



Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

Family Law Judicial Internship Program

Overview

The San Diego Superior Court Family Court Division handles all types of family law matters, including actions for divorce, legal separation, nullity, parentage, child custody, visitation, support (child and spousal), domestic violence restraining orders, and other family related issues.

The Judicial Internship Program in the Family Law Division of the San Diego Superior Court is intended to give law students who have a particular interest in family law the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to actual pending cases. Students will have the unique opportunity to work closely with judicial officers, court staff attorneys, and other professionals, gaining a better understanding of the Court system and the process of a family law case from beginning to end.

Internship Period

The Court hosts internship sessions in the fall, spring, and summer of each year. To successfully complete the internship program, students generally must serve a minimum of 8 weeks based upon a schedule set with their Staff Attorney mentor that must meet a minimum of 120 hours, although 240 hours per internship is preferred.

Internship Description

Students working in the Family Law Division will be assigned a Staff Attorney mentor. The tasks particular to this assignment may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Motion review and drafting memoranda
- Judgment and order review
- Observing court proceedings (hearings and trials)
- Legislative history research
- New case law summaries
- Review new and pending legislation

Applicant Qualifications

The Court welcomes applications from students attending schools that are accredited in California by the State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners (CALS), as well as students who attend ABA accredited schools anywhere in the United States who are also considering practicing law in California with a particular interest in San Diego County.

Students must have completed their first year of study, whether enrolled in a full or part-time program. The ideal candidate will have taken at least one course in family law or have prior work experience in the field; experience interning with the court's Family Law Facilitator's office will be especially beneficial prior to this program.

The Court seeks well-rounded individuals who are hardworking, motivated, and excited about the prospect of working in family law. Ideal candidates will have strong academic credentials, great writing and communication skills, and the ability to effectively follow directions and work well with others as a team.

Interviews

Qualified candidates will be invited to interview via video conference or at the Central Courthouse. On-campus interviews will be conducted only if approved by law school administrative staff.

How to Apply

The application packet should include the following materials: (a) cover letter including interest in Family Law, (b) resume, (c) transcript, and (d) a writing sample. The cover letter should include whether the student has any preference for working in a particular court branch location. (See "Overview" section above for the list of divisions and locations.) Up to two letters of recommendation can be submitted with the application but are not required for consideration. 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:

Brigid Campo
Staff Attorney - Legal Services Division
Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
1100 Union Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Or by email to: Brigid.campo@sdcourt.ca.gov

If you have questions about the program, please call Staff Attorney Brigid Campo at 619-844-2918 or by email listed above.

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.