

Clinical Externships

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

Florida State University College of Law offers one of the most extensive clinical externship programs in the United States. Students earn academic credit while working under the supervision of practicing attorneys. Our externship program, which has been referred to as a model for the nation, places students in more than 80 offices throughout Florida and elsewhere – far more placement options than available at many law schools. Students may even select international externships in locations around the world.

Externship programs are generally open to students who have completed 48 credits of law studies. Many of the externships involve the practice of law, which requires that students are approved by the Florida Supreme Court as certified legal interns (CLI). This CLI status is beneficial during and after law school. Because our programs provide more academic credit than those at most other law schools, students are more engaged in actual law practice and gain more valuable experience that will benefit them upon graduation.

“My externship at the West Palm Beach State Attorney’s Office was, without a doubt, the most beneficial, exciting and challenging experience of my entire law school career. In the course of just one semester, I conducted six jury trials, two non-jury trials and argued several motions. The experience allowed me to work closely with many criminal attorneys in the community. At the conclusion of my externship, I was offered a job working for the SAO and am looking forward to starting after graduation.”



— Andrea Robinson, *Class of 2010*

Types of Externships

- Administrative
- Appellate
- Civil
- Criminal Justice
- Environmental
- Government
- International
- Judicial
- Labor/Employment
- Legal Services
- Transactional

Where Externs Work

Because of our location in Florida’s capital city, students can choose from a wide variety of externships while they are taking classes. The breadth of our placement options is much greater than at many other law schools. Students work in all levels of courts – from the federal district court to the Florida Supreme Court to the local circuit court – and for state and federal agencies, for public defender’s offices, in state attorney’s offices, at non-profits and for legal services organizations.

Our students also have the opportunity to extern outside of Tallahassee. The law school has externship programs in locations including Washington, D.C., New York City, Miami, Orlando, Botswana and London.

The law school’s externship placement options cover a wide range of practice areas, including criminal law, family law, litigation and many more. This is very beneficial for students interested in a specific area of law and for those who want to try on for size different practice areas.

Faculty Members

The Florida State University College of Law's externship program is supervised by faculty members who have extensive experience practicing law. Our clinical externship professors also have been teaching and helping law students obtain externships for almost 30 years combined.

Lawrence S. Krieger

Clinical Professor and Director of Clinical Externship Programs

Professor Krieger coordinates criminal justice externships and teaches Criminal Practice Clinic. He researches and publishes in the area of law student and lawyer health and satisfaction. Professor Krieger previously served as chair of the Clinical Section Committee on Externships of the Association of American Law Schools.



Sally C. Gertz

Clinical Professor

Professor Gertz teaches Civil Pre-Trial Practice, coordinates judicial, public interest and government externships, and supervises the law school's Public Service Fellows Program. She is a former commissioner to the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission.

“Our externship faculty is really superb. From the time you apply to the externship program, all the way through the externship itself, they are constantly giving you feedback and they make sure that you end up in the externship experience that is right for you and that you are getting everything out of the experience that you desire.”



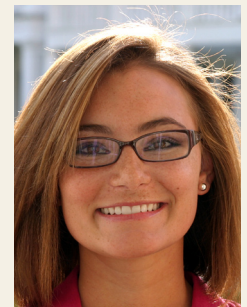
— Stacy Cleveland
Class of 2010

Externed at the Gadsden County State Attorney's Office in Quincy, Florida

“Florida State Law externships offer real, hands-on experience and professional training with practicing attorneys that students won't get in any classroom.”

— Katherine A. Weber
Class of 2010

Externed with the Court of Appeal in the Republic of Botswana



Preparing for an Externship

Most externships require students to be approved by the Florida Supreme Court as certified legal interns. Students must have clearance from The Florida Bar to be certified, which requires pre-application to The Florida Bar and a minimum of 4-6 months processing time. Completion of a prerequisite course is also required for certain externships.

For more information about the clinical externship program, visit www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/jd_program/clinics/index.html or call 850.644.1432.