Public Defender Project
Juvenile Defender Project

The Public Defender Project offers students an opportunity to spend eleven weeks during the summer after their 2L year interning in State Public Defenders Offices all over Wisconsin. PD interns are in court in small counties on the shore of Lake Superior, in Milwaukee, and in all places in between. Interns are certified to appear in court under Wisconsin’s Student Practice Rule and provide client representation in a circuit court variety of proceedings.

To prepare for this experience, students accepted into the program will enroll in two classes during spring semester. The first, L&CP: The Defense Function, covers interviewing, ethics, motions practice, investigation and sentenced advocacy. The second class is a dedicated section of Trial Advocacy. In addition, students will be required to enroll in a follow-up ethics class during Fall 2016.

Students enrolled in the summer program will receive a stipend. The State Public Defenders Office, the State Bar, and the law school are encouraging students (and new lawyers) to look beyond the Madison and Milwaukee areas to some of the less highly-lawyered places throughout the state. To further that goal, the Defender Project will pay stipends on a graduated basis. Stipends will be as follows:

Madison Trial/ Madison Juvenile: $1500
Milwaukee Trial/ Milwaukee Juvenile/Waukesha: $2200
Baraboo, Elkhorn, Juneau, Kenosha, Racine: $2500
La Crosse, Eau Claire, Appleton, Green Bay, Rhinelander, Spooner, Ashland: $3000

We are also hopeful that all students in the project will receive a small supplement from the Friends of the Remington Center Endowment. Students who wish to graduate in December and are interested in receiving credit rather than a stipend should discuss that option with Prof. LaVigne.

Please note that the juvenile positions are available only for those students who have a demonstrated interest in working with juveniles, in particular, adolescents.
Fall positions are available for students who would like the opportunity to intern with the Public Defenders Office but are unable to participate in the summer. These positions typically are available in Milwaukee Trial only. Students in these positions will work at least 20 hours per week (5 credits) and will receive a small stipend of $500 to cover the cost of transportation.

In addition, a summer internship with a private attorney in New Richmond (near Hudson) who specializes in criminal defense will be available again this year. This intern will work under the supervision of Attorney Aaron Nelson, a highly regarded veteran defense attorney and faculty member of the National Criminal Defense College. This position will pay $15 p/h and presents a unique opportunity to observe and learn criminal defense in the context of private practice.

Application Procedure

Students interested in this program should:

- Complete the Public Defender Project Application,
- Turn in the completed application at the front desk of the Remington Center by **November 16**, and
- Sign up for an interview with Prof. Michele LaVigne at the time you turn in your application at the Remington Center (the interview should be scheduled for at least 24 hours after you turn in your application).

Early application is encouraged.