

The Law Student Intern/Extern Program of the  
District Attorney of Allegheny County Stephen A. Zappala Jr.

Summer Internships:

- There are paid, unpaid positions as well as an option to intern for school credit with approval of your Law School
  - Students are generally expected to work 20 hours per week minimum
  - Summer session runs usually June pt through Mid-August
- Duties of interns include, but are not limited to legal research and writing of briefs, memoranda of law as well as pre-trial and post-trial motions. Interns are also asked to perform some clerical duties and to assist the Attorneys in every aspect of trial preparation
- Interns are also afforded the opportunity to accompany our Assistant District Attorneys to conduct witness interviews, plea negotiations, jury selection, pre-trial motions and the trial itself (Jury or Non-Jury).
- Student interns are encouraged to be present as much as possible, on a daily basis to attend as many trials as the intern's work schedule allows.
- Students who have completed their Evidence class are permitted and encouraged to become certified under Rule 321 of the Bar Admission Rules to be an acting Attorney. With this certification, students are permitted, under the supervision of an Assistant District Attorney, to be the Attorney in Court on Guilty Pleas, Suppression Motions and Non-Jury Trials. Throughout the years, many student interns have taken advantage of such opportunities, thereby gaining trial experience before they finish law school!
  - There are approximately 110 Attorneys in the Allegheny County Office of the District Attorney, divided into various subdivisions and areas of expertise. Interns are placed in a specific unit based on their specific skills, specific interests and needs of the Office. Units within the Office include General Trial, Homicide, Crimes Against Persons (Sexual Offenses), Appeals, Elder Abuse, Investigations (includes Wiretap and

Grand Jury), Domestic Violence and Violent Crimes/Firearms (Which deals with prosecution of gang members)

- Inquiry may be made via U.S. mail, or e-mail. Contact Persons to apply for internships in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office are:
  1. Bill Petulla, Deputy District Attorney  
[bpetulla@alleghenycountyda.us](mailto:bpetulla@alleghenycountyda.us)
  2. Kevin McCarthy, Assistant District Attorney  
[kmccarthy@alleghenycountyda.us](mailto:kmccarthy@alleghenycountyda.us)

Resumes for summer internships are accepted each year starting January 1st and ending February 28th, with rolling interviews and offers throughout

*Fall Semester and Spring Semester Internships:*

Often summer interns request to stay on into the fall and/or Spring semesters. Students may also arrange to intern during the school year for school credit through their Law School

- Students interested in applying to intern in the Fall or Spring Semester should apply to the same two contact people listed above for summer intern application. There is no requirement that a student begin with the Office as a summer intern, we accept applications throughout the year

*Externships through Criminal Trial Practicum:*

- Both the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Duquesne University School of Law offer Criminal Trial Practicums to third year students who have completed a course in Evidence. The classes are yearlong (two semesters) that meet once a week for lectures and class exercises. Both classes have limited enrollment and require the students to attend lectures and then participate as attorneys in exercises throughout the year, to include direct examination and cross

examination of fact witnesses and eye witnesses, pre-trial motions, opening and closing statements and direct examination of Expert witnesses.

- Students are required to extern in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office approximately 10 hours per week as part of these classes. Students in the University of Pittsburgh School of Law program are strongly encouraged to become certified under Rule 321 of the Bar Admission Rules which will afford students the opportunity to be the prosecuting Attorney in Court for Guilty Pleas, Suppression Motions and Non-Jury Trials. Students in the Duquesne University School of Law program are required to become certified pursuant to Rule 321.
- The Criminal Trial Practicum at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law is taught in the Courtroom of Allegheny County Court of Pleas Judge Edward J. Borkowski and is taught by Judge Borkowski, Deputy District Attorney Steven Stadtmiller and Assistant District Attorney Stephi-Anna Ramaley. The contact person to enroll in this class is Deputy District Attorney Steven Stadtmiller, and students may enroll via U.S. mail or e-mail at: [ssadtmiller@da.allegheny.pa.us](mailto:ssadtmiller@da.allegheny.pa.us)
- The Criminal Trial Practicum at the Duquesne University School of Law is taught at both the Law School and Courtrooms in the Allegheny County Courthouse. This class is taught by Deputy District Attorney Jennifer DiGiovanni and Deputy District Attorney David Spurgeon. To apply to the class, contact both Deputy District Attorney Jennifer DiGiovanni at [jdigiovanni@da.allegheny.pa.us](mailto:jdigiovanni@da.allegheny.pa.us) and Deputy District Attorney David Spurgeon at [dspurgeon@da.allegheny.pa.us](mailto:dspurgeon@da.allegheny.pa.us).