

NhRP Summer 2026 Legal Clerkship

Position: Summer 2026 Legal Clerk

Location: fully remote

Duration: 10 weeks, starting June 2026

Eligibility: Law students who have completed 2L (rising 3Ls)

Organizational Summary

The Nonhuman Rights Project works to secure fundamental rights for nonhuman animals. Our groundbreaking work challenges an archaic, unjust legal status quo that views and treats all nonhuman animals as “things” with no rights. We work to achieve our mission in three ways:

- Litigation (changing the legal status quo and catalyzing a global conversation about how nonhuman animals are viewed and treated under the law);
- Legislation and Advocacy (building grassroots support at the local, national, and global levels and working to pass the first nonhuman rights laws in the US); and
- Education (raising awareness of the need and basis for nonhuman rights and providing resources to empower others to join the fight).

The NhRP’s litigation and legislation are the first of their kind in the world. Our persistence and bold approach are already changing the legal status quo and have catalyzed a global conversation about how our legal systems view and treat nonhuman animals. As a result of the NhRP’s unique mission and work, courts and legislatures are beginning to recognize the systemic problem of animals’ rightlessness, the suffering it has caused, and the ways it undermines the values and principles of justice—liberty, autonomy, equality, and fairness—on which our own human rights depend.

Our work follows centuries-long global struggles against the denial of human rights based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other status. No one should be denied rights because of who they are—including nonhuman animals.

We are the only civil rights organization in the United States dedicated solely to securing fundamental rights for nonhuman animals.

Clerkship Responsibilities

Potential clerkship projects and responsibilities may include:

- Conducting legal research and drafting memoranda
- Surveying case law and synthesizing and summarizing outcomes
- Cite-checking and contributing to the drafting of briefs
- Assisting with case analysis, brainstorming, and problem-solving
- Drafting white papers and sections of law review articles
- Performing research for legislation and public policy priorities
- Drafting blogs and other written work product for communications and media purposes

Qualifications/Requirements for Applicants:

- Must be enrolled in an accredited J.D. program
- Completion of first and second-year legal courses
- Authorized to work in the United States
- Available to work 9 AM-5 PM ET, CT, MT, or PT hours
- Excellent research, writing, communication, and reading skills
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to maintain professionalism
- Attentive to detail with a commitment to accuracy
- Ability to problem-solve and to think creatively in a solution-oriented manner
- Demonstrated interest in animal rights and welfare issues
- Flexibility and eagerness to take initiative on a variety of projects
- Able to work well independently and use good judgment

Compensation

- We're committed to ensuring that every clerk is compensated for their work. This clerkship may be compensated in one of the following ways:
 - If your law school provides summer public-interest stipends or you have access to other outside funds, we ask you to use that funding to support your clerkship.
 - If you aren't able to access such funding, we will provide hourly compensation at \$21/hour.
 - Where our program meets your law school's qualifications and requirements and is approved by your school, academic credit may be provided.

- Your application will be considered equally regardless of whether outside funding is available to you.
- The clerkship is designed to be 10 weeks long and 35 hours/week.

Application Materials

- Please upload a resume and answer the relevant questions at [this link](#)

Application Deadline

Please complete the above form by October 31, 2025, 11:59 PM PST. Applicants may be accepted on a rolling basis, so early submission is encouraged.

Our Philosophy

We believe in integrating clerks into our work as much as possible. Legal clerks will be given the opportunity to contribute to existing projects, be mentored by experienced attorneys, and develop critical legal skills. Our summer program includes social events, opportunities to network with your fellow clerks and NhRP staff, and the ability to contribute to cutting-edge legal strategies, all while advancing our mission of securing rights for nonhuman animals.

The Nonhuman Rights Project is an Equal Opportunity Employer and acts in accordance with applicable laws in all of our hiring and employment practices. NhRP considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender identity, national origin, age, ability, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or any other protected factor under federal, state, or local law.