

Growing up in Kansas City and studying at the University of Missouri, I have developed a strong commitment to leadership, public service, and justice. As a double major in Political Science and Constitutional Democracy with a pre-law track, I have dedicated my studies to understanding how laws and policies shape equity, access, and opportunity across various communities. The Civic Leaders Internship Program (CLIP) represents an ideal opportunity to connect my academic foundation with hands-on legislative experience while preparing for a future career in law and public policy.

I first learned about CLIP during the August TRiO Washington, D.C. Graduate School and Career Exploration Program, where Chad discussed the significance of the internship and its role in helping students gain exposure to state government. That experience expanded my perspective on the importance of leadership at every level and reinforced my desire to pursue public service rooted in legal and civic engagement. This semester, through my Global Human Rights and International Law course, we were given a presentation on internships and the CLIP program, and I began to see how Missouri's policymaking structure fits within a broader framework of governance—linking state-level decision-making to global questions of rights, representation, and justice.

I bring to this internship a blend of academic rigor, leadership experience, and professional discipline. As Vice President of the Black Pre-Law Students Association and founder of B.R.O.S. (Brothers Rising as Outstanding Scholars), I have led initiatives that promote mentorship, academic development, and community connection. These experiences have sharpened my skills in communication, organization, and strategic planning. Beyond campus, my work as a Behavioral Health Technician has strengthened my understanding of how policy impacts individuals in vulnerable circumstances, reinforcing my commitment to advocacy grounded in empathy and accountability.

Through CLIP, I hope to serve in an office that bridges my interests in education, governance, and law, such as the Office of Representative Kathy Steinhoff or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. I am eager to contribute to legislative research, policy analysis, and constituent engagement while learning from leaders who model public service in action. This internship will enable me to apply academic theory in practice, preparing me for law school and equipping me to make meaningful contributions to Missouri's communities.

Ultimately, I view CLIP not only as a professional opportunity but as an extension of my purpose—to use law and policy as instruments of equity, accountability, and empowerment for all.