Government Lawyering Externship

The Government Lawyering Externship Experience

Students in this externship are assigned to work in either the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Missouri (in downtown St. Louis) or the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Illinois (in Fairview Heights). Students may express a preference within each office to work in the Criminal Division, the Civil Division, or a combination of both.

For students in the Criminal Division, the course provides an opportunity to gain exposure to all facets of federal criminal prosecution, including victim/witness interviews, agent meetings, drafting of charges, discovery, motion practice, and trial and appellate work.

Students in the Civil Division assist with a range of activities, including witness interviews, drafting of pleadings and discovery requests, document analysis, motion practice, and depositions and, like their counterparts in the Criminal Division, also do appellate work.

In both divisions, students are encouraged to attend court proceedings handled by lawyers from the office and there is always ample opportunity to do legal research and writing.

Students will submit a weekly log of their work hours and activities, write brief journal entries reflecting on their work experiences, and attend meetings to discuss topics related to their placements. In addition, students must be cleared by the FBI in order to take this clinic — a process that requires submission of extensive paperwork months in advance of the start of the semester.

Pre-/Co-Requisites:
None, but students who have taken the following courses may receive preference: Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and a course from the ethics curriculum.

The Bottom Line:
- 6 credits for a minimum of 24 hours/week (312 hours total). The course is graded credit/no credit.
- Students attend bi-weekly meetings to discuss topics relevant to their placement. The class will meet as a group throughout the semester on various Monday's from 5 pm-6 pm. Exact dates to be determined.
- Students should schedule their other classes to have three full days available during the week for this course.

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.

Information for Non-U.S. Citizens:
The U.S. Attorney offices will only consider externs who are U.S. citizens.

For more information:
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