OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Law Student Opportunities

Civil Law Division
Correctional Law Section
San Francisco

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Equal Opportunity Employer



The Office of the Attorney General is currently recruiting law students for its Internship Program. The Correctional Law Section (CLS) 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. Cases range in scope from state tort claims to complex constitutional issues in federal courts. The majority of the section's cases involve defending federal civil rights lawsuits brought by state prison inmates alleging excessive force, violations of religious rights, and challenging conditions of prison confinement.

Students selected as interns will assist deputies on varied legal research and writing projects, such as motions to dismiss, summary judgment motions, or Ninth Circuit appellate briefs. Interns may have the opportunity to accompany and assist deputies at depositions and trial. Some past interns have obtained permanent positions with the Attorney General's Office.

Applicants for the CLS Internship Program must have excellent writing, research, and analytical skills. Applicants should have completed law school classes in constitutional law, civil procedure, and research and writing. Appellate and trial advocacy may also be helpful, but are not required.

The Correctional Law Section has offices in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Interns in the San Francisco office will tour San Quentin State Prison and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We are accepting applications from rising 2L and 3L students.

How to Apply:

Students interested in applying to CLS's San Francisco Summer Internship Program should submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample (a law school transcript is desirable, though not required) to:

Tessa Lessner, Deputy Attorney General (Tessa.Lessner@doj.ca.gov)
Daniel Duan, Deputy Attorney General (Daniel.Duan@doj.ca.gov)
Office of the Attorney General
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
San Francisco, CA 94102

Materials should be submitted by March 15, 2023. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. This is an un-paid internship. However, previous interns have obtained academic credit or work study funds for the position.