



Non-Profit Corporate Field Placement

Possible Placements: Children's Home Society, Orlando Health

SUMMER: 5 Credits–35 Hour Week–10 Weeks–Total 350 Hours plus a Weekly Seminar

FALL: 5 Credits – 25 Hour Week – 13 Weeks – Total 325 Hours plus a Weekly Seminar

Placement Description: At these placements, students learn about various aspects of representing non-profits. Legal topics range may include taxation and finance, employment, permitting, contracts, and corporate governance issues. Depending on the placements, students may participate in staff meeting, client meetings, committee meetings, public hearings and board meetings, or depositions and trials. These placements allow students to learn about both the transactional and other requirements placed on corporate lawyers and the valuable service they provide to their clients across a wide range of topics.

Placement Requirements: Students must meet the following criteria? Have completed 4 semesters and received not less than 48 credit hours. Have a 2.0 or higher cumulative grade point average and completion of Professional Responsibility, and Business Organizations. Depending on the placement additional courses may be highly recommended.

Students are required to spend a minimum of 25-35 hours per week at their placement, depending on the semester, and receive five hours of credit for satisfactory completion. Attendance at a weekly seminar is also required. The seminar portion of the externship is graded; the field portion is pass/fail.

Objective I: Learning about corporate and non-profit law. At these placements, students learn about various aspects of representing non-profits. Legal topics range may include taxation and finance, employment, contracts, risk management and corporate governance issues. Depending on the placements, students may participate in staff meetings, client meetings, committee meetings, public hearings, board meetings, or depositions and trials. These placements allow students to learn about both the transactional and other requirements placed on corporate lawyers and the valuable service they provide to their clients across a wide range of topics.

Objective II: Improving legal writing and researching abilities. The nature of corporate practice mandates that students know how to prepare effective and concise legal documents. Depending on the placement, this opportunity may include preparation of memoranda of law, contracts, letters, pleadings, and interoffice documents.

Objective III: Understanding the relationship between corporate boards, management and employees. By preparing for and attending board and internal staff meetings, students observe how the process of presenting information to corporate decisions makers is made as well as how staff are trained on legal requirements. Student input and contribution to this process demonstrates to them the values of legal education and ethical standards.

Objective IV: Negotiation and Mediation skills. As a prerequisite to litigation and contract creation, students have the opportunity to observe and participate in negotiation and mediation sessions. These experiences highlight the value of compromise and settlement, and demonstrate how an attorney considers legal judgment, expertise, experience, ethics, and understanding of human nature all contribute to the process of resolving difficult issues before they become insurmountable issues.

Objective V: Creating, reviewing, and implementing contracts. One of the most important missions of corporate practice is the negotiations of contracts. How contracts go from conception to implementation

and review is a crucial component of civil practice. Here students have the opportunity to observe how competing financial and policy issues are resolved in pragmatic terms.

Objective VI: Gathering and using facts. A universal and vital skill for lawyers concerns their ability to collect and use facts crucial to the outcome for their clients. Here students observe and participate in both formal discover and informal fact collection. Interviewing techniques learned in trial skills classes are implemented here often, as are skills necessary for creating and responding due diligence requests and other forms of information gathering.

Objective VII: Dealing with the implementation of Federal and State legislation and regulation is a key part of many non-profit corporations. This educational objective covers more than simply being asked to review a statute or other directive which affects the non-profit operations. It requires understanding how the various political, legal, administrative, and human aspects of the law affect the non-profit and its clients in their everyday lives. Depending on the placements, students may participate in legislative advocacy work.

Objective VIII: Understanding the requirements of Rules of Professional Conduct. The first and most important component of a lawyer's profession is to know and abide by the ethical and moral constraints of our practice. In this placement, students have the daily opportunity to observe how their supervisors and others in the office reach effective results by uniformly working within the rules.