to achieve equity in the decisions that govern 1000 Friends and in the policies for which we advocate and use equity as one of our core metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of our work.

1000 Friends is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of men and women of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our character is a priority and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status, or other status protected by law.