



Russell Osgood
Law School Dean
Washington University

Dear Dean Osgood:

I am writing to inquire into opportunities that students have at your law school to do internships with nonprofit organizations or public agencies. I would appreciate being informed of the names and contact information for faculty or staff with whom I could discuss such opportunities in connection with disability rights research, education, and advocacy in Missouri.

I recently wrote to the Chief Justice of Missouri about a new bill in the United States Senate that would allow state court programs to apply for an innovation grant “for recruiting and training law students through clinics supervised by a licensed attorney to provide representation for respondents in guardianship cases.” (See attachment)

While this bill is laudable in authorizing funding for court programs to include law student participation, I am sure there are existing procedures that authorize students at your law school to gain practical experience as they do internships or serve as volunteers with organizations or agencies that are concerned with improving access to justice for people with disabilities in adult guardianship proceedings.

Spectrum Institute knows firsthand the value that student interns, including law students, can bring to a nonprofit organization. <https://spectruminstitute.org/interns/> We would like to explore possibilities of students at your law school serving as interns or volunteers with nonprofits in Missouri, such as the Alternatives to Guardianship Project (<https://alternativestoguardianship.com/>). We are collaborating with that Project on research, educational, and advocacy activities to address systemic problems in the adult guardianship system in Missouri. <https://alternativestoguardianship.com/whats-new-2.html>

I look forward to hearing from you or receiving contact information for faculty or staff members with whom I may discuss this matter further.

Best regards,

Thomas F. Coleman
Legal Director
Spectrum Institute
<https://spectruminstitute.org/>