

Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Legal Internship, Office of General Counsel

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Office of General Counsel is seeking an intern for the spring of 2027 (January 18, 2027 – April 14, 2027). The chosen candidate will work under the supervision of the General Counsel and Associate Counsels. The chosen candidate will gain practical experience in government legal practice while working on matters affecting Tennessee's agricultural industry, consumer protection, natural resources, government regulation, and state government operations.

Duties may include legal research, document drafting, policy review, administrative law matters, and litigation support. The internship offers meaningful exposure to the legal issues faced by a statewide regulatory agency.

Location:

Ellington Agricultural Center
Moss Administration Building
440 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220

Major Duties:

Legal Research and Analysis:

- Conduct legal research on federal and Tennessee Statutes, regulations, case law, and administrative decisions.
- Research emerging legal issues affecting agriculture, forestry, food safety, animal health, environmental programs, consumer protection, and administrative law.

Drafting and Document Preparation:

- Draft legal memoranda, correspondence, policy documents, and legal opinions for matters affecting any of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's divisions or program areas.
- Assist in preparing exhibits and summarizing evidence for claims filed against the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Administrative Enforcement and Litigation Support:

- Assist attorneys in preparing administrative enforcement actions, contested case proceedings, and hearings.
- Support the Office of the General Counsel by organizing documents and reviewing discovery materials.

Legislative, Rule, and Contract Review:

- Review proposed legislation, administrative rules, and contracts.
- Assist in the review of procurement documents, grants, cooperative agreements, and memoranda of understanding.

Public Records and Compliance Support:

- Assist with public records requests, subpoena responses, and open meetings issues.

Other duties and special projects may be assigned as needed.

Education Requirements:

- Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree and currently be pursuing a candidate for completion of a Juris Doctorate with an ABA or state accredited law school.
 - Ideal candidates will have completed at least one year of legal studies.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Essential Knowledge and Required Skills:

- Strong legal research, writing, and editing skills.
- Excellent analytical, organizational, and communication abilities.
- Applicants must be able to plan and execute projects with limited supervision or instruction.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office and legal research platforms.
- General knowledge and understanding of administrative law, agricultural law, environmental law, constitutional law, comparative law, criminal law, and contract law is preferred.

Comments:

- This is a paid internship. If academic credit arrangements are needed, please reach out to the internship coordinator.
- This internship is part of the TDA's central internship program. In addition to regular project work, interns may be expected to participate in internship-specific events and activities that support learning, professional development, department outreach, and program engagement.
- All participants in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Internship Program are required to complete an improvement project within their assigned division. Interns will identify an opportunity for growth, develop a project outline, and explain the project's intended outcomes and contributions to the Department. At the conclusion of the internship term, participants will present their projects to Executive Leadership during a luncheon.
- For more information on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture please visit <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture.html>



Working Conditions:

- This internship is primarily office-based at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Occasional travel may be required, and overnight travel may be necessary during the internship period.

How to Apply:

To apply for this internship opportunity, please send the following documents to Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov:

- Resume
- Letter of intent
- Most recent transcript
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- DD214 (**veteran candidates only**)

PLEASE NOTE: Once your application has been received, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please reach out to Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026.

Other Information:

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.