

CIVIL GOVERNMENT EXTERNSHIP
OBJECTIVES & METHODS
(Four Credit Hour Course)

Prerequisites: Applicants must have (1) completed four semesters and forty-eight credit hours; (2) have a cumulative grade point average of 2.4 or greater; and (3) have successfully completed (a) Professional Responsibility and (b) Evidence. Applicants who do not meet the grade requirement may petition to be accepted, but such admission will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances. NOTE: A placement for each applicant is not guaranteed.

Externship Description: The student will be placed in a government agency's legal department. Possible field placements include: Orange County Attorney. The student will work at the field placement a minimum of twenty hours each week throughout the semester. In addition, the student will attend a one hour class each week at the Law School. This is a pass/fail course. Students will be evaluated by their field placement supervisors in consultation with Professor Young. To obtain a passing grade, students must satisfactorily complete both the field placement and classroom component of the externship.

Objective I: The student will learn about the practice of government law.

Method: The student will be exposed to various areas of government law, which may include, but are not limited to, land use, environmental, utility, transportation, labor and employment, taxation and finance, government procurement, code enforcement, governmental ethics, public utilities, eminent domain, real estate, and constitutional law. Depending on the assigned location, the student will learn about these areas by attending departmental staff meetings, client meetings, committee meetings, briefings, public hearings, advisory board meetings, depositions, hearings, or trials. The government attorneys with whom the student works will explain the background on particular issues prior to attending these various meetings, and will discuss the student's observations and questions following the meetings. The student will also learn by assisting government attorneys in representing their clients by researching issues and making recommendations (often in writing) to the local government attorney or the client. Any written work will be read and critiqued by the government attorneys with whom the student works.

Objective II: The students will improve his or her legal drafting skills.

Method: The student will be given research and drafting assignments related to legal issues in the government attorney's office. Drafting assignments may include memoranda of law, contracts, ordinances, resolutions, interoffice memoranda, letters, motions, briefs, complaints and other pleadings, or other written work produced by a government attorney's office. The written work will be read and critiqued by the government attorneys with whom the student works.

Objective III: The student will learn about the interrelationship of politics with governmental legal issues.

Method: The student will attend meetings of the appropriate government boards to observe public hearings on issues with legal ramifications. The student may be asked to research and draft a memorandum regarding a particular issue that will be the subject of a public hearing.

Objective IV: The student will learn negotiation and mediation skills.

Method: The student will observe and participate in negotiations, either with applicants for land-use and environmental approvals or permits or opposing parties and their attorneys, or with adversaries in litigation or administrative proceedings. The students may also observe or assist in the preparation for mediation sessions.

Objective V: The student will learn contract review and drafting skills.

Method: The student will review proposed agreements between the government and outside parties, or proposed settlement agreements in litigation and will comment on the specific provisions and make suggestions for adding, deleting, or re-writing certain provisions. Student performance will be reviewed and critiqued by the local government lawyers with whom the student works.

Objective VI: The student will learn fact-gathering skills.

Method: The student will participate in formal discovery for cases in litigation or informal fact-finding for other legal issues in the government attorney's office. This may include drafting or responding to discovery requests, participating in interviews, drafting or responding to interrogatories, or gathering information from other departments or divisions within the local government. Student performance will be reviewed and critiqued by the local government lawyers with whom the student works.

Objective VII: The student will increase his or her awareness of the importance of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Method: The student will discuss ethical issues with the government lawyers with whom the student works. The student may also be asked to research ethics issues dealing with public officers and lobbyists. These issues will also be discussed in the classroom component of the externship.

Objective VIII: When the opportunity presents itself, the student will learn of the impacts of federal and state legislation on government law.

Method: While the state legislature is in session, the student may be asked to review a bill and report on its possible impact to the government and its existing regulations and/or operations. The student may be asked to review a federal statute and report on its possible impact to the government and its existing regulations and/or operations or to an ongoing case.

(Approved by the Faculty October __, 2003.)