



# THE JUDGE ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR. CENTER FOR EDUCATION, JUSTICE & ETHICS

University of Maryland  
Seneca Building  
4716 Pontiac Street, Suite 0104  
College Park, MD 20740  
TEL 301.314.2062  
FAX 301.314.1800  
judgeawcenter.umd.edu

**BE CURIOUS. BE COURAGEOUS. BE COMPASSIONATE.**

*"The hallmark of any great society is measured by the extent and degree of involvement or engagement in activities and projects benefitting the community and advancing the public good."* – Hon. Alexander Williams, Jr., Nov. 2018

## 2021 Student Research Associates/Assistants (SRA) for Leadership Development Program Application

Summer 2021 Program Dates: **Tues., June 1, 2021 - Tues., August 31, 2021** | Applications Due: **Mon., May 10, 2021**

### INTRODUCTION

The Student Research Associates/Assistants (SRA) for Leadership Development Program is a paid professional development internship at The Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. Center for Education, Justice & Ethics (Judge AW Center) in which graduate (Associate) and undergraduate (Assistant) students are afforded the opportunity to work in close collaboration with the Hon. Judge Alexander Williams, Jr., Judge AW Center staff, and partner organizations for 10-to-13 weeks conducting research on current policy, advocacy, and social justice issues relevant to the Center's mission and programmatic efforts during the Summer, Fall, and/or Spring semester.

As the Judge AW Center's premiere higher education program, the SRA is the first *signature* program launched as part of our strategic effort to promote **HIGH Y.I.E.L.D.** (Youth Initiatives for Empowered Leadership Development) educational programs. Since its inception in 2016, approximately thirteen students (including one who currently serves as a Staff Assistant for the Office of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer) have successfully completed the SRA experience, while maintaining full-time enrollment in higher education institutions.

The individual(s) selected for this program examine, research, and develop policy recommendations for Judge AW Center reports and publications in addition to supporting special projects, signature programs, and strategic initiatives designed to promote civic engagement, racial equity, and restorative social justice in alignment with the Center's mission to:

- **Conduct** public policy research *that advances racial and economic equity in educational and social outcomes;*
- **Advocate** for ethical criminal and juvenile justice reforms *that redress sentencing disparities and restore the fabric of those communities unduly impacted by patterns of mass incarceration;*
- **Provide** intergenerational forums for discussing critical social issues *that foster civic engagement, encourage youth leadership development, shape public discourse, and influence the formation of a responsive policy agenda;* and
- **Develop** model, evidence-based, and research-driven programmatic solutions to the systemic challenges confronting and disproportionately impacting disadvantaged communities through the formation of Beloved Community Partnerships (BCP) *that uplift and transform resilient communities.*

The Judge AW Center supports the holistic development of thought leaders and those committed to restorative social justice, enterprise, and innovation by providing educational and professional opportunities for individuals who possess the will, passion, dedication, and capacity to transform systems of inequality, and

create new narratives of empowerment through social impact. Working in concert with our strategic partners, we aim to operationalize equity by expanding the landscape of opportunity for people from underrepresented and overlooked communities in Maryland, the U.S., and throughout the world.

You can support the SRA program by contributing to [The Judge AW Center online](#). Your tax-deductible donations enable us to create high-quality enrichment and professional development opportunities for students.

## APPLICATION

SRA POSITION APPLICANT INFORMATION			
I am applying for the following position (Check One Box ONLY):			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Student Research Associate (Graduate or Professional School Students ONLY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Student Research Assistant (Undergraduate Students ONLY)	
Last Name	First	M.I.	Date
Street Address		Apartment/Unit #	
City	State	ZIP	
Phone	Email		
Date Available:		Desired Hourly Wage:	
Position Applied for: <b>SRA</b>			
Are you authorized to work in the U.S.?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification document form upon hire			
Have you ever worked for this company?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, when?			
How did you learn about The Judge AW Center for Education, Justice & Ethics?			

EDUCATION			
Current University / College Enrolled:		Cumulative GPA:	
List all Major(s) / Minor(s):			
List additional Areas of Interest, which may be relevant:			
Graduation or Anticipated Graduation Date ( Month / Year):			
High School		Address	
From	To	Did you graduate? YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Degree	
College		Address	
From	To	Did you graduate? YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Degree	
Other		Address	
From	To	Did you graduate? YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Degree	
Other		Address	

From	To	Did you graduate? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Degree
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## REFERENCES

Please list three or four professional references. Two of the three should be supervisors.

1. Full Name		Relationship
Company		Phone (    )
City/State	Email Address	
2. Full Name		Relationship
Company		Phone (    )
City/State	Email Address	
3. Full Name		Relationship
Company		Phone (    )
City/State	Email Address	
4. Full Name		Relationship
Company		Phone (    )
City/State	Email Address	

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT (LIST MOST RECENT FIRST)

1. Company		Phone (    )
Address		Supervisor
Job Title		
Responsibilities		
From	To	Reason for Leaving
May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Company		Phone (    )
Address		Supervisor
Job Title		
Responsibilities		
From	To	Reason for Leaving
May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Company		Phone (    )
Address		Supervisor
Job Title		
Responsibilities		

From	To	Reason for Leaving
May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Company		Phone ( )
Address		Supervisor
Job Title		
Responsibilities		
From	To	Reason for Leaving
May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Company		Phone ( )
Address		Supervisor
Job Title		
Responsibilities		
From	To	Reason for Leaving
May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

MILITARY SERVICE	
Branch	From To
Rank at Discharge	Type of Discharge
If other than honorable, explain	

REFERRAL	
Did a current employee refer you to the Judge AW Center?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, who referred you? _____	

**SUBMISSION, DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE**

Please submit your completed application via email with your **resume and cover letter** stating why you would like to participate in the **SRA Leadership Development Program** to the Judge AW Center by **Monday, May 10, 2021**. Please note that we do not guarantee an interview to every applicant. Completed Application should be submitted to the **Attention of Ms. Valerie Jones** via email at [vjones27@umd.edu](mailto:vjones27@umd.edu) Inquiries regarding this position may be directed to **Dr. Kameron Van Patterson** via email at [kameron@umd.edu](mailto:kameron@umd.edu)

Alternatively, applications can be sent via U.S. Mail to:

**The Judge AW Center**  
University of Maryland, Seneca Building  
4716 Pontiac Street, Suite 0104  
College Park, MD 20740  
301. 314. 2062  
[judgeawcenter@umd.edu](mailto:judgeawcenter@umd.edu)

**Signature:**

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If this application leads to employment, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my release.

Signature

Date

# About The Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. Center for Education, Justice & Ethics

Having served two terms as the elected *States Attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland*, Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. recognized the importance of social justice issues concerning education, justice, ethical leadership, and civic responsibility. During his nearly twenty-year tenure as an *Article III Judge on the United States District Court for the District of Maryland*, Judge Williams witnessed the ways in which mandatory-minimum sentencing has contributed to mass incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.<sup>1</sup> In an effort to address this and similar injustices within our legal, social, and political institutions, Judge Williams retired his appointment and founded *The Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. Center for Education, Justice & Ethics* as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization in 2013.

After entering into a partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2016, the Judge AW Center was (re)established under the College of Behavioral & Social Sciences within the Department of African American Studies. Working in collaboration with the University of Maryland and community stakeholders, the Center strives to address social inequalities resulting from histories of discrimination, injustice, and the disparate impact of educational, legal, and social policies that further exacerbate gaps in achievement, opportunity, and socio-economic outcomes among vulnerable populations in Maryland, the U.S., and throughout the world. As *Founder & Executive Director* of the Judge AW Center at the University of Maryland, Judge Williams continues to teach and advocate for criminal justice reforms, and has called for federal and state legislators to “review and rethink the impact of mandatory-minimum penalties.”

The **mission** of The Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. Center for Education, Justice & Ethics is to:

- **Conduct** public policy research *that advances racial and economic equity in education and social outcomes;*
- **Advocate** for ethical criminal and juvenile justice reforms *that redress sentencing disparities and restore the fabric of those communities unduly impacted by patterns of mass incarceration;*
- **Provide** intergenerational forums for discussing critical social issues *that foster civic engagement, encourage youth leadership development, shape public discourse, and influence the formation of a responsive policy agenda;* and
- **Develop** model, evidence-based, and research-driven programmatic solutions to the systemic challenges confronting and disproportionately impacting disadvantaged communities through the formation of Beloved Community Partnerships (BCP) *that uplift and transform resilient communities.*

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*Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out,  
because this is your country.  
This is your democracy.  
Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.*

– Justice Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993)



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<sup>1</sup> In a recent Baltimore Sun article by Jessica Anderson entitled, “[Report: Proportion of Maryland black prison population is more than double the national average of 32%.](#)” Anderson cites the following statistics from a Nov. 2019 report published by the [Justice Policy Institute](#): “As recently as July 2018, more than 70 percent of Maryland’s prison population was black, compared to 31 percent of the state population. The latest data from the Department of Justice show that the proportion of the Maryland prison population that is black is more than double the national average of 32 percent,” and is higher than any other state in the nation. Moreover, according to the [Maryland Department of Juvenile Services](#) (DJS), “youth of color” are most over-represented in juvenile detention, and **black youth constitute an average of 77% of the youth incarcerated in secure detention facilities throughout MD from 2017 to 2019.**