

TO: Externship Mentor

FROM: Lawrence C. Foster, Externship Director

SUBJECT: Externship Program Educational Objectives

Thank you for participating in our Externship Program! The Externship Memorandum of Agreement you have been asked to sign details your responsibilities during the course of the Externship. Below is a statement of the program's educational objectives, which may assist you in working with the student extern.

The Externship Program is a special program offering significant academic benefits that are unavailable in the prescribed curriculum. The purpose of the program is to place students in a supportive environment to learn the panoply of lawyering skills. Mentors create a situation specifically designed to maximize new learning, to develop new skills, and to encourage creativity. Students, in turn, discover their own strengths and weaknesses through self-direction, a process they will carry with them throughout their legal careers. The academic objectives will vary dependent upon the sector in which the Externship is.

1. Judicial Externships

The Judicial Externship should provide the student with an intimate involvement in the judicial decision-making process. Therefore, the student should work closely with the judge in an effort to better understand the judicial process. The judge, in turn, should actively encourage the student to question, challenge and shape legal decisions. The student, in addition to learning office policy and procedure, will gain a better understanding of case review and analysis. The student also will improve his/her legal research and writing techniques while learning the intricacies of submitting bench memoranda.

2. Legislative/Executive Externships

The Legislative/Executive Externship allows the student to understand how law is created in the State of Hawaii, deepening his/her understanding of the politico-legal nexus. The student shall work with in-house counsel, either directly or through a sponsoring legislator, to draft legislation and position papers, and to monitor its progress. The Mentor should encourage creativity and discussion generated by the proposal. The student, in turn, will improve legal research and writing skills while deepening his/her understanding of the legislative process. Additionally, the student shall examine critically the law's development within its political, social, and economic contexts.

3. Public Agency Externships

The Public Agency Externship provides the participating student with an opportunity to see the implementation and application of the law. The student shall explore the conflict between policy and practice and understand the responsibilities associated with work in a public agency. Prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, state and county governments have been among those public agencies participating. The Mentor should explain office policy and procedure but encourage suggestions for change and creative thinking. Additionally, the student shall develop legal skills associated with the agency's work. These include, but are not limited to, appellate brief writing, trial skills, legal research, fact investigation, and position papers.

4. Private Sector Externships

The Private Sector Externship allows the student an opportunity to understand the workings of and responsibilities associated with the private practice of law. The primary educational objective is to permit the student to explore intensively one particular area of law. The extern supervisor, therefore, should provide the student with a variety of new tasks to facilitate the student's understanding of that field. The student, thus, shall develop interviewing and counseling skills, legal research and writing techniques, negotiations skills, and office management style. The Mentor should explain office policy and procedure and encourage student curiosity and self-development. The extern should be allowed to observe a variety of activities including depositions, strategy sessions, meetings with clients and court hearings/trials.

5. Pacific/Asia Externships

Given the unique location of the William S. Richardson School of Law and its commitment to the people of the Pacific basin, special Externships are offered among the Pacific Islands and Asia. The primary objective of the Externship is to heighten the student's awareness of the cultural diversity in the Pacific rim, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of the role of the legal profession in this area. The student also shall be encouraged to provide legal services to Asia and the Pacific Islands upon graduation. In addition to these specific goals, aforementioned educational objectives govern, where applicable. Finally, the extern supervisor should encourage the student to recognize the cultural diversity of the area and to understand the differences.

If you have any questions about our program or suggested improvements, please do not hesitate to call me at 956-6543 or e-mail me at lawrence@hawaii.edu. Mahalo.