Research Assistants for Center on Finance, Law & Policy

The Center on Finance, Law & Policy is seeking 2 law students and 1-2 Masters of Public Policy students to assist the Center on Finance, Law & Policy’s faculty director (and Ford School of Public Policy Dean) Michael S. Barr, as he and his co-authors, Meg Tahyar of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, and Professor Howell Jackson of Harvard Law School, create the third edition of their acclaimed textbook, Financial Regulation: Law and Policy over the summer and fall terms. Students with a background in fintech, distributed ledger technology, or payments are highly encouraged to apply.

Qualifications: Only University of Michigan students currently enrolled at Michigan Law, the Ford School of Public Policy, or the Ross School of Business are eligible for this position. The selected candidates will have completed coursework and have relevant experience in banking law, financial regulation, securities regulation or capital markets, international finance, and/or fintech, with strong quantitative and analytic skills. This position requires an obsessive attention to detail and a devotion to accuracy. Journal experience is a plus. Sorry, alumni are not eligible to apply.

Timing & Pay: We anticipate that students will begin work in late May and continue throughout the summer, working approximately 15 hours per week at $15/hour. Students will be expected to remain on the project throughout the fall 2020 semester for 10 hours per week.

How to Apply: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. No cover letter is required. Instead, interested candidates should send a current résumé and a writing sample in the form of a blog post to administrative coordinator Tracey Van Dusen at tvanduse@umich.edu no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 26, 2020. Details for the blog post are below.
Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Center on Finance, Law & Policy. As you may have gathered from your research about the Center, we tend to work on complex policy issues for which there is more than one answer, or no answer yet. To be successful, our student researchers must be able to explain somewhat sophisticated concepts from finance, law, economics, and computer science to non-experts in a credible way.

Our student researchers come from a wide variety of disciplines, including but not limited to, law, engineering, public policy, and business. What our RAs have in common is that they can write clearly and concisely, and support their assertions with data. To allow for differences across disciplines and offer a fair method of evaluation in hiring decisions, we do not ask for a cover letter with your résumé, but instead ask that you compose a blog post of 5-6 paragraphs that you consider ready-to-publish on any one of the following topics:

(A) Describe India’s digital identification system, Aadhaar. How does Aadhaar work or not work for low-income Indians?

(B) Discuss one example of how distributed ledger technology (DLT) could be used to foster economic inclusion. What are some of the obstacles to widespread adoption?

(C) In many countries, certain essential services such as electricity or water are considered public utilities. Many have suggested that central banks in developed countries will be the next public utility. Describe what essential services a central bank might provide if classified as a utility provider.

What we are looking for:

- Perfect grammar, spelling, and formatting. *Publication-ready means you already proofread and edited multiple times.*
- Accuracy.
- Clarity.
- Neutrality. *Can you write without revealing your personal opinion?*
- Engaging. *Is this interesting?*

Good luck! I look forward to reading your submissions.

Christie Baer
Asst. Executive Director, U-M Center on Finance, Law & Policy