

## COURTWATCH

<http://www.kcsarc.org/courtwatch>

Application Deadline: Monday November 13, 2017 @ 4:00pm

CourtWatch is a court monitoring program founded in 2010 by the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) located in Renton, WA. It was established for the purpose of holding the justice system accountable for its handling of sexual assault and child abuse cases and to create a more informed public. Court monitoring is a way to gather information about the courts by observing legal proceedings, as well as conducting research on individual cases, court practices, and procedures. CourtWatch monitors produce data to support anecdotal evidence about what happens in King County Courts; their presence also provides transparency in the legal process.

Observations and information collected by volunteer CourtWatch monitors is used to improve court processes. Volunteers are trained to be unobtrusive observers and document both procedural and substantive information about the cases that they observe.

The CourtWatch internships are unpaid. This year, the Department of Sociology will be able to place four to six (4-6) student interns at CourtWatch.

### **Desired qualifications**

CourtWatch Monitors do what no one else does – observe the courts to ensure that victims are receiving the justice they need and deserve. This internship is best suited for students with particular interests in evolving family structures, gender, human rights, power dynamics, and sexual violence issues. Students interested in law will gain exposure to and a firsthand look at how courts handle these complex court proceedings.

Students must be able to stay focused for long periods of time, listen and observe well, must possess strong oral and written communication skills, and be able to use discretion and maintain confidentiality. The CourtWatch internship requires maturity, diligence, responsibility, and careful attention to detail.

### **Intern responsibilities**

CourtWatch Interns volunteer for at least one shift (3.5 hours/week) in winter and spring quarters at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent and/or the King County Courthouse in Seattle. In addition, interns should expect to spend 2-2.5 hours/week reading background information on cases before shifts, as well as time after each shift synthesizing and typing up observations.

The primary work involves court monitoring – the process of gathering information about court proceedings through observation. Interns will observe King County Superior Court cases related to sexual assault and complete targeted questionnaires so that their work can be used to track individual cases and important trends in different court calendars. Based on interns' observations, CourtWatch staff will follow up with justice system personnel to reinforce positive trends as well as recommending improvements that will make the justice system more effective in its handling of cases involving sexual assault victims.

**Important things to know:**

- The CourtWatch internship position is a two-quarter commitment for winter and spring quarters. Students who are offered an internship position must also take SOC 404 (Th 11:30-1:20pm), a weekly two-hour seminar, in winter quarter. Soc Advising will register student interns for the class. In spring quarter students earn academic credit through enrolling in SOC 399B while completing the second quarter of their internship.
- Interns will observe and report on court proceedings at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent (401 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Kent 98032) and/or the King County Courthouse in Seattle (516 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Seattle 98104). Applicants may indicate a location preference in their cover letter.
- Interns provide their own transportation to and from court.
- To participate, applicants must be current UW-Seattle students. Priority will be given to Sociology majors but students from other majors are welcome to apply. DACA students are eligible to apply.
- Applicants will undergo a background check. Students with prior convictions or with a history of interpersonal violence are not eligible to apply.
- As part of the application process, students will have an initial interview with Susanna Hansson in the Sociology Advising office. Finalists for the positions will then interview with CourtWatch staff before their internship can be finalized. All interview times will be set up with students via email.
- The complete applications of students who become finalists for an internship position are shared with staff at the internship location.

**Schedule:**

- Students who are offered an intern position must be available to attend the mandatory CourtWatch orientation on Friday January 12, 2018 from 8:30am to 4:00 pm at the King County Sexual Assault Resource, 200 Mill Ave S. #10, Renton, WA 98057.
- The weekly commitment is AT LEAST one shift per week for 9 weeks in both winter and spring quarters.
- Interns will fill at least one of the following shifts:
  - Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent
  - Monday - Wednesday: 8:30am – 12:00pm and 1:00 – 4:30pm
  
  - King County Courthouse, Downtown Seattle
  - Monday – Thursday: 9:00am – 12 :30pm and 1:30-4:30pm

**Application Cover Sheet for Sociology Department  
Internship at CourtWatch**  
Applications are due at 4:00pm on Monday, November 13, 2017

1. In addition to completing this cover page, please include the following (in the order listed):
2. A cover letter (see below)
3. A copy of your resume
4. An unofficial copy of your UW transcript.

Cover letter\*: In 1-2 double-spaced pages describe your interests and qualifications and how they make you a good fit for this internship, as well as how you believe the internship together with the practicum course will help further your intellectual and career goals. In your statement, please mention any skills, experience or knowledge that you feel matches the qualifications for this position. If you are proficient in languages other than English, make sure to indicate that on your resume. Please confirm in your cover letter that you commit to interning for two consecutive quarters and that you can meet the specific shift requirements and/or trainings that this internship requires.

Drop off a hard copy of your application by **4:00pm** on Monday November 13, 2017 in the Sociology Advising Office, Savery Hall 203. In addition, please scan your application (single sided in the order listed above) and email it as a PDF to Susanna Hansson at [susanna@uw.edu](mailto:susanna@uw.edu) by the same deadline.

NOTE: We will be contacting student applicants via email to set up the first round of interviews in the Sociology Advising Office during the week of November 13 – 17.

Please complete the information below before you print out this cover sheet.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Class Standing Win 18 \_\_\_\_\_

UW email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

LinkedIn profile url \_\_\_\_\_

Students may apply for up to two internship positions. However, a targeted, carefully considered application for one position can be stronger than more generic applications for multiple positions. If this describes you: *"I don't care where I intern, I just want an internship; any internship,"* you risk coming across as desperate rather than as a thoughtful applicant who has given a great deal of consideration to the kind of organization and type of work you would like to be involved in. If you wish to apply for a second internship, please complete a separate application as well as a position-specific cover letter and resume for the second internship position.

*\*There is good information on how to write cover letters in the 2017/2018 Career Guide, available in the Career Center in MGH 134*

Questions? Email [susanna@uw.edu](mailto:susanna@uw.edu)

Updated 10/26/17