

JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP

OBJECTIVES & METHODS (Two Credit Hour Course)

Prerequisites: There are no course prerequisites but students must apply and be accepted into this program. Selection will be a joint process conducted by the Law School and the judicial placements and based upon a student's standing in the class and the quality of a writing sample.

Clinic Description: The students work in the Fifth, Ninth, or Eighteenth Judicial Circuit or the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Daytona Beach. The students are supervised by judges and their staff attorneys or law clerks. The students observe court proceedings and assist the courts with legal research and analysis related to pending matters. Students must commit to ten hours of work at the courts each week. In addition to these work hours the students attend a one-hour class held every other week. This is a pass/fail course. Students will be evaluated by their placement supervisors in consultation with the assigned professor.

Objective I: Students will develop an understanding of the judicial process and the role of various participants.

Method: Students will observe court proceedings and judicial reaction to various actions by the participants. Students will discuss some of these proceedings and reactions with the judge with whom they will work. These issues will also be discussed in the classroom component of the externship.

Objective II: Students will improve their legal research and drafting skills.

Method: Students will be given research and drafting assignments related to the cases in their court. The students' work-product will be reviewed and critiqued by the judge and/or his staff attorneys or law clerks.

Objective III: Students will increase their awareness of the importance of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Canons of Judicial Ethics.

Method: Students will discuss ethical issues with the judge and/or his staff attorneys or law clerks as they arise in the cases in their court. These issues will also be explored in the classroom component of the externship.

Objective IV: Students will learn the mechanics of the court process.

Method: Although the students will primarily be involved in assisting the judge and staff attorneys or law clerks on legal matters, the students will also be exposed to the various staff of the courthouse and the process of handling cases in their court.

(These Objectives and Methods were approved by the Curriculum Committee on October 20, 1999 and approved by the full faculty on October 21, 1999. Revised October 1, 2003.)