

# PROSECUTION EXTERNSHIP

## OBJECTIVES & METHODS

(Five 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; (b) Evidence; (c) Criminal Law; and (d) Criminal Procedure. Some offices will require the completion of a State of Florida employment application for a background check of the applicant. 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 prosecuting attorney's office (*e.g.*, State Attorney, City Attorney). Placement opportunities are available in the Ninth Judicial Circuit covering Orange and Osceola Counties and by agreement with various other counties. The student will work at the field placement a minimum of twenty-five hours each week and must be available every business day 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: Students will learn practical aspects of criminal law and criminal procedure.

Method: Students will prosecute defendants charged with criminal offenses and assist prosecuting attorneys in their prosecution of defendants. The students will research and prepare cases for various stages of the prosecution process. Students may be assigned to the juvenile, misdemeanor, felony, or traffic divisions. They may also have the opportunity to work in more than one division. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the selection of a jury panel and handle a complete jury trial under the direction of a supervising attorney. Students will be given feedback on their performance and guidance for improvement by the lawyers with whom they work.

Objective II: Students will learn witness/victim preparation skills.

Method: Students will observe experienced lawyers interview witnesses. Students will also interview and prepare witnesses and victims for court or other important stages of the prosecutions. Students' performance in these areas will be reviewed and critiqued by the lawyers with whom they work.

Objective III: Students will learn negotiation and mediation skills.

Method: Students will observe and participate in negotiations with assistant state attorneys or defense counsel.

Objective IV: Students will improve their legal drafting skills.

Method: Students will be given research or drafting assignments related to the case in their office. The students= work-product will be reviewed and critiqued by the lawyers with whom they work.

Objective V: Students will learn fact gathering skills.

Method: Students will observe and participate in formal discovery or informal investigation of the cases in their offices. This may include the drafting of discovery request, responding to discovery requests, participating in witness interviews, collecting of records or viewing physical objects. The students= performance in these areas will be reviewed and critiqued by the lawyers with whom they work.

Objective VI: Students will increase their awareness of the importance of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Method: Students will discuss ethical issues with the lawyers with whom they work. These issues will also be discussed in the classroom component of the externship.

(Approved by the Faculty October \_\_, 2003.)