

Law Student Opportunities

Public Rights Division

Competition Unit, Healthcare Rights & Access Section

Offices: Los Angeles, San Francisco & San Diego



The Competition Unit of the Health Rights & Access Section of the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, have volunteer opportunities for law students, during both the school year and the summer. The Competition Unit investigates and enforces California's antitrust and competition laws as well as federal antitrust laws as they might impact the affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare and pharmaceutical products in the State of California. Typical matters include litigation over collusive pay-for-delay agreements between pharmaceutical companies, review of proposed mergers of hospitals, healthcare providers or drug companies, antitrust cases against hospital systems using anticompetitive contracting terms to inflate pricing, and investigations of unusual market moves or maneuvers. Our competition cases and matters often involve complex litigation and discovery, and can significantly and directly impact California's consumers, businesses and employers, and healthcare providers and insurers.

Typical Competition Unit activities include: (1) litigating antitrust and/or unfair-competition cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts (including handling pleadings, discovery, law-and-motion practice, pre-trial preparation, trials, post-trial work, and appeals); (2) investigating possible antitrust law violations stemming from business practices and business mergers/acquisitions impacting the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries; (3) negotiating and drafting settlement agreements, stipulated court judgments, and consent decrees and enforcing and monitoring compliance with outstanding decrees; (4) working with other law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice (Antitrust Division), the Federal Trade Commission, California district attorneys offices, and other states' attorneys general offices, on matters of local, state, or national significance; and (5) drafting and defending legislation, and working with academics and institutions to examine market developments and possible reforms.

Law students will have opportunities to assist deputy attorneys general in this work by reviewing and assessing evidence; interviewing witnesses; researching and preparing legal memoranda, pleadings, discovery requests, motions, and briefs; economically and empirically analyzing the vigor of competition in different segments of our health-related industries; tracking developments in antitrust law; drafting educational materials; and attending depositions, court hearings, trials, and appeal oral arguments (subject to availability). Applicants for internships with the Competition Unit must be law-school students or law-school graduates, and must have excellent analytical, research, and writing skills. An academic background in economics or industrial organization is preferred, but not essential. Internships are 40 hours per week during the summer, and should be at least 16 hours per week during the school year.

How to Apply: To apply for a position, send a cover letter, résumé, most recent law-school grades transcript, writing sample, and list of three professional references to both of the attorneys below:

Cheryl L. Johnson:
Cheryl.Johnson@doj.ca.gov
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
300 South Spring St, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013

With copy to SDAG Emilio Varanini
Email: Emilio.Varanini@doj.ca.gov