



MSPB Western Region

Externships with MSPB's Western Region

What is the Merit Systems Protection Board?

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board serves as guardian of the Federal Government's merit-based system of employment. Its Administrative Judges and presidentially-appointed Board members hear and decide appeals from Federal employees of personnel actions, such as removals, demotions, and suspensions. The Board also decides cases involving improper political activities by government employees, claims of reprisal for whistleblowing, and unlawful discrimination. In addition, the Board conducts reviews and studies of Federal personnel systems.

What does the Western Region do?

The Western Region includes the Western Regional Office in Oakland, CA and the Denver Field Office in Lakewood, CO. A total of fifteen Administrative Judges and a Chief Administrative Judge in each location hear and decide appeals from Federal employees, applicants for Federal employment, and Federal annuitants, in accordance with the Board's jurisdiction. The Western Region adjudicates appeals from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Pacific overseas. Federal employees may appeal removal actions, demotions or disciplinary suspensions. Appeals may also concern noteworthy issues of whistleblower protection, veteran's preference rights, or prohibited discrimination. Administrative Judges also conduct settlement conferences and prehearing conferences, issue Board orders to resolve discovery disputes, issue subpoenas, conduct formal Board hearings and issue Initial Decisions for the Board.

What do interns in the Western Regional Office do?

Interns work under the direct supervision of the Chief Administrative Judges and conduct legal research, draft orders, review transcripts and case files, make routine calls to the parties, observe and assist the Administrative Judges during their conferences and hearings, and draft Initial Decisions. For the summer of 2021, we anticipate that the externs will work remotely.

Are interns paid? Is academic credit available?

We are unable to provide paid positions, but are happy to provide the documentation required by the law school to grant academic credit upon satisfactory completion of the internship. The Western Region may provide a public transportation subsidy, if applicable.

Does the Western Regional Office accept first year law students as interns?

Yes, students who will have completed their first year of law school are encouraged to apply.

When are positions available?

Positions are available for the Summer of 2021.

What is necessary to apply?

To apply for a position, we require a resume, writing sample, and an interview. A first-year legal research and writing document is an acceptable writing sample. We also require at least one reference who can attest to your legal skills. You may submit your application materials to (electronic applications are accepted):

U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board

Western Regional Office
1301 Clay Street, Suite 1380 N
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 273-7022 Fax: (510) 273-7136
westernregionaloffice@mspb.gov

Denver Field Office
165 South Union Boulevard
Suite 318
Lakewood, CO 80228-2211
(303) 969-5101 Fax: (303) 969-5109
denver@mspb.gov