

Pro Bono and Internship/Externship Opportunities in Administrative Law

The Pro Bono Committee of the Section is compiling a list of pro bono opportunities for lawyers and internship/externship opportunities for law students who are members of the Section. The ones identified so far are listed below with contact information where it is available. The list will be updated as we discover other opportunities for such work. We would be delighted to hear from members or others with regard to opportunities we do not list, but that involve subject matters that may be of particular interest to members of the Section. Please e-mail the chair of the Committee, Bill Luneburg, at wvl@pitt.edu, with any information you have that will assist us in keeping this list up-to-date and expanding to encompass additional pro bono and internship/externship opportunities.

A. Servicemen and Veterans

Disabled American Veterans

Currently, three District of Columbia law firms have agreed to work with the DAV to provide lawyers for pro bono representation of military service members before the Military Physical Disability Evaluation Boards. Other firms or attorneys may wish to explore the opportunities for expanding this effort.

For additional information, see http://www.dav.org/news/news_20070606.html

Contact: Ronald Smith at rsmith@daymail.org

or

Landon Overby at LandonO@daymail.org

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

<http://www.vetsprobono.org/newsite/train.htm>

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program provides free attorneys to veterans and their qualifying family members who have an appeal pending at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court). If an appellant has filed an appeal with the Court, he or she can request assistance from The Veterans Consortium.

The Veterans Consortium recruits and trains volunteer attorneys to help appellants, free of charge, with their appeals at the Court. The Veterans Consortium does not provide general legal advice or information about the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or the Court, nor does The Veterans Consortium provide legal advice or representation concerning a claim pending at the Board of Veterans' Appeals or at a VA regional office.

The Veterans Consortium was created by a grant from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) as authorized by the U.S. Congress. It is an ongoing cooperative effort by four national veterans service organizations – The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the National Veterans Legal Services Program and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

For training information, law firms and attorneys should contact:

Outreach and Education Components
National Veterans Legal Services Program
1600 K Street, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006

(202) 265-8305, ext. 106
Fax: (202) 328-0063

E-mail: probonoprogram@nvlsp.org

Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers at George Mason University

CLAS was established in 2004 in response to 9/11 and the desire of the law school community to help active-duty members of the armed forces and their families for whom retaining counsel would be an undue hardship. It remains unique in American legal education. Students have represented clients from all armed services in civil litigation, adjudication and negotiation regarding consumer-protection, family-law, landlord-tenant, contract, military-law and entitlement matters. Students are supervised by law school instructors or private practitioners with subject matter expertise, and receive weekly classroom instruction on legal ethics, client interviewing, and procedural and substantive issues relevant to their practice.

See <http://www.law.gmu.edu/clinics/clas>

We have had about 250 applicants for assistance over the years and have accepted about 50 clients, with a range of cases from agency benefit claims/adjudications to landlord-tenant to consumer/contract matters. In addition to internal supervision of students, we have recruited volunteer supervisors from about 20 law firms (from Latham & Watkins, Steptoe & Johnson and Sonnenschein to sole practitioners in Northern Virginia and in-between). This is an area where pro bono assistance may be needed.

For further information, contact:

Joseph C. Zengerle (jzengerl@gmu.edu)
Executive Director, Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers

(703) 993-8384
(703) 993-9540 (fax)

B. Whistleblowers

Government Accountability Project/Adjunct Attorney Program

Under this program, the GAP provides technical support and education to private attorneys with interest in representing whistleblowers.

<http://www.whistleblower.org/content/aap.cfm>

Programs in Various Stages of Implementation

American Bar Association Veteran's Advocacy Pro Bono Project (to be implemented)

The Commission on Law and Aging has proposed for Enterprise Fund support a Veterans Advocacy Pro Bono Project to help connect veterans with emeritus or other pro bono attorneys who would assist them in filing VA medical, educational, and disability benefit applications or claims and to provide representation during appeals. If funding is approved, the Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Section has agreed to arrange for training of these attorneys, publicize the project and identify pilot programs, review requests for technical assistance grants, and participate in project assessment and evaluation.

American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP) (program being launched)

This program will organize pro bono services for active-duty military personnel.

American Bar Association Pro Bono Initiative to Assist Victims of Identity Theft (program in development stage)

This project is only now getting off the ground, having been approved by the ABA House of Delegates in February 2008. The FTC is currently drafting desk book materials to assist volunteers who wish to help victims of identity theft. Those interested in this project should contact:

Jonathan J Rusch
US Department of Justice
Bond Building Rm 4300
10th St and Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
(202) 514-0631
(202) 514-7021 (fax)
jonathan.rusch2@usdoj.gov

Student Internships

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program invites law students to submit legal intern applications for Summer 2008.

The David Isbell Internship was established to honor the first chairman of the Executive Board of the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. Mr. Isbell served in this position from the Program's inception in 1992 until June 2005. As chairman, he provided the vital and dynamic leadership necessary to bring together a diverse group of organizations (Disabled American Veterans, National Veterans Legal Services Program, Paralyzed Veterans of America and The American Legion) that today work together seamlessly to ensure that veterans receive quality free legal representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

<http://www.vetsprobono.org/newsite/intern.htm>

Congressional Research Service/American Law Division

The American Law Division is one of five research divisions of the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. The Division's 45 attorneys work exclusively for Members of Congress, congressional committees, and their staff. Its mission is to provide Congress objective, nonpartisan legal analysis. Typically, Division attorneys may write general reports on legal issues of current legislative interest, prepare confidential memoranda on points of law related to pending legislation, brief clients on the legal and constitutional implications of legislative proposals, advise committees on oversight powers, testify at congressional hearings, or conduct continuing legal education seminars under our Federal Law Update series.

Externs in the American Law Division work closely with our attorneys in all aspects of their responsibilities. Externs assist in researching and explaining recent legislative developments and judicial opinions. They identify, provide, and explain pertinent legal background materials to clients on issues of interest. They attend client briefings. The Division especially seeks to have externs write on legal issues in pending cases and moving legislation.

The Division's work is largely driven by Congress's legislative and oversight agendas. Also, we expect externs to work on a variety areas and projects. Recent areas in which externs have worked include intellectual property, disability law, health law, privacy, bankruptcy, commercial speech, and tax.

Phone: (202) 707-6006

Fax: (202) 707-8596

E-mail (Contact person): rjeweler@crs.loc.gov

Supervisor: Ms. Robin Jeweler

Head, Courts and International Section

Phone: (202) 707-7893 E-mail: rjeweler@crs.loc.gov

Placements are available during academic year 2008-2009; Summer 2009

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample by e-mail to Robin Jeweler at rjeweler@crs.loc.gov. Offers are made to Fall externs in May, to Spring externs in October, and to Summer externs in November. Strong analytical and writing skills are crucial. We prefer applicants who will have had at least three semesters of law school by the beginning of the externship.