



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW

**EXTERN, SUPERVISOR & SCHOOL
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Student: _____ Semester: _____ Externship Site: _____

Field Supervisor: _____ Director of Experiential Learning: Brandon Draper

Type of Externship: Civil / Criminal / Judicial / Corporate (circle one)

Student Expectations:

I understand that by participating in the Externship Program:

1. I am making a commitment to complete my required hours at my placement and am responsible for working with my supervising attorney to create a schedule that will meet that requirement and abiding by that schedule.
2. I am verifying that I am not taking the Bar Exam *or* enrolling in a Legal Clinic during the same semester as my externship.
3. I am verifying that I have not previously completed the same type of externship as a TMSL student that I am now seeking to complete.
4. I am committed to attending classes, meeting with my faculty supervisor, and completing and submitting my reflective journals and time as described in the course syllabus.
5. I will work with my supervisor to develop my personal goals into a learning plan. I will take responsibility for my experience and communicate regularly with my supervising attorney regarding my experiences/assignments and my progress toward meeting my goals.
6. I am making a commitment to an organization/attorney that will be assigning me tasks related to active law practice and/or law-related operations of the organization. Therefore, I commit to being pro-active and engaged in my learning. I will seek clarification and advice in a timely manner. The quality of all assignments submitted to my field supervisor(s) will meet their outlined expectations and what I would expect of myself.
7. I will respect all those I work and encounter by displaying the utmost in professionalism and integrity. I will be on time, communicate professionally, and be prepared for all meetings, hearings, or appointments.
8. I am verifying that I am not related to my Field Supervisor by consanguinity or affinity (IE, family, marriage, or other similarly close relationship).
9. If any concerns or issues arise regarding my assignments, supervisors, requirements, or procedures, I will discuss them with the Director of Experiential Learning.



Field Supervisor:

As the student's primary supervisor, I understand that the Externship Program is an academic program and that I must ensure basic academic standards are met, including the program goals. To this end, I agree:

1. I have the authority or have been delegated authority to supervise the student and to designate a portion of my work time to supervise the student. If the student performs assignments for additional supervisors, I will ensure they are providing appropriate feedback and guidance in accordance with this agreement.
2. To ensure that the externship is of substantial educational value, assigning legal and/or law-related tasks that are representative of my typical work and that are as challenging as the student can reasonably handle. The externship will provide instruction in professional skills and substantive law and will permit the student to observe the daily work of field supervisors.
3. To supervise the student in full compliance with the applicable jurisdiction's rules of professional conduct, especially with its equivalent to [ABA Model Rule 5.3, Responsibilities Regarding Nonlawyer Assistants](#), and to orient the student as to the confidentiality rules and other requirements, policies, and procedures of the office.
4. To manage the student's work and meet regularly with the student to discuss assignments and provide feedback. This will include:
 - a. Discussing the student's goals and develop a learning plan;
 - b. Reviewing and verifying the student's hours.
 - c. Reviewing written work and oral communication skills and providing constructive advice and critique;
 - d. Discussing the relationship of the assignment to the larger substantive, procedural or practical issues at hand;
 - e. Discussing any significant ethical issues involved; and
 - f. Completing an evaluation (provided by the school) on the student's work and reviewing the evaluation with the student.
5. To remember the academic mission of the program and value the student's time and commitment to other classes. This may include being flexible during finals and not expecting the student to work more hours per week than they are signed up for in credits. To provide the student with the resources necessary to work and learn effectively, including adequate workspace.
6. To not charge any client or collect any fee for the student's time if the student is not receiving compensation for work performed.



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW

- 7. To be available to speak with the school throughout the semester and as needed, and to notify the Director of Experiential Learning if the student is not performing competently at any time during the term.
- 8. I have viewed and completed the Field Supervisor training video.

Student & Field Supervisor:

We understand:

- 1. That the externship is of a fixed duration, is not a guarantee of future employment and is structured around academic experience. The student is committing to work **200** hours in exchange for **four (4)** pass/fail academic credits. Anticipated start date_____; end date_____.
- 2. That the externship experience is for the educational benefit of the student; that the externship, even though it includes actual operation of the organization, is similar to training which would be given in the educational environment; that the student does not displace or substitute for regular employees, but works under close supervision of existing staff; that the organization will derive no immediate advantage from the activities of the student and on occasion operations may actually be impeded; that the student is not necessarily entitled to a job at the conclusion of the externship; and that the student is not entitled to wages for the time spent in the externship.

Student Signature	Date	Phone	E-mail
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Field Supervisor Signature	Date	Phone	E-mail
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If you do not have the authority to designate a portion of your work time to supervision, please provide a supervisor signature below authorizing participation, and designating you as the field supervisor for the student this semester.

By signing below, I authorize the field supervisor above to designate a portion of his/her work time to supervise the student.

Authorizing Field Supervisor Signature	Date	Phone	E-mail
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Texas Southern University – Thurgood Marshall School of Law:



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

The Director of Experiential Learning agrees:

1. To support the student and field supervisor to ensure the learning and working experience is the best it can be. If any aspect of the externship raises concerns or problems for either the student or field supervisor, the Director of Experiential Learning will work with the student and field supervisor to achieve a resolution.
2. To communicate the program's requirements and expectations to the student, field supervisor and host organization and ensure the placement meets those requirements.
3. To oversee the academic component, review and respond to the student's goals and journals, conduct a mid-term review and provide final evaluations, and evaluate the student's performance, in consultation with the field supervisor, on a pass/fail basis;
4. To communicate with the field supervisor and student, either through telephonic or email communications, or through on-site visits or video teleconferences, as needed throughout the semester.

Please feel free contact the **Director of Experiential Learning, Brandon Draper**, at any time whether you have questions, concerns, or just wish to share a comment at brandon.draper@tsu.edu or **713-313-1075**.