

PROSECUTION PROJECT

Frank J. Remington Center

The University of Wisconsin Law School's Prosecution Project is a clinical experience open to second-year law students. It consists of four parts:

- (1) a three-credit spring seminar which provides an in-depth understanding of the role and ethical obligations of the prosecutor in the criminal justice system,
- (2) a two-credit spring trial advocacy course to prepare students for their summer externship. This class is at the same time as the spring preparatory seminar and continues until the end of the term,
- (3) a ten-week summer externship in a Wisconsin prosecutor's office, and,
- (4) a two-credit fall seminar to reflect upon the summer experience and review the ethical rules that guide lawyer conduct.

Students accepted into the project go through an intensive training process to allow them to learn and contribute in a trial level placement in a Wisconsin prosecutor's office. The purpose of the project is the development of competency, craftsmanship and creativity in responding to the challenges facing our criminal justice system by providing a unique educational experience.

For more than three decades several Wisconsin counties have participated in the project, co-sponsoring law student summer externships. This partnership between the university and the counties provides a challenging experience for the student and helpful assistance to local prosecutors. As such, it reflects the "Wisconsin Idea" at its best – with the university learning from and serving the community.

Students in the spring seminar explore the ethical, administrative and legal responsibilities of the prosecutor. Specific attention is given to development and implementation of prosecution goals, the charging decision, pretrial practice, the plea negotiation system, sentencing, and the prosecutor's relationship to other actors in the criminal justice system.

The trial advocacy course helps student develop the skills necessary to represent the state in a variety of courtroom settings.

During the summer, students work full-time in a Wisconsin prosecutor's office. Students are certified to appear in court under Chapter 50, the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Student Practice Rules, and contribute in a number of ways, including drafting charging documents, conducting research, representing the state at pretrial conferences, initial appearances, and trying misdemeanor and traffic cases. Students

learn and contribute by and directly participating in the local criminal justice system.

At least once each year the project director visits local offices to meet with the extern and the district attorney's staff. Continuing contact serves to strengthen the project and strategies for achieving its educational and service goals.

In the fall, students are required to enroll in a seminar to reflect on the students' summer experiences and review the ethical responsibilities of a practicing lawyer. This class satisfies the Professional Responsibility requirement for graduation.

Second year students are eligible to apply for the Prosecution Project. Participation begins with the spring seminar in the students' second year, continues through the summer and is completed with the fall semester in the students' third year.

Prerequisites for the project are (1) completion of at least 45 credits and (2) completion of both Introduction to Substantive Criminal Law and Introduction to Criminal Procedure before the summer of 2019. Evidence is recommended.

The application process commences in the fall, with interviews from late October through November. Students may sign up for an interview by stopping by Room 4318 of the Remington Center at the Law School. Enrollment and placements are determined by the end of the semester when the exact number of funded placements is known.

At present, summer externs work full-time for ten weeks, receiving a financial stipend of approximately \$2950 for their work. On occasion, students have been allowed to earn credits rather than pay during the summer. Requests of this nature are considered by the project director on a case-by-case basis. Typically the ten-week internship could convert to up to eight credits, seven clinical credits and one directed research credit, although enrollment for fewer credits is also possible.

For more information, please contact Lanny Glinberg, Director, Prosecution Project, Room 4353, Law School, (608) 262-7908. E-mail: lanny.glinberg@wisc.edu