Sites and Prior Extern List

The following Semester in Practice opportunities are sites we have worked with previously.

In addition, we have included a list of new opportunities as we expand our areas of interest. Please make an appointment to speak with Professor Savasta-Kennedy if you are interested in any of the sites on the list of potential opportunities.

Professor Maria Savasta-Kennedy
Externship Program Director
Office 5119
mskenned@email.unc.edu
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Law Program under the CDC Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support.

The CDC Public Health Law Program is a dynamic group of public health lawyers and analysts who work to advance the use of law as a public health tool to address a variety of emerging public health threats, such as immunization, healthcare-associated infections, etc. PHLP provides services and resources such as technical assistance, publications, and workforce development to CDC programs and state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments.

Students with an interest in public health are encouraged to apply to this externship.

This externship opportunity provides:

- Work experience on one or more core projects with mentorship from a CDC PHLP staff attorney
- Exposure to a complex work environment and a team of public health lawyers with diverse expertise
- Involvement in work projects that impact the mission of PHLP and CDC
- Opportunities to co-author published articles and other materials
- Communication and mentorship with a dedicated preceptor throughout the externship experience
- Active participation in weekly PHLP staff meetings
- Opportunities to showcase experiences in an end-of-externship presentation

The Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice handles environmental and natural resources litigation on behalf of the United States. The work of the Division arises under approximately 150 federal civil and criminal statutes, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, CERCLA (Superfund), Safe Drinking Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and Tucker Act.

The Environmental Enforcement Section (EES) of the Environment and Natural Resources Division is the largest litigating section of the Department of Justice. EES has responsibility for representing the United States in federal civil enforcement of all major environmental statutes including, CERCLA, RCRA, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act. While the EPA is the section's primary client agency the office also handles work on behalf of NOAA, the Departments of Interior and Agriculture and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Preference is given to students with excellent academic backgrounds who have completed courses in environmental and administrative law. Relevant employment experience is looked upon favorably.
US Justice Department
Civil Division
Commercial Litigation Branch, National Courts Section
Washington, DC

The National Courts Section’s mission is to protect taxpayer dollars in lawsuits brought against the U.S. Government. Its practice areas include government contracts, constitutional claims, government pay and personnel suits, veterans’ and other benefits appeals, and international trade and tariff matters.

National Courts is one of the largest, oldest, and most active litigating sections in the Department of Justice (DOJ). It is one of five sections of the Civil Division’s Commercial Litigation Branch. This section is named National Courts because it handles matters in three federal courts of nation-wide jurisdiction: the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the United States Court of Federal Claims, and the United States Court of International Trade. The National Courts Section also handles occasional matters in other federal district and circuit courts, as well as in administrative tribunals.

Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
Atlanta
RTP

Current second-year students with an interest in environmental law, public-interest litigation and strong legal research and writing skills are encouraged to apply to the EPA. The Externship Program offers Semester in Practice externships at several EPA locations, including EPA Headquarters in Washington DC; EPA Region 4 in Atlanta; and the EPA Division of Air Quality Policy in RTP. Environmental Law is a prerequisite to EPA externships. Separate applications are required for each EPA location.

Washington, DC, EPA Headquarters:

The EPA Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (OECA) offers qualified and highly motivated law students the opportunity to extern side by side with practicing environmental lawyers and technical professionals in its Washington, D.C. headquarters office.

Externs may be placed with one or more of the designated practice areas in OECA, including:
Clean Air Act/Clean Water Act Enforcement
Toxics & Pesticides Enforcement
Hazardous Waste (RCRA) Enforcement
Hazardous Waste Site Remediation Enforcement (Superfund)
Criminal Enforcement
Federal Activities (NEPA, Environmental Impact Statement Review)
International Enforcement (NAFTA; Import/Export requirements)
Federal Facilities Enforcement
Administrative Litigation & Appellate Review
Environmental Justice
Enforcement Policy & Planning
Compliance Assurance & Outreach
Students extern under the direct supervision of a practicing attorney in one of the practice areas in the Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance, performing a wide variety of legal or technical research, policy analysis or writing assignments.

Atlanta, EPA Region 4:

In the Office of Environmental Accountability (OEA), the Regional Counsel and her staff provide legal advice and counseling for Region 4; represent Region 4 in administrative hearings and administrative appeals; assist regional program offices in civil and criminal enforcement activities; plan, coordinate, and monitor the region's enforcement and compliance assurance program; provide leadership in implementing national enforcement activities and initiatives, and coordinate the region's enforcement and compliance assurance activities involving federal facilities. Externs are given substantive assignments by attorneys and are often asked to accompany attorneys on site visits, negotiations and other excursions.

EPA, RTP Office:

The Division of Air Quality Policy for the entire EPA is located in Research Triangle Park. Students externing with this office have the opportunity to work with the following groups:

1. Operating Permits Group: Title V Petitions:
   Title V operating permits are legally enforceable documents that permitting authorities issue to air pollution sources after the source has begun to operate. This project would provide experience to an extern in three relevant areas:
   - Petitions Standard of Review
   - Existing Petitions Backlog
   - Participate in the Development of One or More Petition Response(s)

2. Geographic Strategies Group: Exceptional Events Rule Revisions

3. State and Local Programs Group: State and Local Programs Support for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):
   - Ozone Implementation
   - Implementation of PM2.5 Standard
   - Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Call Project
The Federal Communications Commission Policy & Licensing Division handles 911 capabilities, national emergency alert services, and public safety communications channels and usage.

A student externing with the FCC will spend the fall semester in Washington D.C. working with the Policy & Licensing Division. Under supervision of senior attorneys, the student will assist in drafting public notices and comment summaries, coordinating licenses and conflicts, assist with public dialogue, assist with written and oral presentations, and work on emergency communications innovations.

Current second-year students with strong legal research and writing skills and an interest in public policy, regulatory, licensing, communications law or public-interest law in general are encouraged to apply.

The Bureaus have scheduled a webinar for Friday, February 2, 2018 between 3 pm and 4 pm (EST). The webinar will be led by senior Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and International Bureau staff. I included the webinar login and call-in information below.

join the meeting
Meeting number: 991 053 237
Meeting password: fcc123

Join by phone
Call Number: 1-888-858-2144
Access Code: 3866234
The mission of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards. FEMA accomplishes its mission through the delivery of multiple disaster and non-disaster related programs. In the disaster context, FEMA is responsible for coordinating the Federal response in support of State, Tribal, Territorial, and Local governments and through providing grant funding and direct assistance to overwhelmed jurisdictions. In the non-disaster context, FEMA leads the nation in developing emergency management doctrine, providing training to public officials and first responders, providing financial grants to improve preparedness and resilience, and managing the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA also oversees the United States Fire Administration.

The Office of the Chief Counsel's mission is to support FEMA's efforts to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards by providing the Agency with high quality legal advice, counsel, risk analysis, and dispute resolution services through a knowledgeable, accessible, responsive, and solution-oriented network of innovative and ethical legal professionals.

Through its legal divisions and offices, the FEMA Chief Counsel is responsible for ensuring legally sound implementation of FEMA statutory responsibilities, advising on the development and issuance of policies and regulations, representing FEMA in litigation, and providing legal guidance and direction to all components of FEMA. This includes providing legal counsel on matters including:

- alternative dispute resolution
- federal insurance and mitigation
- ethics
- legislation, regulations, and policy coordination
- human resources, labor relations, and equal opportunity
- information, intellectual property and privacy matters
- budgetary and fiscal law, acquisition, grants, and property management

The FEMA OCC Externship Program provides unpaid opportunities for law school students to gain first-hand experience working for the Federal Government and for FEMA. Externs work closely with FEMA attorneys throughout their externships, and develop and hone their legal research and writing abilities through a range of substantive legal and policy projects. Externs are typically matched with a particular OCC legal division for the duration of the externship, but have the opportunity to gain exposure to other divisions. In addition to development of legal skills, externships with FEMA OCC provide an opportunity for students to learn about the role and function of Federal attorneys and gain an “insider’s” perspective of FEMA’s mission and programs.

Fall externships are open to students who are in their 2L or 3L year of law school at the time of the externship. Interested applicants should submit the following documents:

- Cover letter explaining interest in the externship program. Cover letters should include a stated preference for which legal division(s) within OCC are of the most interest to the applicant (note that indicating an interest does not guarantee an offer by that division)
- Resume
- Unofficial transcript and class rank (if applicable)
- Short writing sample

All FEMA OCC Externship Program selections are contingent on satisfactory completion of a Public Trust background investigation and may, depending on the type of work assigned, require a non-disclosure agreement.
National Public Radio  
Legal Affairs/General Counsel’s Office  
Washington DC

The OGC offers challenging and diverse work assignments for legal interns as it provides legal assistance to all divisions of NPR. The OGC handles a wide variety of legal issues, including: FCC regulatory and other communications; First Amendment; Internet; various aspects of intellectual property, including music rights, content licensing, copyright, trademark, and patents; nonprofit tax; technology, such as software licensing; employment and labor, including Title VII, labor relations, and other aspects of the employer-employee relationship; and corporate law, as well as contracts in all areas.

Law interns are expected to contribute in all practice areas. Interns not only conduct legal research and prepare legal memoranda, contracts and other legal documents, but they also participate in client meetings, legislative and regulatory meetings, and other “outside-the-library” projects such as observing legal proceedings and attending legal training offered through the District of Columbia Bar Association or other local organizations.

South Carolina Environmental Law Project  
Pawley’s Island, SC

The South Carolina Environmental Law Project (SCELP) works to protect the environment by providing legal services to individuals, communities, governments and other nonprofit organizations. Externs at SCELP will work on various legal research assignments, including topics of administrative law, environmental law, and constitutional law. Students may also draft and edit comment letters, pleadings, and briefs. Students will also be invited to attend and assist in the preparation of any court appearances that arise during the externship, including hearings and/or trials. We have had cases in the state and federal court systems, and currently we have the most active cases in the SC Administrative Law Court. SCELP is the only nonprofit environmental law firm that works exclusively in South Carolina, thus our practice is busy and varied. Externs can expect to do substantive and cutting-edge research that will help to shape environmental law in this state.

We are looking for students who are interested in the work that we do, so please learn more about us at scelp.org.
The Southern Coalition for Social Justice is a multi-professional collaboration for community and regional empowerment. We use the combined skills of lawyers, social scientists, community organizers and media experts to serve low-income and minority communities’ visions for themselves and their community, incorporating an international human rights perspective and linking their efforts to broader processes of political, legal, social and economic change in the South. We have ongoing cases and matters in the areas of voting rights, community development, asset building and prevention of land loss in low-income and minority communities, environmental justice, immigration policy, media justice, and criminal justice system reform. We seek to integrate a human rights approach to all of our work.

Student projects involve factual investigation, legal research, policy analysis and writing in connection with an ongoing case or matter. Frequently there are opportunities for client interaction; and preparation for and attendance at court hearings. Much of our work is in collaboration with community groups and other advocacy organizations, and projects usually involve some form of interaction with those groups and organizations. Externs are typically assigned to work with a single attorney or practice area.

Related coursework in civil rights, community development, criminal law, human rights or federal civil procedure is a plus. Any student with an interest in our work will be considered.
The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Chief Privacy Officer – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (OCPO), develops and coordinates the nation’s Health Information Technology security and privacy policy. The department is seeking an extern who wants to work in a fast-paced, innovative office and to learn more about how technology intersects with the policy aspects of health, IT, privacy, and security.

The extern will be mentored by OCPO senior staff and will assist in the analysis of policies related to privacy and security of health records and health information exchange, with a focus on legislative and regulatory texts. The extern may also participate in privacy and security-related projects.

Current second-year students with an interest in health, public policy, or privacy law, and strong legal research and writing skills are encouraged to apply. Health Law is a prerequisite to this externship.

Student externs with the OCPO will participate in several of the following opportunities:

- assist in preparing, reviewing, and commenting on requests for information, notices of proposed rulemaking, and final rules to ensure their alignment with the goals and projects of the Office of the National Coordinator.

- assist the Chief Privacy Officer in examining the applicability of existing state and federal privacy laws and regulations to different health information technology policy proposals.

- conduct research and assist in the preparation work for hearings of the Privacy and Security workgroups of the Health Information Technology Policy Committee (HITPC), a Federal Advisory Committee.

- assist in the management of contractor projects by participating in meetings and assisting in scoping the work to further ONC goals, reading and commenting on deliverable materials, providing input into the day to day work of the contractor and offering suggestions for further inquiry and research.

- attend learning session meetings within ONC, conducted by persons invited by the department from different stakeholder groups. He/she will be expected to take notes at these meetings and report back the Chief Privacy Officer. The Extern will also attend meetings held by other divisions within HHS concerning privacy and security of health information to take notes and report back to the Chief Privacy Officer.
The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) was established in 1863 as a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The OCC charters, regulates, and supervises all national banks and enforces the banking laws and regulations of the United States. It also supervises the federal branches and agencies of foreign banks. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the OCC has four district offices plus an office in London to supervise the international activities of national banks.

A student externing with the OCC will spend the Fall semester in Washington D.C. working primarily with the Enforcement and Compliance Division. Under supervision of senior attorneys, the student will assist in conducting investigations, presenting recommendations for enforcement actions to OCC's Supervisory Review Committees; participate in taking sworn statements and attend investigative depositions; draft legal memoranda and pleadings; assist in investigative discovery, pre-trial discovery and trial preparation; and participate in interagency working groups.

In addition, the student extern may have the opportunity to work in the Consumer Law Division, which is responsible for drafting regulations, interpreting legislation, preparing congressional testimony and industry speeches, providing legal advice on consumer law issues to the agency and representing the agency in numerous inter-governmental working groups and other forum.

Current second-year students with an interest in banking law, public-interest litigation and strong legal research and writing skills are encouraged to apply.
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington DC  
New York City  
Atlanta

Current second-year students with an interest in banking law, public-interest litigation and with strong legal research and writing skills are encouraged to apply to the SEC. UNC Law offers Semester in Practice externships at several SEC locations, including SEC Headquarters in Washington DC; the SEC Regional Office in Atlanta; and the SEC Regional Office in New York City. Separate applications are required for each SEC location.

Students externing with staff in the DC Office work on a broad range of regulatory and enforcement projects. Past projects have included investigating industry and user practices, litigating civil enforcement actions, and drafting proposed statutes and rules. Students externing in the NYC and Atlanta regional enforcement offices will focus on litigation and investigation. Students also participate in a seminar program given by senior staff and prominent members of the state bar.

Preference is given to students with excellent academic backgrounds who have completed courses in corporate and securities law. Relevant employment experience is looked upon favorably. Students are not SEC employees, but must abide by the Commission’s Conduct Regulations pertaining to, among other things, securities transactions, conflicts of interest and confidential information obtained in their work at the SEC.

Southern Environmental Law Center  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Asheville, NC  
Atlanta, GA

The Southern Environmental Law Center has been the Southeast's leading environmental public interest law firm for over 25 years. SELC defends the region's most sensitive natural resources, including its clean air, water, forests and coasts.

A student externing with SELC will spend the semester working full time with the attorneys in SELC's Chapel Hill or Asheville office. Under supervision of senior attorneys, the student will assist in conducting investigations, presenting recommendations for enforcement actions; participate in taking statements; draft legal memoranda and pleadings; assist in investigative work; and participate in interagency working groups.

Current second-year students with an interest in environmental law, public-interest litigation and strong legal research and writing skills are encouraged to apply. Environmental Law is a prerequisite to this externship.

Each office requires a separate application.
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Please see Prof. Savasta-Kennedy for more information on these sites

Racial Justice Program
American Civil Liberties Union
New York City, NY

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Enforcement Division
Washington, DC

Earthjustice
Northeast Regional Office
New York City, NY

Legal Mobilization Project
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Washington, DC

US Justice Department
Civil Rights Division, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section
Washington, DC

U.S. Department of Justice
Criminal Division
Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section

U.S. Office of Special Counsel
Washington, DC

United States Department of Justice
Office of Tribal Justice
Washington, DC

**To apply for any of these unique opportunities, please email a resume, cover letter and transcript to Melissa Saltzman in the Externship Office at msaltzma@email.unc.edu. Some sites may also require an online application. Applications are due February 5th. For more information on this program or its requirements, please contact Professor Maria Savasta-Kennedy at mskenned@email.unc.edu.**