Judicial Clerkship Externship

The Judicial Clerkship Externship Experience
This externship course offers students a structured, hands-on exposure to civil and criminal litigation from the judicial perspective. Students work as part-time law clerks under the supervision of state or federal trial or appellate judges and their law clerks.

The clerkship provides an opportunity for students to develop advanced legal research and writing skills and to learn about and assist the judicial decision-making process.

Typical Activities
- Drafting a series of legal memoranda or orders relevant to cases under consideration by the court
- Performing extensive legal research
- Observing hearings, trials, and other court proceedings

Requirements
To receive 3 credits, students must work a minimum of 156 hours for the semester (an average of 12 hours per week); for 4 credits, students must work 208 hours (16 hours per week).

Produce a minimum of 10 pages of research and writing for each credit hour.

Observe and report on a series of federal and state trial and appellate court proceedings.

Attend bi-weekly meetings with course instructor.

Students who are notified that they are enrolled in this externship must attend an orientation meeting prior to the start of the placement.

Pre-/Co-Requisites
None, though a course from the ethics curriculum is strongly recommended.

The Bottom Line
- The course is graded on a credit/no credit basis.
- There is no final exam.
- This course can be taken for 3 or 4 credits, with each credit hour requiring a minimum of 52 hours of work and 10 pages of work product.

Note: Credits from this externship course count toward the 19 maximum credits a J.D. student can take in non-law classes and law classes without a classroom component.

- Students cannot work in a law firm while participating in the course.
- Students must have a minimum GPA of at least 3.40.
- Students are placed by the instructor with federal and state trial and appellate judges in St. Louis or with the federal court in East St. Louis.

For more information:
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