



9StoptheDrugWar.org • P.O. Box 9853 • Washington, DC 20016  
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## LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIPS

**Hours:** Flexible, Based on School Requirements or Availability

**Supervisor:** Executive Director

**Location:** Washington, DC or remotely

**Internship length:** February 1, 2018 - April 30, 2018, negotiable (also willing to discuss summer or fall internships)

### The Organization

StoptheDrugWar.org works for an end to prohibition (e.g. for some form of "legalization") and the "drug war" in its current form. We want to replace the illicit drug trade and criminalization with a combination of regulation, health and social programs addressing substances' risks and harms.

We are primarily US-based, but involved not only in US policy but also foreign policy. We are part of the global community of reform-minded NGOs who advocate internationally. We are a "niche" organization, in that we focus our limited budget and staffing on a few programs for which we are able to make a unique or disproportionate impact.

### Our Values

- Tolerant
- Pluralistic
- Intellectual
- Open-Minded
- Friendly
- Passionate
- Positive
- Compassionate
- Team Players

### The Internships

Legislative Interns will work directly with the Executive Director, on big-picture issues such as marijuana legalization, but also on partial but important reform efforts that are politically feasible in the shorter term. A few of these are sentencing reform, harm reduction practices such as needle exchange or naloxone distribution, medical availability of controlled drugs, and human rights as affected by drug policies.

One key area of our work this year involves US foreign aid to the Philippines, the government of which has engaged in a brutal mass-killing campaign in its drug war since mid-2016. We are advocating for human rights restrictions on most law enforcement assistance, as well as increased funding for positive health programs for drugs and for the work of human rights defenders. Visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/philippines> to read about the larger organizational and coalition efforts of which this is a part. Visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/global> to learn more about other work we do on international drug policy.

### Responsibilities

Legislative Interns will have opportunities and duties drawn from the following areas:

- Draft legislative action alerts, mainly about matters before the US Congress; prepare alert emails for distribution to our list.
- Write summaries of current legislation and reports on their status, to be published in our online newsletter, [Drug War Chronicle](#), in other sections of our web site, or for private communications to advocates.
- Assist in grassroots mobilization of current or potential allies in key states and Congressional districts.

- Maintain and expand database of organizational allies; assist in the consolidation and systemization into new software of our existing databases.
- Assist in disseminating sign-on letters (ours and those of allies) to our organizational allies.
- Assist in contacting Capitol Hill staff in relation to our Philippines campaign.
- Attend legislative working group meetings, and other meetings with partners.
- Assist with the organizing of conference calls; prepare notes for distribution to partners.
- Help organize a possible demonstration during the semester.
- Other tasks as they come up.

### **Job Requirements:**

- Strong writing and research skills.
- Some ability to generate or edit HTML-based web pages and emails.
- Ability to interact effectively with people, from activists to reporters to legislative staff and others.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Applicants must use their own computer and telephone.

### **Work Arrangements**

- Our practice is to work with interns to find specific tasks and projects that fit their goals and interests, while being helpful to us. We want people to be engaged in their work with us and to find it useful for them.
- StoptheDrugWar.org has not rented our own office since 2011, but we have use of space rented by a partner group, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP). When not there, we typically meet at local coffee shops.
- Interns and the Executive Director will meet at least once per week (normally in person, when necessary by phone or videoconference) to go over work and plans. In addition to directly work-related discussions, these meetings will also provide time for the mutual sharing of insights and knowledge and experience.
- Interns are encouraged to attend coalition and working group meetings that take place in Washington on a variety of drug policy and criminal justice issues, as well as think thank forums related to the issue.
- Unfortunately we are not funded to provide financial compensation for internships this semester. We hope that will change in the future.

### **Contact**

- David Borden, Executive Director, [borden@drcnet.org](mailto:borden@drcnet.org), (202) 236-8620.

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