

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

SUPREME COURT EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- I. **OBJECTIVE:** Improve and refine legal analysis, research and writing skills.

METHODS:

1. Read critically the briefs and record in assigned cases, selected to provide a broad range of experience in increasingly complex matters.
2. Frame and analyze the issues on appeal, develop a research strategy, research the issues, and prepare a summary of assigned cases.
3. Discuss and defend analysis of assigned cases with the justice and law clerks.
4. Perform assigned supplementary research and draft special memoranda/summaries for the justice on a broad range of selected issues.
5. Prepare preliminary drafts of opinions in assigned cases.

- II. **OBJECTIVE:** Gain insight into Florida appellate jurisdiction and procedure in context and practice.

METHODS:

1. Consider the court's mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction of cases in light of the Florida Constitution and Florida Statutes.
2. Receive introduction to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, including mandamus and other extraordinary writs, and any local procedural rules.
3. Receive introduction to the organization of the Supreme Court, including the roles of the Chief Justice, court clerk, law clerks, and marshal.
4. Receive introduction to case administration, including the notice of appeal, certiorari, the filing of briefs and record, the establishment of the case docket, the assignment of cases, the scheduling of oral argument, the judges' conferences, the drafting and approval of opinions, requests for rehearing.

III. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop deeper understanding of the adversary system, the building of the appeal record, and the roles of justice, clerk, and advocate.

METHODS:

1. Receive orientation concerning judicial qualifications, selection, retention, ethics, disqualification, and discipline.
2. Analyze or critically observe effective lawyering, including preservation of a complete record for appeal, drafting of briefs and presentation of argument.
3. Observe critically the ethical behavior of counsel.
4. Observe critically and discuss with justices their personal judicial philosophies and approach to decision-making.
5. Observe critically, discuss and compare the role of the judge and justice in the judicial process and the perception of justices of their role, as feasible.
6. Observe critically, discuss and compare the role of the law clerk (and extern) in the judicial process and the perception of law clerks of their role.
7. Evaluate critically the fairness and efficiency of the adversary system.

IV. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop insight into the judicial decision-making process.

METHODS:

1. Research, draft and revise summaries of assigned cases.
2. Discuss assigned cases, issues and conclusions with the justice and other law clerks.
3. Attend and observe critically the oral argument of assigned and other cases.
4. Prepare preliminary drafts of assigned cases and orders, and review and discuss with the justice and law clerks tentative drafts of opinions in other cases, as feasible.
5. Consider critically and discuss in daily journals and weekly seminars the applied jurisprudence which has been observed.
6. Evaluate critically the technical competence, fairness and equality of the judicial decision-making process in light of the needs and aspirations of our society.