

Law Student Opportunities

Criminal Law Division

Correctional Writs and Appeals Section

Los Angeles



The Correctional Writs and Appeals section (CWA) of the Criminal Division of the Attorney General's Office represents the Governor, Board of Parole Hearings, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in all levels of state and federal court. CWA practice is based in constitutional law and mainly consists of responding to petitions for writs of habeas corpus filed by life term prisoners who challenge a decision denying them parole. This is a highly evolving field of law, as evidenced by five recent California Supreme Court decisions: *In re Dannenberg* (2005) 34 Cal. 4th 1061, *In re Lawrence* (2008) 44 Cal. 4th 1181, *In re Shaputis* (2008) 44 Cal. 4th 1241, *In re Prather* (2010) 50 Cal. 4th 238, and *In re Shaputis II* (2011) 53 Cal.4th 192. CWA deputies also respond to petitions where a parolee challenges their parole conditions, or where a prisoner contests a finding that they violated prison disciplinary regulations.

The Student Intern Program allows law students to develop their written and oral advocacy skills by conducting legal research, writing briefs for submission to courts, and assisting attorneys in preparations for oral arguments and evidentiary hearings. Students who are certified through the State Bar Practical Training for Law Students Program may also conduct oral arguments in the state Court of Appeal. Students also have the opportunity to attend oral argument, visit state prisons, observe state and federal court proceedings, and participate in Department of Justice in-house training.

Students are expected to work during the Summer for at least 32 hours per week. The positions are unpaid, although students may receive school credit. Generally, successful applicants demonstrate accomplishments in legal writing and oral advocacy, and most often are second year law students who have completed courses in Constitutional Law, Evidence, and Criminal Law by the beginning of the Summer program.

The Los Angeles CWA office has one opening for the Summer 2012 Program and will accept applications on a rolling basis until March 1, 2012. To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and an unofficial transcript (email, if possible) to:

How to Apply:

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and an unofficial transcript (email, if possible) to:

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