



The Kalisher Trust Internship.

AMICUS

About us

Amicus is a small charity that helps provide legal representation to those facing execution in the US. The charity aims to provide better access to justice and to raise awareness of potential abuses of defendants' rights.

The Kalisher Trust exists to help people qualify as barristers and begin their professional career at the Criminal Bar. Set up in 1996, the Kalisher Trust provides opportunities to gain experience in a range of relevant fields to talented students from non-traditional backgrounds who often face significant financial hardship. Previous Kalisher internships have been awarded in partnership with Justice, the Death Penalty Project, the Criminal Cases Review Commission, and the Sentencing Academy.

The Kalisher Trust funded internship with Amicus will take place over a consecutive three or four-month period (start date to be discussed with applicants at interview) and will be based in an Amicus-affiliated capital defence office in the US. Interns will receive an award from the Trust of £5,000 towards their travel and living expenses once the overseas placement has been confirmed.

The awards are intended to encourage and assist those intending to practise at the Criminal Bar who demonstrate “*exceptional promise but modest means*”. Amongst the qualities we look for in candidates are:-

- (a) **Intellectual ability** – demonstrated by academic performance, past work, activities and other experience.
- (b) **Motivation to succeed at the Criminal Bar** – including steps taken to acquire the personal skills required of a Barrister, and a demonstration of the will to succeed.
- (c) **Potential as an advocate** – both in oral and written skills.
- (d) **Personal qualities** – including self-reliance, independence, integrity, reliability and humanity.
- (e) **Financial need** - candidates will be asked to supply to the interview panel, in confidence, information demonstrating financial need.

What Amicus does

Placements - Amicus places legal volunteers in pre-trial, appellate and research capital defence offices throughout the US. Many such offices operate within severe funding constraints. Amicus volunteers provide vital support.

Casework - Amicus' casework programme provides remote assistance to US capital defenders faced with tight timescales and limited deadlines. We coordinate up to 200 caseworkers in firms and chambers across London.

Raising awareness - In order to highlight the injustices of death row, Amicus holds a variety of awareness-raising events, including comprehensive training sessions on US capital defence law and procedure. It also publishes a monthly newsletter and an academic journal.

Placements at Amicus

Since its formation in 1992, Amicus has sent over 300 volunteers to the US. Currently, the charity places 20-30 volunteers each year in 18 capital defence offices across 11 states.



PO Box 46101 London EC4V 6YT
t: 0207 072 5603/31 e: admin@amicus-alj.org
DX: 233 Chancery Lane www.amicus-alj.org

The office culture and the nature of volunteer assignments varies between offices. Typical tasks include research, drafting, record collection, visits to death row and interviewing of key figures such as jurors, family members or prison officials.

What is it like to be an Amicus volunteer?

"As a child you learn what fairness is when you first suffer unfairness. As an Amicus volunteer you learn what justice is when you see and fight injustice. This is a life-defining experience." **Maximilian Hardy - Kalisher trustee and former volunteer in New Orleans, LA**

"[Amicus volunteers] are always welcome in our office and they are always welcome in Atlanta. Thank you so very much for what your organization has continuously done for our office and for other folks fighting the DP here in the USA. We look forward to hosting more volunteers...We have some very challenging cases that need their help!"

Christian Lamar - Supervising attorney in Atlanta, GA

"A once-in-a-lifetime experience. A real chance to make a difference." **Phoebe Bragg - Former volunteer in Jackson, MS**

Requirements

The successful candidate will:

- be committed to joining the Criminal Bar of England & Wales, and will normally have completed the Bar Professional Training Course following the award of a law degree or law conversion programme.
- be able to offer a minimum time commitment of **three to four months**;
- have attended or registered for Amicus training (held bi-annually in London) within the three years prior to application;
- be a member of Amicus; and
- be able to demonstrate financial need (in confidence, candidates will be asked to supply the interview panel with appropriate evidence of need).

NB: A driving licence is preferable but not essential

How to apply

To be considered for a Kalisher placement with Amicus, please e-mail a CV and a statement (not exceeding 600 words) identifying your interest, direct to admin@amicus-alj.org at Amicus. The application should set out why you say that you satisfy the requirements for funding set out the first section above. Mark your email with 'KALISHER INTERNSHIP' in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is May 21st 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview before the end of June, and to attend for training during October or November 2021 in central London. Currently, overseas placements may be possible from November 2021, but current travel restrictions will require flexibility, and make travel more likely from early 2022.