

Legal Internship Program

Now accepting legal intern applications!

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Alaska was officially established in Anchorage in 1992. The Office represents indigent defendants accused of federal offenses ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder. The mission of the Office is to provide quality representation to indigent defendants at every stage of the criminal justice process. Representation includes counsel, investigative, expert, and other services necessary for an adequate defense.

The Office is managed by the Federal Public Defender. Our headquarters in Anchorage is staffed by Assistant Federal Public Defenders (“AFPD”), investigators, paralegals, legal assistants, and various support personnel. The AFPDs, together with the above staff, handle caseloads comprised of federal misdemeanors, felonies, probation and supervised release violations, grand jury representations, direct appeals to the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit, and petitions for writs of certiorari to and arguments before the Supreme Court.

Our Office also has a limited number of placements for non-salaried legal interns. Interns have the unique opportunity to receive hands-on experience in the preparation of the defense of criminal cases in federal court. They may be asked to conduct legal research and/or draft motions, memoranda, and appellate briefs. They also might be asked to assist with factual investigation, trial preparations (including client/witness interviews and help with case-planning strategy) and sentencing matters. Interns are also encouraged to attend court proceedings. Interns who are interested in practicing their oral advocacy skills, [Local Civil Rule 83.2, Student Practice Rule](#), allows eligible law students, acting under the supervision of the Federal Defender and/or an AFPD, to appear before the United States District Court for the District of Alaska on behalf of any client, assuming all requirements of the rule have been met.

Interns are assigned to work directly with one or more AFPDs, who along with the Federal Public Defender, will supervise their work. They will receive informal feedback from their attorneys, and, if requested, a formal evaluation of their performance at the end of the term. Interns also may be invited to attend informal lectures on criminal practice.

All interns are expected to commit to working a specific number of hours per week. Approximately fifteen to twenty (15-20) hours per week is the norm during the school year, and approximately forty (40) hours per week for the summer months. Hours and schedules are flexible and negotiable.

Law Students of any year may apply for an internship, but preference will be given to second- and third-year students. Interns will be selected based on their past work or school experiences, their desire to work in this Office, their demonstrated level of maturity and competence, as well as the level of commitment they are prepared to make to the work of the Office.

Persons interested in applying for a legal intern position should email a current resume, writing sample, official or unofficial law school transcript, and cover letter, in .pdf format, to AFPD Jane Imholte at Jane_Imholte@fd.org.

There is no application deadline for school-year internships. The application deadline for summer 2022 internships is February 25, 2022. Please note that school-year and summer intern positions are filled on a rolling admissions basis, meaning that each application sent will be considered as soon as it is complete.