

Providing superior legal representation to indigent clients; that's the foundation upon which the Office of the Public Defender operates. Keeping that in mind, The 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender Internship Program ("Office") provides a unique opportunity for students to represent real clients. Our Office seeks a limited number of bright and compassionate law students and recent graduates to work as legal interns. As an intern, you will have the opportunity to experience the criminal defense of indigent persons in a "hands on" environment.

The internship program is designed to give students not just an understanding of the criminal justice system, but hands-on experience with representing clients. Interns are assigned to work with a staff attorney, writing motions, meeting clients, reviewing investigation results, and shadow attorneys in court. Students certified to practice law may also be given the opportunity to argue motions on behalf of clients in court. Applicants who are selected become an integral part of high volume trial lawyer teams where they gain practical experience as student lawyers. Interns will be expected to work at least 20 hours per week from May to August. Interns will have one immediate supervisor that will assign tasks and which attorneys they will be assisting/shadowing. Interns will also be provided oversight from the specific attorney they are working with on any particular task.

As part of our internship program, you can expect to encounter various experiences at the office, including:

- Learning and seeing first hand different aspects of trial practice.
- Work with a highly skilled group of attorneys who have been trained to be outstanding supervisors and mentors.
- Learn court procedures and customs, including the value of integrity and judgment.
- Have an opportunity to learn how negotiations/conversations with prosecuting attorneys are conducted.
- Learn from staff attorneys on how to develop a defense to assist your client with underlying and collateral problems.
- Make contacts, and connect with court staff, judges, and local attorneys.

While most interns serve on a voluntary basis, applicants are welcome to apply for funding obtained from other sources, make work-study arrangements, or possibly receive school credit if applicants are able to make arrangements with schools for this purpose. Our office can fill out any needed paperwork presented by interns to us to comply with such arrangements.

Our Office strives to instill an understanding of criminal defense and a compassion for our clients. As an intern, you will have the unique opportunity to engage in one of the most exciting and meaningful practices of law. We look forward to providing a nurturing environment to enhance the already strong written and oral communication skills that we require our interns to possess.