

Law Student Opportunities

Criminal Law Division

Appeals, Writs & Trials Section

Los Angeles



The Appeals, Writs and Trials ("AWT") Section of the Criminal Division of the California Attorney General's office represents the People of the State of California in post-conviction proceedings involving felony convictions. This includes working on writs and appeals in the California Court of Appeal, California Supreme Court, Federal District Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and United States Supreme Court. AWT also conducts original criminal investigations and trials in cases involving conflicts of interest by county prosecutors.

The law student program in Los Angeles is presently accepting applications from second and third-year students for certified law clerk positions. Students who have completed evidence and civil procedure may be certified by the State Bar to make court appearances. Certified law students in Los Angeles AWT are given the same responsibilities as first-year Deputy Attorneys General. This work primarily involves drafting respondent's briefs and other pleadings in criminal appeals, and occasionally assisting attorneys with federal habeas corpus work. Certified law clerks will also appear for oral argument in the California Court of Appeal (under the supervision of a Deputy Attorney General) to represent the People of the State of California in a felony appeal.

During the summer, certified law clerks will participate in a calendar of events with other students in the office. Students are introduced to all the sections within the Criminal, Civil, and Public Rights Divisions. They are also exposed to the legal community through field trips and have the opportunity to participate in various trainings in different areas of law.

Summer clerks are typically required to work for a period of ten weeks for 40 hours per week. Clerks working during the fall or spring semesters must commit to a minimum of two, eight-hour days per week. Student internships are unpaid. However, students may receive school credit and work study funds may be available through individual law schools.

To apply, candidates should submit the following items: (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a writing sample of no more than ten pages, and (4) a law school transcript. Candidates chosen for an interview must also submit at least two references familiar with the candidate's work habits and analytical skills. A mandatory background security check will be performed on all candidates prior to the beginning of the internship.

Acceptance of resumes is rolling. However, we encourage interested candidates to apply as promptly as possible. We often fill our internship class quickly.

Apply and direct questions to:

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