Lawyering Practice Externship

The Lawyering Practice Externship Experience

This externship program offers students an opportunity to develop transaction, advocacy and litigation skills in criminal or civil law, working under the supervision of field supervisors in government law offices or legal departments of non-profits/corporations. Placements work in one of two ways: students can be assigned to a placement arranged by the school, or students can find their own placement.

Placements made available by the school include:

CIVIL PLACEMENTS—
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- CenturyLink
- Emerson Electric
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Community Economic Development
- Missouri Attorney General’s Office
- Veterans Affairs, Office of General Counsel
- St. Louis Zoo
- SSM Healthcare
- Vatterott Education Centers
- And others . . .

CRIMINAL PLACEMENTS—
- Arch City Public Defenders
- Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of Missouri
- Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Illinois (East St. Louis)
- PhillipsBlack Project (Capital Punishment defense)
- St. Louis City Public Defenders

Placements at any of the above sites are not guaranteed to be available; final placements are made at the discretion of the faculty and field supervisors.

Examples of placements that students have organized on their own include:
- BJC Healthcare
- Illinois State Public Defenders Office
- St. Louis County Counselor’s office
- Scott Air Force Base/JAG
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

Typical Activities

Externs work on civil, criminal, lawmaking, or policymaking matters, depending on their placement, and have the opportunity to engage in interviewing, counseling, investigation, drafting, negotiation, litigation, and settlement.

Requirements

Externs must work:
- 156 hours to earn 3 credits;
- 208 hours to earn 4 credits;
- 260 hours to earn 5 credits;
- 312 hours to earn 6 credits.
Students must earn these hours over a period of 11 or more weeks.

Externs must attend an orientation and other possible group meetings during the semester. Students meet individually with Professor Perry throughout the semester.

The Bottom Line

- The course is graded on credit/no credit basis.
- There is no final exam for this course.
- This course can be taken for 3-6 credits.
- Note: 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 or clinics/externships without direct supervision of the clinical work by a law school faculty member.

Prerequisites

None

Lawyering Practice Externship Faculty

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