

 This is how a student may see your job posting.



Rural Public Defender Extern/Intern

Your Class Level

2L Full-time/3L Part-time

Description of Experience

While many students choose to continue to live and work in Clark County over summers, other students at the Boyd School of Law may be interested in living and serving in Nevada's beautiful (and underserved) rural communities.

To assist students interested in learning more about criminal defense and living and working in Nevada's rural communities, DIDS is offering two (2) \$6,500 stipends to provide for travel and living expenses for two students to get real-world, hands-on experience practicing law in some of these unique and vibrant communities without having to worry about paying the full cost of the temporary relocation. Students will have the opportunity to work in one of three (3) offices in Nevada, specifically, Elko County, Churchill County, or the Nevada State Public Defender's Office in Carson City.

To maximize the experience, we are offering this opportunity to 2L (or 3L PT) students who can be certified pursuant to SCR 49.3 (level 2) so they may appear in court, participate in negotiations, and prepare motions or other filings. Selected students would be working on indigent defense cases under the direct supervision of an experienced, licensed attorney in one of the above counties. In addition to the invaluable experience, students will be eligible to receive credit through the Boyd Externship Program.

For more information about each Office, see the information below:

Elko County Public Defender's Office

OFFICE AND COMMUNITY: The Elko County Public Defender's Office is in Northeastern Rural Nevada near the picturesque Ruby Mountains with many opportunities for year-round outdoor recreation. The Office

Important Dates

Posted On:

Jan 04, 2022

Application Deadline:

Mar 04, 2022

consists of 8 attorneys, a fulltime social worker, and caseworker support staff.

PRACTICE AREAS: The Office provides legal representation to indigent adults in criminal proceedings from first appearance through appeals on charges ranging from misdemeanors to high level felonies. The Office also advocates for adults in child dependency matters as well as in various specialty courts. Finally, the Office represents juveniles in delinquency proceedings from detention hearings through appeals and represents youth in juvenile drug court.

The Extern/Intern will work as a second chair on at least one felony case with the Public Defender. The Extern/Intern will work on several misdemeanor cases as the first chair, supervised by a senior attorney. The Elko County Public Defender's office will try to ensure that at least one case is litigated through trial for the Extern/Intern.

TRAINING: In-house training program for new attorneys occurring weekly. Includes mentorship with trial skills, legal knowledge, and case review. Regular Statewide training programs from the State.

REQUIREMENTS:

Paid internship: Must qualify for Limited practice for law students under NSCR 49.3. Must be willing to physically move to Elko, Nevada if the intern elects to do a paid internship funded through the Nevada State bar in the amount of \$6,500 for an 8–10-week internship.

Externship/unpaid internship: Must be in good standing with UNLV Boyd School of Law. Remote work possible.

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State Public Defender's Office

The State Public Defenders Office is located in the State Capitol, Carson City Nevada. Nestled against the Sierra Nevada range, we are close to Reno and Lake Tahoe. While technically classified as a rural County, this is the seat of the State government.

The State Public Defender represents indigent clients in Storey County and Carson City. Our services include representing inmates in the Nevada Department of Corrections, including certain parole board hearings and parole violation hearings. We represent juveniles when they are involved in the juvenile system.

The office handles a case load from simple trespass and petit larceny (and other misdemeanor charges) to the entire range of felony cases, including charges of first-degree murder.

The selected candidate will shadow the Chief Deputy Public Defender, the Chief Trial Deputy and one or more of the Trial Deputies. The selected candidate, under close supervision, will be exposed to the criminal process, evidentiary code and discovery processes used in criminal proceedings. The selected candidate will have the opportunity to appear in Court, with the assigned supervising attorney and will be given the opportunity to move a case through the process, this includes client contact, reviewing discovery, negotiations with the

prosecuting attorney. If the selected candidate's case can be resolved during their assignment to this Office, the selected candidate will also argue sentencing. If the matter is not resolved and if time permits, the selected candidate may participate in a bench trial.

If the opportunity arises, the selected candidate may participate in a jury trial, either in the District Court or in the Justice Court. At this time there is anticipated to be a jury trial in July 2022. The selected candidate will be exposed to the needs of clients, including specialty courts and will have the opportunity to explore these opportunities to assist clients who suffer from substance abuse issues and/or mental health issues.

This is a unique opportunity to work with a talented group of attorneys who are dedicated to providing strong advocacy for our indigent clients.

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Churchill County Public Defender's Office

The Churchill County Public Defender's Office is located in the beautiful home of former Senator Carl Dodge in Fallon, Nevada. Only an hour away from Carson City and the Reno-Lake Tahoe area, Fallon offers excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation and wildlife viewing.

The Office provides legal representation to indigent clients in criminal proceedings at all stages of litigation and cases ranging from minor misdemeanors through serious felony offenses. The Office also provides representation to juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system.

This opportunity will give the Extern/Intern experience working in a small law office setting, where each member of the team carries significant responsibilities. The Office consists of the Public Defender, a Deputy Public Defender, and a legal secretary.

The Extern/Intern will work under the direct supervision of the Churchill County Public Defender. Under supervision, the Extern/Intern will be given the opportunity to work on cases from beginning through end stages, including conducting client intake, reviewing case materials and discovery, appearing in court for hearings, and depending on the circumstances, handling a misdemeanor trial or sentencing arguments.

Applicants must be a 2L (or 3L PT) student who meets the requirements for limited practice for law students pursuant to SCR 49.3. Preference will be given to students with an interest in criminal defense practice and in living and working in rural Nevada.

Applicants must submit a resume, writing sample, and cover letter. The cover letter must include a ranking of preference for each of the three offices participating in the program (i.e., first choice, second choice, third choice).

Applications will be reviewed after the March 4, 2022 deadline has passed. Stipend award winners will be notified as soon as the selections have been made.

If you seek academic credit, please contact Externship Director, Dawn Nielsen at Dawn.Nielsen@unlv.edu.

Compensation Type

Stipend

Additional Documents

Cover Letter, Writing Sample

Additional Documents Notes

Address cover letter to Selection Committee