TMSL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM
INFORMATIONAL

MARCH 23, 2016
Prof. Stephanie Smith Ledesma, MA, JD, CWLS
EXTERNSHIP-MANDATORY?

• NOT FOR THE 2016-2017 graduating class.

• YES, if you are a 2L YOU WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO HAVE 6 HOURS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.
Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma

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What is an Externship?

- Externships are *experiential* learning opportunities.
- Students gain *practical work* experience in exchange for course credit.
What is the value of an externship?

- *Practical* work experience.
- Puts you an *even playing field* when competing for post-law school jobs.
- Makes you *relevant* to employers.
- Shows you are an *asset* to future employer because you will have demonstrated skills in this profession.
Do you have to pay for the externship class?

- Yes
- Because you earn course credit, you have to register for the course and pay for the externship course just like any other course.
Can I get paid in my externship?

- No
- Students Earn academic credit instead of financial compensation.
  - You cannot GET PAID, and earn credit.
- ABA rule.
Can I work for my family?

- No

- Students may not earn externship credit by working with a family member or relative.
Can I work for a private law firm?

- See Professor Ledesma
How much credit do I get?

- Students Earn academic credit.
  - Fall or Spring (6 Hours)
    - 4 hours of course credit-placement
      - 240 hours for the semester
      - 17 hours per week **PLUS**
    - 2 hours of course credit- classroom
      - Class meets one every 2-3 weeks
HOW MUCH CREDIT DO I GET IN THE SUMMER?

- Students Earn academic credit.
  - Summer
    - 3 hours of course credit-placement
      - 180 hours for the summer
      - 40 hours per week is the expectation
      - 4.5 weeks approximately
CAN I HAVE MULTIPLE EXTERNSHIPS?

• No

• Students Earn academic credit .
  • If you work more than 240 hours during the Fall or Spring or more than 180 hours for the Summer, you **DO NOT EARN MORE CREDIT.**
CAN I HAVE MULTIPLE EXTERNSHIPS?

• Multiple Externships
  • You can work in multiple placements, but you can only earn externship credit ONCE.
  • There is no EXTERNSHIP I AND EXTERNSHIP II
WHERE ARE THE EXTERNSHIP PLACEMENT OPTIONS?

- Placements:
  - County Judges
  - State Judges
  - Federal Judges
  - Non-Profits
  - Governmental Offices
  - Private Firms with Pro Bono opp.
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

• 3L’s or Rising 3L’s
• Taken or Taking Professional Responsibility
HOW TO APPLY: REQUIREMENTS

• Two Steps
How to Apply: Requirements

**STEP 1**

**COMPLETE EXTERNSHIP APPLICATION**
- Completed Application
- Current Résumé
- Current Writing Sample
- Statement of Intent
- Current Transcript
- Passport Photo
- Copy of Driver’s License
HOW TO APPLY: REQUIREMENTS

• **STEP 2**
  ◆ INTERVIEW:
    ▪ Sign up sheets available.
• I already have a job, and I like it… can I get externship credit for it?
  • No.
  • You HAVE TO REGISTER FOR THE COURSE, just like any other course.
    You cannot register retroactively.
FAQ

• When is the deadline to apply?
  • First come, first served.
  • The most highly coveted opportunities fill up fast, example Judicial Externships for the summer.
FAQ

• If I have questions about after this meeting who can I contact
  • Prof. Stephanie Smith Ledesma
    • Room 236 F
    • stephanie@ledesma-law.com
    • 512-228-2307