

Law Student Opportunities

Public Rights Division

Consumer Law Section

San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco



The Consumer Law Section of the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, has volunteer externship opportunities available for students in either of the following locations: San Diego, Los Angeles or San Francisco.

The Consumer Law Section enforces state laws that prohibit unfair or unlawful business practices and false advertising by seeking injunctions, civil penalties, restitution to victims, and other equitable relief. Consumer cases often involve complex litigation and affect potentially millions of people. Typical cases include: litigating at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts; conducting in-depth investigations and other research; negotiating and drafting settlement and restitution plans; working with other law enforcement agencies, including district attorneys throughout California, attorneys general in other states, and federal consumer protection agencies; and drafting consumer education materials. Due to the current economic downturn and housing crisis, the Consumer Law Section has recently focused its efforts on the areas of predatory lending, home foreclosure consultant fraud, and debt collection abuses, among other areas.

Student externs will have the opportunity to assist deputies by interviewing witnesses; reviewing and assessing evidence; preparing written memoranda, pleadings, and motions on a broad range of legal issues; drafting civil discovery requests and responses; and drafting educational materials. They may attend depositions, court hearings, and trials.

Applicants for the Consumer Law Section externships must have excellent writing, research and analytical skills. Extern hours are flexible and may be adjusted as appropriate. The Consumer Law Section will accept applications from second and third year law students, as well as law school graduates willing to volunteer their services.

How to Apply:

Students and law school graduates interested in applying should submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to either or:

Los Angeles Applications:

Michele VanGelderren
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Law Section
300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
E-mail: michele.vangelderren@doj.ca.gov

San Diego Applications:

Daniel A. Olivas
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Law Section
300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
E-mail: dan.olivas@doj.ca.gov

San Francisco Applications:

Conor Moore
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Law Section
455 Golden Gate Ave., Suite 11000
San Francisco, CA 94102
E-mail: conor.moore@doj.ca.gov