



Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

Judicial Internship Program

Overview

The Judicial Internship Program is an educational opportunity that provides law students with a behind-the-scenes view of the practice of law in the Superior Court. The program provides valuable opportunities for students to apply the knowledge they gained from law school to currently pending court cases, and to enhance their understanding of the Court's expectations of attorneys in the practice of law. The Court has potential internship assignments in the civil, criminal, family, juvenile, and probate divisions at each of the four county branches (i.e., Central, North, East and South).

Internship Period

The Court hosts internship sessions in the fall, spring, and summer of each year. The Court begins each internship session with an orientation. To successfully complete the internship program, students generally must serve a minimum of 12 weeks and a minimum of 20 hours per week in their respective assignments.

Internship Description

Students accepted into the program are assigned to Court Legal Services Staff Attorney mentors. Interns assist staff attorneys with reviewing and analyzing motions and oppositions, conducting legal research, discussing the issues with staff attorneys (and judges as appropriate), and drafting confidential written memoranda and recommendations for the judges' review.

In the criminal division, students also receive the opportunity to gain experience in analyzing petitions for various writs and other motions presented by incarcerated prisoners, and researching and drafting proposed orders for the judges' review. The Staff Attorney mentors review the memorandums and proposed orders before they are presented for final approval.

Additionally, students are encouraged to observe a variety of courtroom proceedings. By observing courtroom proceedings, students receive the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the wide array of lawyering skills that unfold in the courtroom setting, and to gain insight on their own preferences for implementing those skills in the future.

Applicant Qualifications

The Court welcomes applications from students who attend ABA accredited law schools in San Diego County, as well as students who attend ABA accredited law schools anywhere in the United States who are also considering practicing law in California.

The internship program is designed for law students in their second or third year of study. Absent exceptional circumstances, to be eligible for an internship, students must complete their law school's evidence course before they begin the internship program. Students who seek a criminal division internship must also complete at least one full semester of their law school's criminal procedure course before beginning the internship program.

Students qualify on a "whole person basis" – the Court looks for well-rounded individuals who are independently motivated and excited about the prospect of learning and enhancing their legal skill set through the internship program. Successful candidates typically have excellent grades, great writing and communication skills, a variety of non-legal experience, and the ability to effectively follow directions and work well with others.

How to Apply

The application packet should include the following materials: (a) cover letter, (b) resume, (c) transcript, and (d) a writing sample that is preferably not longer than ten pages. The cover letter should include whether the student has any preference for working in a particular division or a particular court branch location. (See "Overview" section above for the list of divisions and locations.)

For students who attend law schools in San Diego County, the application submission process is coordinated through the individual law schools. For interested students who attend law schools outside of San Diego County, they may submit their application packet to the following address:

Mr. Taylor Garrot
Staff Attorney - Legal Services Division
Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
1100 Union Street
San Diego, CA 92101

If you have questions about the program, please call Staff Attorney Taylor Garrot at 619-844-2726.

Application Deadlines

For students who attend law schools in San Diego County, please follow the instructions from your law school career services office regarding when to submit your application materials.

For students who attend law schools outside of San Diego County:

- **Summer Internships:** Applications must be submitted on or before **January 15th** of the year the internship will take place.
- **Fall Internships:** Applications must be submitted on or before **April 1st** of the year the internship will take place.

- **Spring Internships:** Applications must be submitted on or before **October 1st** of the year before the spring session will take place.

Please do not contact any individual San Diego Superior Court Judge regarding judicial internships.