

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Law Student Opportunities

Civil Law Division, Correctional Law Section

Sacramento

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Equal Opportunity Employer



The Office of the Attorney General, Correctional Law Section (CLS) provides exciting and rewarding opportunities for candidates interested in pursuing a career in public service and civil litigation. CLS has offices in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The Sacramento office is accepting applications from rising 2L and 3L students for its Summer Externship/Internship Program. The program offers 30-40 hours of supervised legal work per week and runs from June through the first week of August.

CLS Deputy Attorneys General represent state agencies and employees, including the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), in prisoner and parolee civil suits. Cases range in scope from state tort claims to complex constitutional issues in federal courts and class actions. The majority of the section's cases involve defending federal civil rights lawsuits brought by inmates in state prison, including claims of excessive force, violations of religious rights, and challenges to the conditions of prison confinement.

Students selected for the summer program will assist deputies on various legal research and writing projects, such as motions to dismiss, summary judgment motions, or Ninth Circuit appellate briefs. Students may also have the opportunity to accompany and assist deputies at depositions and trial, and tour a California prison.

Applicants must have excellent writing, research, and analytical skills. Applicants should have completed law school classes in civil procedure and research and writing. Coursework in constitutional law, evidence, and appellate and trial advocacy is helpful, but not required.¹

How to Apply:

Students interested in applying to the Externship/Internship Program should email a cover letter to Sacramento CLS at SACCLSinternship@doj.ca.gov, and include a resume, law school transcript, and writing sample.

This is an un-paid program. However, academic credit or work study funds may be available from your school. CLS Sacramento will also consider applicants for fall and spring terms on a rolling basis. Students participating in a summer program may have the opportunity to continue working part-time during the academic year.

Graduating students are encouraged to visit <https://www.oag.ca.gov/careers/> to explore the Attorney General's Honor Program and Graduate Legal Assistant positions.

¹ Completion or enrollment in evidence and civil procedure is required to work as a certified law student under California Rule of Court 9.42 and Eastern District Local Rule 181. Certification allows students to engage in a broader range of activities, including taking depositions and appearing in court proceedings.