

Summer Associate Program

Our Summer Associate Program offers law students meaningful legal experience, professional development, connections with attorneys across the firm and a glimpse into what it is like to work at Pullman & Comley as a full-time associate attorney. Our goal is for each of our summer associates to gain the essential skills for a long and successful career.

Pullman & Comley's 2L Summer Associate Program offers second-year law students the opportunity to work closely with our accomplished attorneys in a wide variety of the firm's practice areas. Summer associates research and write legal memoranda, attend administrative and court proceedings, help write articles for publication, assist in drafting motions and briefs, analyze new legislation and participate in closings and document reviews. Our summer associates have frequent exposure to our clients and perform work with a direct impact on their matters.

Summer associates spend 10 weeks in our Bridgeport and Hartford offices. Work projects are carefully selected and distributed to maximize exposure to the various departments while accommodating individual preferences where possible. Summer associates are trained in state-of-the-art office technology, legal writing and substantive areas of practice. Through various office events, summer associates meet the attorneys in all of our office locations.

Mentorship is the cornerstone of the program. Each summer associate is assigned an associate mentor and a partner mentor to answer questions and offer advice on assignments and any other issues. They also meet regularly with the program's director and the firm's Associate Training Committee to help them acclimate to their new schedule and environment. Weekly reviews and a comprehensive mid-summer evaluation give summer associates the progress assessments they need to guide their professional development.

Cultural Diversity Initiative

Pullman & Comley values the diverse communities in which we live and work and believes that a team of lawyers with different backgrounds and approaches enables us to better advise and serve our clients. As part of our commitment to employing outstanding lawyers, Pullman & Comley participates in the Cultural Diversity Initiative (CDI), an interview program designed to afford first-year law students who identify as members of diverse groups that have been historically underrepresented in the practice of law the opportunity to interview with participating law firms for employment opportunities. These historically underrepresented groups include ethnic, racial and religious minority groups, students with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ community. CDI is conducted in partnership with UConn Law School's Student Affinity Groups, the UConn Law School Diversity Committee, although students from all law schools are encouraged to apply to the program. By participating in CDI, Pullman & Comley gains access and exposure to the rising class of

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Summer Associate Program

talented and diverse practitioners.

Pullman & Comley offers a diverse 1L law student a paid 10-week program that includes five weeks as a summer associate with Pullman & Comley followed by five weeks with the in-house legal department of a corporate client of the firm. During their five weeks at the firm, the CDI Summer Associate participates in the same activities and perform the same type of legal work as the participants in Pullman & Comley's 2L Summer Associate Program. This work includes researching and writing legal memoranda, motions and briefs, attending administrative and court proceedings, analyzing new legislation, working on articles and participating in closings and document review.

Pullman & Comley's 2022 Summer Associates

Pictured left to right: Griffin M. Kutzner (2L), Jennifer Banos Vale (1L), Danielle A. Erickson (2L) and Ashley Martin (2L).

Frequently Asked Questions: Summer Associate Program

How can I apply for a Summer Associate position?

Pullman & Comley conducts on-campus interviews at several law schools, which is the preferred method of application. Candidates also can send a resume and cover letter to our Recruiting Committee co-chairs Kelly Scott at kscott@pullcom.com and Erick Russell at erussell@pullcom.com. Callback interviews are usually scheduled in September and early October. Hiring decisions are made on a rolling basis and applicants can expect to be notified within two to four weeks.

If you are interested in applying for Pullman & Comley's Diversity 1L Summer Associate Program, please email a cover letter and résumé to:

Shirley Veillette
Human Resources Coordinator
Pullman & Comley, LLC
850 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06601-7006
careers@pullcom.com

What are the objectives of the 2L program?

Our 2L Summer Associate Program is designed to provide law students with a true picture of what it is like to practice law as a full-time associate at Pullman & Comley. As part of the Summer Associate Program, law students work closely with attorneys, participate in day-to-day activities and make important contributions to projects involving a variety of practice areas.

Summer Associate Program

In addition to working closely with attorneys, 2L summer associates assist in assignments outside the office, including trials, hearings, depositions and real estate and corporate closings. Summer associates also participate in the same training programs and department meetings as full-time associates. Every effort is made to give summer associates an authentic law firm practice experience.

How is the Summer Associate Program organized, and what will I work on?

The director of the Summer Associate Program oversees all projects and events, regularly monitors progress and meets with each summer associate on a weekly basis. This allows the director and the summer associates to gauge workflow and ensure that a summer associate is exposed to as many of the firm's major practice areas as possible. In addition, if the summer associate has an interest in a specific area of practice, the director will make accommodations to allow for a concentration in that practice area where possible. Work assignments are carefully supervised, and the importance of the assignment is fully explained by the assigning attorneys. We pride ourselves on our friendly atmosphere, and all of our attorneys are happy to speak with summer associates about their assignments or any concerns they may have.

What kind of training will I receive?

Each summer associate is assigned an associate mentor and a partner mentor who are available for guidance on everyday questions and can act as a sounding board to address concerns. Our associate mentors are junior to mid-level associates who provide guidance on individual projects and firm dynamics, while our partner mentors give broader advice on professional development strategies. During the first week of the Summer Associate Program, and throughout the summer, the firm's Associate Training Committee also helps to acclimate summer associates to the firm and the practice of law. Summer associates join in departmental and section meetings, in-house continuing education seminars for attorneys and one-on-one training in substantive legal developments, cutting-edge office technology, and effective advocacy techniques.

What kind of feedback can I expect?

We recognize the importance of regular, clear feedback for summer associates. To that end, the firm provides weekly informal feedback sessions through meetings with the Summer Associate Program director. In addition, the leadership of the firm's Recruiting Committee meets with each summer associate at the mid-point of the Summer Associate Program to provide a more formal, comprehensive review. Exit interview and assessments are conducted at the end of the program, and by the conclusion of the summer, each summer associate will have a clear understanding as to how his or her work was evaluated.

Summer Associate Program

Where will I be based?

Our Summer Program runs for ten weeks, and time will generally be spent in our Bridgeport and Hartford offices. Summer Associates also may spend additional time in other offices on an as-needed basis.

As a regional law firm, Pullman & Comley draws attorneys from a broad area. Whether summer associates are from the New England area or beyond, the firm assists in the settling-in process. Summer associates will find that the firm's offices are situated in dynamic settings, from the state's capital to urban locations on Long Island Sound just a few minutes from beaches and a train ride to New York City. The attorneys go out of their way to introduce our summer associates to the amenities and surroundings that each of our offices and communities has to offer.

Our offices are situated in and near some of the most attractive places to live in the region. Our Bridgeport-based attorneys make their homes in the lively Black Rock section of Bridgeport and in the beautiful surrounding towns of Fairfield, Westport, Stamford, Easton, Milford, and beyond. These communities offer easy access to nightlife, beaches, shopping, and restaurants.

Our Hartford-based attorneys live in the downtown area of Hartford, and in the surrounding communities including West Hartford, Farmington, Simsbury, Avon and Glastonbury. These areas offer fine dining, a variety of music and entertainment and access to the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers. In addition, several of our attorneys have called New Haven home over the years, opting to take advantage of the “town and gown” atmosphere provided by Yale University.

What social activities can I expect?

Pullman & Comley's Summer Program is designed to introduce our summer associates to every office and practice area in the firm. Most importantly, we want our summer associates to meet as many of the firm's attorneys as possible. Obviously, this cannot be done through work assignments alone, which is why our summer program also offers diverse social activities that provide opportunities to interact and to meet informally with attorneys, and learn about Pullman & Comley and our various offices.

Our goal is to make our summer associates feel comfortable and welcome within the Pullman & Comley community. Prior summer social activities have included:

- Trips to the General Assembly to meet with key legislators
- Trips to the Connecticut Supreme Court to meet with select justices
- Various firm receptions and organized events
- Annual "Partners-Serve-Associates" dinner

Summer Associate Program

- Community service outings

These events allow us to get to know our summer associates better and allow them to get to know us. In addition to being a great deal of fun, these events are critical to the success of our Summer Associate Program.

Will I be hired as an Associate? When can I expect to receive an offer?

By the conclusion of the 2L Summer Associate Program, summer associates have an in-depth view of what it means to practice law at Pullman & Comley and should be able to tell whether this is the right environment for them.

Hiring decisions are usually made within two weeks after the Program ends, and offers are usually held open for acceptance within a reasonable time.