

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON SUMMER DIVERSITY EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM



The Western District of Washington is partnering with the Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington to provide summer judicial externships to law students who are underrepresented in the legal profession. In addition to being placed in judicial chambers for the summer, the externship opportunity provides each student with a structured educational program. The program includes matching students with an attorney mentor, organizing meetings with legal professionals in the Federal Public Defenders, the U.S. Assistant Attorneys, and Probation Offices, judges and investigators, weekly meetings with the judicial coordinator, and opportunities to observe civil and criminal proceedings. The program provides a \$5,000 stipend to defray students' living expenses, as well as a \$200 stipend for travel expenses. Externs will be placed in the U.S. District Court in either a District Court Judge or Magistrate Judges' Chambers, as well as in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Placements are in Seattle and Tacoma.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This is a summer externship program focused on serving students who are underrepresented in the legal profession. It is open to all 1L and 2L students at an accredited law school. It begins between May 31st and June 12, 2023, depending on the students' law school terms, is eight weeks long and is full time (40 hours per week). The program is demanding and externs should be hardworking, organized, honest, ethical, and committed to making the most of their summer to gain critical lawyering skills and habits.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The application period opens on January 5th and closes on February 6, 2023. Zoom interviews will be conducted between January 23rd and February 22, 2023. Applicants will be notified as soon as possible. Students should submit the following materials to diversity_externship@wawd.uscourts.gov:

1. A resume.
2. A one to two page cover letter addressing why you are interested in being a judicial extern, how you believe you meet the program's goal of serving students who are underrepresented in the legal profession, and if you have a preference for placement in Seattle or Tacoma.
3. A writing sample (10 pages or fewer).
4. The names and contact information for three references. One should be a legal writing professor, if possible (no family members please).

Previous participants have commented:

I am so grateful for the Summer Diversity Externship Program! My externship experience went well beyond that of a typical judicial externship because not only did I perform the typical research and writing in judicial chambers, but I also spent a substantial portion of my summer participating in observational and informational experiences. I was given the opportunity to meet with and learn from so many professionals in the legal field, including a mentor through the program in my area of interest. Some of my favorite experiences include observing DREAM Court, meeting with various judges to learn about their careers, and learning about investigative techniques from the FBI. The program enabled me to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Court from the perspective of many participants. - Isabelle Breitfelder

The Diversity Externship program was so beneficial to my legal career and legal experience overall. This program gives the externs a little bit of everything and allows them to really watch the proceedings in real time while also learning about the entire process that occurs including outside of courtroom. This also helps with the assignments that externs work on with their individual judge and clerks in chambers. It helps law students see what they may be interested and even find new interests to explore in the legal field. One of the highlights of this program was being able to see so many other students of color and I really think it will pay dividends in the future for diversifying the legal field in the long term. I would highly recommend for any law student to apply for this program in the future. - Jahkari Aujla-Singh

The Western District of Washington Summer Diversity Externship Program was a great experience that exposed me to the inner-workings of a judge's chambers. I witnessed federal court procedure in action and was able to connect the dots from what I had learned in law school. I gained first-hand experience in how judges prepare for hearings and how to distill oral orders into writing. Getting to meet federal public defenders and prosecutors was also a highlight and it was eye opening to see how different each side approaches a case. I highly recommend this Summer Externship as a steppingstone into your legal career, even if you are not considering the judiciary. The connections I made will be long-lasting and benefit me greatly into the future. -Austin Durglo