

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Externship Program at Thurgood Marshall School of Law is to educate, train, encourage and support a diverse group of academically prepared, professionally trained, and ethically committed legal professionals who strive for excellence with every opportunity.

The successful practice of law requires a mastery of doctrinal studies wedded with the artistic ability to ethically, professionally, consciously, and knowingly apply skills of the lawyering trade.

Through the externship program, such ideas wed with such practices to give students the ability to become exceptional practicing attorneys.



**THURGOOD MARSHALL
SCHOOL OF LAW
3100 CLEBURNE STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004**

STEPHANIE SMITH LEDESMA, MA, JD, CWLS

DIRECTOR OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

SSLEDESMA@TMSLAW.TSU.EDU

1-713-313-1105

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Externship Programs

"EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE."



Externship Programs

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Thurgood Marshall Law School will graduate students that are both “practice ready” and “client ready”.

The Externship Program offers 3L students opportunities to:

- Gain firsthand knowledge of specific areas of substantive and procedural law;
- Observe professional responsibility and ethics in practice in “live” situations;
- Enhance legal writing skills; and
- Develop critical networks within the legal profession with learned judges, experienced practitioners, and other legal professionals.

Students in the Externship Program will have ability to engage in professional networking opportunities that will afford them the ability to form networks and relationships to ease the transition from student to newly licensed attorney.

Externships

The Externship Program consists of four areas of concentration:

- Civil Externship
- Criminal Externship
- Judicial Externship
- Legislative Externship

The Externship Program is restricted to third-year students who meet certain minimum eligibility requirements and who complete all necessary interviews. All externship assignments have a field placement practicum and a class room component. The duration of each externship is one semester.

Civil Externships require 240 field hours and one- 50 minute, weekly class for a total of 6 credit hours.

Criminal Externships require 240 field hours and two- 50 minute, weekly classes for a total of 6 credit hours.

The Judicial Externships require 240 field hours and two- 50 minute, weekly classes for a total of 6 credit hours.

The Legislative Externship requires 1200 hours of work for the semester for an award of 12 credit hours. These 1200 semester hours are worked in 40 hour/ week increments.

The Externship Program affords a diverse population of students the opportunity to wed doctrinal legal training with “live” experiences resulting from the student’s participation in:

- Legal analysis and critical thinking skills as applied to “real” legal cases.
- Legal writing for Senior Attorneys and Judges.
- Live litigation, Transactional work, and the legislative processes.
- Direct client interviewing and interactions and observation of professional ethics.

Current externship placements include but are not limited to:

- **The Texas Supreme Court;**
- **United States District Court— Southern District of Texas;**
- **United States Southern District of Texas Bankruptcy Courts;**
- **First Court of Appeals;**
- **Fourteenth Court of Appeals;**
- **Harris County District Attorney’s Office;**
- **Harris County Public Defender’s Office;**
- **Harris County Attorney’s Office;**
- **Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office;**
- **Harris County Controller’s Office;**
- **Office of the Attorney General;**
- **Sitting members of the Texas State Legislature; and**
- **The Innocence Project of New York.**