



Judicial Field Placement

Possible Placements: Supreme Court of Florida; U.S. District Court – Middle District of Florida; Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal; Florida Ninth Judicial Circuit Court; Florida Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court; Bankruptcy Court-Middle District of Florida

SUMMER: 3 Credits- 20 Hour Week –10 Weeks –Total 200 Hours plus a Weekly Seminar

SPRING AND FALL: 3 Credits–15 Hour Week–13 Weeks–Total 195 Hours plus a Weekly Seminar

Placement Requirements: Students placed in the Judicial Chambers of a State or Federal Court Judge must meet the following criteria – have the GPA as listed below, have completed 48 semester hours of credit and have received a grade of at least “B” in Legal Research and Writing. Students are required to spend a minimum of 15-20 hours per week at their placement, depending on the semester, and will receive three hours of credit for satisfactory completion. Attendance at a weekly seminar is also required.

- Judicial Externship for federal courts and state appellate courts - 3.0
- Judicial Externship for state trial courts - 2.4

Objective I: Learning about the judicial process and its participants. Under the guidance of experienced judges and staff, students learn about the process of trying cases from the bench’s vantage point. Understanding the role courthouse procedures and personnel play in litigation is also covered.

Objective II: Improving legal writing and research abilities. Consistent with the judge’s instructions, students will conduct research and write memoranda concerning the legal issues pending in their chambers. Follow-up conversations with the supervising judge or staff attorney assist the students in honing their research and writing skill.

Objective III: Understanding the importance of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Canons of Judicial Ethics. The judge’s chambers are an excellent forum for observing how the ethical provisions that cover bench and bar are actually implemented. Court personnel along with the supervising judge instruct students on the uniqueness of the bench’s role in complying with professional standards.

Objective IV: Learning about the mechanics of the judicial process. Although students will work primarily for the supervising judge and staff, students will also be exposed to other members of the courthouse staff and the processes they implement for ensuring that case are properly handled throughout the trial and appellate processes.