CALIFORNIA NEWS SERVICE

Journalism internships

The California News Service seeks experienced writers to report on California news from Washington, D.C. This is an outstanding opportunity for aspiring journalists to report from Washington under the direction of veteran journalists and be published back home in California. The California News Service is also seeking someone with web building experience who can help create a web presence for the news service.

Background. The UCDC Center is running a news service to fill the news void created by the demise of California newspapers and provide training to aspiring reporters.

How it works. The California News Service operates from the UCDC center under the direction of Marc Sandalow, former Washington Bureau Chief of the San Francisco Chronicle and currently director of the UC Merced Washington program. Susan Rasky, former congressional correspondent for the New York Times and currently a professor at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism will provide direction from California.

The newsroom is staffed by student interns. Working closely with Sandalow in Washington and Rasky in Berkeley, students will write stories on matters of particular interest to California, such as immigration, water, technology, gay marriage, National Parks, features on members of Congress, profiles of Californians at the White House, or California cases before the Supreme Court. Interns are given wide flexibility to write about topics of personal interest.

Finished stories are provided to newspapers or other news outlets free of charge so long as they credit the writer and the California News Service. Intern written stories have appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, San Diego North County Times, Riverside Press-Enterprise, Santa Cruz Sentinel, the Berkeley Daily Planet, Tulare Enterprise, Visalia Times-Delta, and others.

In addition, some students may conduct taped interviews for broadcast on California radio stations.

Finally, the news service plans to develop a web page for its Washington content. Applicants with experience or interest in developing a web presence are urged to apply.

Logistics: Interns are expected to work four days a week. Schedules are flexible to accommodate research seminars, and all UC schools’ academic calendars (as well as Penn and Michigan.) Interns work out of an office at the UCDC center, with regular assignments at the Capitol, the White House, or other federal agencies.

Who is eligible? Any UCDC student may apply for the internship (quarter, semester or extended quarter students.) Preference is given to those who have been published, either in a school newspaper, a newsletter, or on-line. Promising writers who can establish their qualifications will also be considered. Those with radio or other broadcast experience are also encouraged to apply.