

## Judicial Externship FAQ

### What is a Judicial Externship?

A judicial externship is the opportunity to conduct legal research and writing for a judge, observe court hearings and trials, and learn about the judicial process from behind the scenes. Judicial externships are well-regarded by employers in every practice area and provide a rare opportunity to witness our judicial system in action. State and federal courts recruit Chapman students for these prestigious positions.

### Why should you apply?

- Experience
- Training
- Mentorship
- Networking

*"I really enjoyed being part of the inner workings of a courtroom. Even though I externed in an area of law that I was not planning on pursuing, I gained valuable insight on courtroom procedures and how to make a successful argument in court."*

– Bankruptcy Court Extern

### Types of Judicial Externships

- **State Superior Court Judge:** no GPA requirement; interest in civil, criminal or family law, approximately 10 hours a week (3 credits).
- **Federal District or Magistrate Judge:** Preferred - Top 20% Class Rank; interest in civil or criminal law, 20-40 hours a week depending on the judge (5-10 credits).
- **Federal Bankruptcy Court:** Preferred Top 50% Class Rank, interest in federal civil practice generally (no bankruptcy experience/interest required), approximately 20 hours a week (5 credits).

*"I highly recommend every law student extern with a judge during law school. Getting to observe how judges run the court proceedings, and how lawyers interact with the judges, especially when called to the chambers away from the jury, is an invaluable experience."*

– Superior Court Extern

## How and when to apply?

- **Symplicity** – check Symplicity for judicial externship postings
- **Recruiting Program** – Judges may participate in our Recruiting Programs, so be sure to review the listings when bidding opens.

Most judges, especially federal, hire many months in advance. Connect with your career advisor for additional guidance on applying to judicial externships and help with your application materials.

*“My judicial externship was a fascinating and instructive window into our justice system. I was fortunate to observe high-profile trials, experienced litigators in action, in-chambers conferences, and the day-to-day operations of a felony criminal court. The mentorship and guidance I received from my judge was invaluable.” – Superior Court Extern*