

San Francisco Immigration Court Volunteer Legal Internship Program

The San Francisco Immigration Court hires volunteer legal interns each academic semester. All law students who are United States citizens are eligible to apply, although most law schools prohibit first-year students from accepting internships. Prior knowledge of immigration law is helpful, but not necessary; however, strong research and writing skills are required. Those selected as law interns gain an understanding of immigration law and procedure as it relates to removal and deportation issues. They become familiar with the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Code of Federal Regulations, and immigration case law set forth by the Board of Immigration Appeals and the federal courts.

Typical assignments include drafting decisions on applications for asylum, researching and writing memoranda on whether a particular criminal offense renders a person subject to removal, and drafting decisions on motions to reopen in which a final order has been issued. In every assignment, law interns research and apply immigration statutes, regulations, and case law, thus increasing their familiarity with the field of immigration law and allowing them to exercise their research and writing skills. All interns work under the supervision of a staff attorney.

Interns are expected to work a minimum of 14 hours per week for a minimum of 12 weeks over one academic semester. **San Francisco Bay Area law students interested in a volunteer internship at the Immigration Court should check their law school's job database the semester prior to the semester they wish to work.** For fall internships, the Court typically reviews applications in mid-March of the preceding semester; for spring internships, applications are reviewed in mid-October. Application requirements may change each semester, but typically applicants must submit a **resume, transcript (official or unofficial), a writing sample (7-10 pages), and three references, with a cover letter** indicating why the applicant is interested.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS: Summer interns at the San Francisco Immigration Court are selected through the Department of Justice's Summer Law Intern Program (SLIP). Second-year law students are eligible to apply for the SLIP program for the summer between their second and third years of law school. The hiring process for summer law interns for all components of the Department of Justice, including the San Francisco Immigration Court, is conducted by the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. The Department of Justice accepts applications for the program during the summer prior to the student's second year of law school. Interns hired through the SLIP program are paid and are expected to work full-time for the entire summer. For information about the SLIP program and how to apply, please see the Department of Justice's website: <http://www.justice.gov/oarm/arm/sp/sp.htm>.

Note: All interns at the Court must be United States citizens, enrolled in law school at the time of their application and their internship, and must successfully complete an FBI background check before beginning their internships.