The Correctional Law Section (CLS) of the Office of the Attorney General is currently accepting applications from law students for the Attorney General Summer Internship Program. The summer internship program provides exciting and rewarding opportunities for candidates interested in pursuing a career in public service and civil litigation.

CLS Deputy Attorneys General represent employees of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in civil suits filed by prisoners and parolees. The majority of the section’s cases involve defending federal civil rights lawsuits alleging violations of an inmate’s constitutional rights, including claims arising under the First, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments. Cases may also involve allegations arising under California law or federal statutes.

Interns will assist deputies on varied legal research and writing projects, such as motions to dismiss, summary judgment motions, or discovery matters. Interns may have the opportunity to accompany and assist deputies at depositions, mediations, and occasionally at trial. Interns often conclude the internship by drafting a civil motion that is filed in state or federal court. In addition to the opportunity to prepare substantive legal motions, interns will gain significant experience with constitutional law and federal civil procedure.

Applicants for internships in CLS must have excellent writing, research, and analytical skills. Pre-trial or appellate advocacy and evidence are beneficial, but are not required. A successful applicant will have a demonstrable interest in government law, constitutional litigation, or the state correctional system.

At this time, the summer program is expected to be conducted remotely. Regardless, interns will have the opportunity to meet with federal and state judges, and to attend trainings on a variety of legal topics. If in-person attendance becomes possible, interns may have an opportunity to tour a state prison and to attend oral arguments of California and federal courts.

We are accepting applications from rising 2L and 3L students on a rolling basis. All applications must be received by April 1, 2022, but the available intern positions may be filled prior to the noted application expiration date. The internship start date may be negotiable, but the internship is expected to last between eight and ten weeks.

How to Apply:
Students interested in applying for a summer internship with CLS should submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample (a law school transcript is desirable, though not required) via email to:

Colin A. Shaff, Deputy Attorney General (Colin.Shaff@doj.ca.gov)
Office of the Attorney General
300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013

This is an un-paid internship. However, previous interns have obtained academic credit or work study funds.