

**2025 SUMMER RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY INTERN**  
**Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide**

The Cornell Center on Death Penalty Worldwide invites law students to apply for its summer 2025 Research and Advocacy Internships. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

The Center is seeking dedicated law students with excellent research, writing, and communication skills, a passion for justice, and a demonstrated commitment to human rights. The ideal candidate will have familiarity with racial and gender justice issues, and interest in death penalty abolition, and public defense/criminal defense. This internship is especially beneficial to students interested in careers involving capital defense, death penalty abolition, international human rights, movement lawyering, and criminal defense/public defense.

Interns will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience working closely with the Center's attorneys and partner organizations. Interns will:

- Work with a team of researchers and advocates to analyze gender bias in the criminal legal system.
- Help build a national movement of advocates concerned about women facing extreme sentences.
- Compile empirical data and contribute legal analysis to the Center's Alice Project on the rights of women facing capital punishment around the world.
- Publish blog posts.
- Conduct legal research and writing relevant to the Center's publications and other work training defense teams around the world, advancing abolition, and centering criminalized survivors.

The planned dates of the internship are Tuesday, May 20 through Thursday, July 30, 2025.

The internships are full-time. The selected candidates may choose to work in-person in Ithaca, NY or remotely in the U.S. (pending university approval if working outside New York State). Please note that the New York Convenience of employer guidelines require New York State individual tax reporting and withholdings for this position. Additional individual state income tax filings may also be required if working outside New York State.

The Center is not able to consider applications from candidates who are not based in the U.S. or are not eligible to work in the U.S.

Cornell Law students applying must obtain Public Interest Fellowship (PIF) funding. Students applying from other law schools must obtain summer public interest and/or federal work study funding from their home institutions. Students who need an early decision on their applications to qualify for support are encouraged to advise the Center of their situation and request expedited review.

**To Apply:**

Interested students should send the following materials to [centers.programs@cornell.edu](mailto:centers.programs@cornell.edu):

1. Cover letter explaining their interest in the Center and its work, any relevant experience, and what they hope to gain from the position.
2. CV or resume.
3. An unedited writing sample demonstrating the ability to write clearly and concisely.

The final deadline to submit application materials is March 31, 2025. Early applications are encouraged. Interviews will start in late February/early March, and offers will be made on a rolling basis.

*Cornell University embraces diversity and seeks candidates who will contribute to a climate that supports students, faculty and staff of all identities and backgrounds. We strongly encourage individuals from underrepresented and/or marginalized identities to apply.*

Familiarize yourself with Cornell's [COVID-19 workplace guidance](#) as well as the university's [COVID-19 services and information](#).

**About Us**

The Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide aims to bridge critical gaps in research and advocacy around the death penalty. First, the Center provides comprehensive, transparent data on the death penalty laws and practices of all countries and territories that retain the death penalty. Second, it publishes reports and manuals on issues of practical relevance to defense lawyers, governments, courts, and organizations grappling with questions relating to the application of the death penalty, particularly in the global south. Third, it engages in targeted advocacy focusing on the implementation of fair trial standards and the rights of those who come into conflict with the law, including juveniles, women, and individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental illnesses. Finally, it provided training through the Makwanyane Institute to a cadre of competitively chosen Fellows, who undergo intensive capital defense training with the intent to return home and share their knowledge with other capital defenders around the globe. More information is available at <http://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org>.

Founded in 1887, Cornell Law School is a top-tier law school, currently ranked 14th by U.S. News & World Report. We offer a 3-year JD program for about 200 students per class, a one-year LLM program for about 120 students from countries throughout the world, and a doctoral (JSD) program for about 2-3 new students per year. Cornell Law School has 41 tenured and tenure-track faculty, including 20 with chaired faculty positions; and 15 clinical professors in the Lawyering Program and in clinics at the local, national, and international level. Our faculty is consistently ranked among the top in the country for scholarly productivity and influence and has pre-eminence in many areas, including quantitative and qualitative empirical legal studies, international and comparative law, and robust doctrinal scholarship in core fields. Our school is committed to being recognized as the leader among law schools at combining inspiring theoretical, doctrinal, and experiential teaching with cutting-edge scholarship in a

supportive, intellectually rich community, so that our graduates can achieve excellence in all facets of the legal profession.

Cornell University is an innovative Ivy League university and a great place to work. Our inclusive community of scholars, students and staff impart an uncommon sense of larger purpose and contribute creative ideas to further the university's mission of teaching, discovery and engagement. With our main campus located in Ithaca, NY, Cornell's far-flung global presence includes the medical college's campuses on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Doha, Qatar, as well as the Cornell Tech campus located on Roosevelt Island in the heart of New York City. We offer a rich array of services, programs and benefits to help employees advance in their career and enhance the quality of personal life, including: employee wellness, workshops, childcare and adoption assistance, parental leave, flexible work options.

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities. We also recognize a lawful preference in employment practices for Native Americans living on or near Indian reservations. Cornell University is an innovative Ivy League university and a great place to work. Our inclusive community of scholars, students, and staff impart an uncommon sense of larger purpose, and contribute creative ideas to further the university's mission of teaching, discovery, and engagement.