Congressional and Administrative Law Externship

Congressional and Administrative Law Externship Experience
This externship is open to J.D. students in the first or second semester of their third year, as well as to students in the second semester of their second year.

In the Congressional and Administrative Law Externship, students have the opportunity to learn first-hand about the practice of law in the nation’s capitol. Students spend the Fall or Spring semester in Washington D.C. and work under the direction of attorneys in a variety of government offices and not-for-profits.

Each student admitted to this externship is assisted in obtaining a placement in a Congressional Office, Administrative Agency, or NGO. A placement, however, cannot be guaranteed.

Students meet in person with the director 4 times during the semester and attend a speaker series once a month.

Congressional and Administrative Law Externship Aims
Students learn about the legislative and agency process through hands-on experience where they can explore career opportunities unique to the nation’s capitol.

Placements have included:
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Homeland Security
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Federal Communications Commission
- House and Senate Judiciary Committees
- Senate Commerce Committee

Prerequisites
In February, Professor Kaplan interviews applicants for the Fall and Spring semesters. Final selections are made based on the interview, faculty references, statement of interest, student’s resume, and demonstrated academic achievement.

Third-year J.D. students who are taking the D.C. externship in their final semester of law school must have taken a course from the ethics curriculum before starting the program. It is also recommended that students interested in Congressional law should have taken a course in legislation. It is recommended that an Administrative Law course is taken for placement within an administrative agency.

It is encouraged that students take, as preparation, courses in the subject area of the agency in which they will be placed.

The Bottom Line
- Students must work 15 weeks at their placement to earn 12 academic credits.
- Credits from this course count toward the 19 maximum credits a J.D. student can take in non-law classes and law classes without a classroom component (law clinics and clinical practicums do not count against this non-classroom credit limit).

Information for Non-U.S. Citizens
Non-U.S. citizens should note that most federal government offices will only consider externs who are U.S. citizens.