

The Federal Community Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)

Trial Division Externship Information

The Office of the Federal Community Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is pleased to accept applications for our Trial Division Criminal Defense Externship for law students who are interested in public service and criminal law. Our goal is to develop diversity in the field and to provide first-hand experience in public defense.

The Federal Community Defender provides high-quality criminal representation to indigent defendants at all stages of federal criminal litigation. We serve clients charged with federal crimes, including immigration violations, drug and weapon offenses, violent offenses, and computer and white-collar crimes.

This is a 7 credit externship, and students are expected to devote 21 hours per week for the semester which runs through the end of the Examination Period (excluding Spring Break week). Students will be assigned a Faculty Supervisor whom they will meet with on a bi-weekly basis, along with submitting reflective journals. Successful candidates will be current 2L or 3L students who preferably have completed Criminal Procedure and Evidence coursework. Students are required to abide by The Federal Community Defender confidentiality policy and to act at all times in the best interest of the Federal Community Defender Office clients.

This program will introduce students to the federal criminal justice system and how we represent our clients. A brief overview:

- Students will review discovery, research and draft memoranda and motions, and help develop trial and sentencing strategy.
- Students will attend court, shadow experienced attorneys, work on assigned cases and assist fact and mitigation investigators.
- Upon certification, the Legal Intern represents indigent federal probationers who are participants in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's Supervision to Aid Reentry ("STAR") Program (a.k.a. "Reentry Court").
- In addition, as part of ongoing training and development – and under the supervision of the responsible Assistant Federal Defender – the Legal Intern may assist attorneys with case preparation, investigation, trial strategy, witness preparation and any other assigned tasks.

HOW TO APPLY:

Before **5 PM on May 10, 2021**, students must apply for this externship by emailing a one page Statement of Interest to externships@law.upenn.edu with "Federal Defender – Trial Division Application" in the subject line. The Statement of Interest should address why you want to enroll in this externship.

The Penn Law Externship Program will forward students' application materials to the Federal Defender's Office on your behalf. The Defender's Office will contact students it would like to interview directly, and will select the students to enroll in the externship. Before Advance Course Registration closes, students will receive an email letting them know if they were not selected for enrollment.

Please note that this placement expends a great deal of time and effort scheduling work, securing supervisors, designing programming, creating office space, etc. Thus, students are strongly encouraged to enroll only if they are committed to completing the externship. If you have any questions about this externship, please email externships@law.upenn.edu.