

Law Student Opportunities

Civil Law Division

Tort and Condemnation Section

Los Angeles



The Tort and Condemnation Section (Tort Section) of the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Los Angeles, has volunteer internship opportunities available during Spring, Summer and Fall terms for qualified students with excellent research and writing skills. Students interested in civil litigation from the perspective of a public entity will be attracted by the dynamic environment of the Tort Section. Students from Loyola Law School, Pepperdine University School of Law, Southwestern, UCLA, USC, UCI, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, University of Oregon, Washington University School of Law, Boston College Law School, and many other law schools have participated in the Internship Program.

The Tort Section provides legal representation in state and federal trial and appellate courts on behalf of the State of California, various state agencies, state officials and state employees in lawsuits involving alleged personal injury, property damage, civil rights violations, libel, slander, wrongful death, medical malpractice, and other torts. Among the larger state agencies represented by the Tort Section are the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Risk and Insurance Management, California Highway Patrol, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Mental Health and the California State University system. Most lawsuits defended by the Tort Section are brought under the California Government Claims Act as well as federal civil rights statutes. The Tort Section also represents client agencies as Plaintiffs and Defendants in direct condemnation actions, and defends inverse condemnation actions.

Interns will work with Deputy Attorneys General (DAGs) assisting with cases, as well as accompanying DAG's to court appearances, mediations and depositions, when appropriate. Interns are expected to exercise their analytical and research skills to prepare oral reports, written memoranda, pleadings and motions on a broad range of legal issues. Interns will work under time constraints, and will need to abide by ethical and professional standards while handling sensitive and confidential materials. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are required, as well as computer skills, including proficiency with the use of Westlaw or Lexis.

The Internship Program requires at least 16 hours per week during the school year and 32 hours in Summer. Hours are flexible and can be adjusted as appropriate. Candidates for Summer internships should apply no later than February 15th. Candidates for Fall term internships should apply no later than July 15th and candidates for Spring term internships, no later than October 15th. A security clearance, including fingerprinting, will be required prior to acceptance of any candidate.

How to Apply:

All applicants should contact their Law School's Externship Program Director for pre-approval to submit.

If no such office exists, please submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, (no more than 10 pages) and unofficial transcript to:

Elizabeth O'Donnell, Deputy Attorney General
Elizabeth.ODonnell@doj.ca.gov; 213-897-2563

Office of the Attorney General
300 So. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013