

Law Student Opportunities

Civil Law Division

Government Law Section

San Francisco



The Civil Law Division, Government Law Section (GLS), provides unique opportunities for law students interested in pursuing careers in California state public service, and public service generally.

GLS attorneys provide legal advice and litigation representation to California's elected, constitutional officers (including the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Controller, the Treasurer, and the Secretary of State) and also to many important California state entities and departments, such as the state courts and the Department of Finance. Consequently, GLS offers exciting opportunities for involvement with cutting-edge legal issues in state government, including: constitutional law (First Amendment, Second Amendment, federalism, etc.); election law, including the law related to ballot initiatives; the state budget and public finance; political reform; and open-government law.

GLS attorneys appear in state and federal courts at both the trial and appellate levels, including the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. They also serve as counsel to the Treasurer and to various state agencies with regard to bond issuances. And they prepare titles, summaries, and labels for proposed ballot-initiative petitions and ballot initiatives. GLS often handles the most unusual and hard-to-classify legal matters that arise in state government, such as the dozens of litigation matters that followed the dissolution of redevelopment agencies statewide.

Law students selected as interns may assist GLS attorneys with: all aspects of cases in civil litigation, including drafting pleadings and motions, discovery requests and responses, and appellate briefs, and conducting fact and legal research and analysis; public-finance transactions; preparing legal-advice memoranda; and similar projects. Interns may have opportunities to attend and/or to assist attorneys with depositions and court appearances, including oral arguments.

Current law students interested in GLS are encouraged to apply for internships. Applicants must have excellent legal-research, writing, oral-communication, and analytical skills, and should have demonstrated their interest in public-service careers, especially at the state level. Applicants should have completed law-school classes in civil procedure, constitutional law, and legal research and writing. Courses in public finance, appellate advocacy, and trial advocacy may also be helpful, but are not required. The positions are full-time in the summers and part-time or full-time during the school years, and are unpaid. Passing a background check that includes fingerprinting is required to be an intern.

How to Apply:

A student interested in applying for a GLS internship should submit a cover letter, a resume, a writing sample of about 10 pages, and a law-school transcript (and, optionally, up to three letters of recommendation or a list of up to three professional references) to:

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