

**NARN + Seattle University Family Law Center**  
Domestic Violence/Animal Law Reform Initiative

Students will assist with implementing reformed Washington State domestic violence (DV) law and policy that includes comprehensive protective measures for both human and nonhuman animals, both separately and as a family unit, by conducting rigorous legal analysis, extrapolating what a holistic judicial system would look like for survivors, and drafting potential legislation and other policy initiatives. Current domestic violence and animal cruelty/neglect statutes do not sufficiently address the magnitude of abuse and neglect still faced by nonhuman animals and humans alike.

Ultimate goals of this initiative include the following:

- Promote law and policy that strengthens protections for survivors and their families, including nonhuman companion animal family members.
- Research and draft preventative DV measures that align, and run parallel with, existing and drafted animal cruelty measures.
- Research and draft preventative animal cruelty measures that do not endanger historically marginalized human communities, especially Black and Brown individuals and their communities at large.
- Research, draft, and disseminate practical solutions applicable beyond judicial and academic settings.
  - Engage community members most at risk and provide practical solutions.
- Investigate the effectiveness of current DV and animal cruelty related law and policy.
- Further define the nexus between DV and animal law.
- Determine the feasibility of using/implementing CAAP animal protection laws as well as volunteer CAAP in conjunction with, or integrated into, domestic violence laws.

Tasks include the following:

- Conduct comprehensive legal research on current Washington State law relevant to domestic violence policies as applied to both humans and nonhuman animals, and companion animal law and protective initiatives.
- Review and summarize effective DV and family law policies and effective measures protecting nonhuman animals from domestic abuse found across the United States, and review other measures from countries other than the U.S. and its territories, if jurisdictionally relevant.
- Conduct literature reviews investigating what a one health approach towards judicial programs supporting both human and nonhuman animal survivors may entail in order to achieve a holistic judicial process for all parties.
- Craft research memos advising on possible DV and animal abuse preventative measures that bypass the criminal justice system.
- Draft legal memos on the current legal landscapes of CAAP programs implemented across the United States and speculate as to whether CAAP programs may be beneficial regarding the initiative at hand.
- Propose potential Washington State policies that strengthen protections for survivors and their families (nonhuman animals included).
- Propose potential Washington State policies that implement more effective and humane preventative measures.

- Write research summaries investigating alternative policies outside of the judicial system, such as partnerships with veterinarian offices, community engagement initiatives, shelter outreach, etc...
- Work with relevant community stakeholders while drafting potentially viable DV and animal protection policies.
- Opportunities may arise to engage with lawmakers or other public officials.
- Interns will have the option to continue work with NARN throughout the advocacy phase of any policy introduced.

The internship will be entirely remote. Students located in Seattle and the surrounding areas may attend any NARN in-person or hybrid events.

Interns will work part-time, for approximately 10-20 hours a week. The duration of the internship will last for one semester, with the ability to continue work as a volunteer at NARN if an intern would like to see any potential policy through to enactment.

If you are interested, please contact, NARN's director, Hannah Thompson-Garner at:

E: [hannah@narn.org](mailto:hannah@narn.org) | [thompson.garner@gmail.com](mailto:thompson.garner@gmail.com)

P: 1-206-229-2035