

## **Attorney General's Summer Law Intern Program**

### **United States Attorney's Office for the District of Wyoming**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

*1. What type of work will summer law interns undertake for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Yellowstone National Park?*

The majority of work will be in the courtroom as the prosecutor representing the United States in misdemeanor criminal cases. The nature of the hearings vary, they include: arraignments, guilty pleas, sentencing hearings, suppression hearings, bench trials, and probation revocation hearings. An Assistant United States Attorney will be present in the courtroom to provide guidance, but, after a period of orientation, interns will be expected to handle their caseload fairly independently. In addition, interns will prepare witnesses for evidentiary hearings, conduct plea negotiations with opposing counsel or the defendant, as well as prepare charging documents, responses to defense motions and other pleadings as needed.

The primary benefit for interns is the opportunity to gain experience in federal court handling matters largely on their own (interns can expect to be in court nearly every work day). The benefit to us is gaining assistance with several hundred misdemeanors that occur throughout the busy summer season in Yellowstone (interns also assist with matters arising from other federal enclaves in the area, such as Grand Teton National Park, and some of these proceedings occur before the U.S. Magistrate Judge in Jackson, with the office paying travel expenses).

*2. What type of work will summer law interns undertake for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cheyenne?*

Interns will provide assistance to Assistant United States Attorneys who engage in a variety of civil litigation and criminal prosecution work in U.S. District Court. Interns will assist in preparing criminal and civil cases for trial, assist in writing briefs and other legal documents, and assist with a variety of proceedings before U.S. District Court Judges. We endeavor to provide interns with the opportunity to argue in court and we will attempt to align work assignments with an intern's legal interests. Assignments will provide exposure to the issues and problems trial attorneys experience on a daily basis, allowing the law student to assess the demands of trial work first hand.

*3. Would it be possible to split summer employment between the U.S. Attorney's Office and a private law firm?*

No. With the heavy volume of proceedings before the U.S. Magistrate Judge in Yellowstone during the summer months, it would be too disruptive to transition to a second group of summer law interns midway through the summer. Such a practice would also increase costs and demand more time from our limited staff in Yellowstone and our administrative staff in Cheyenne.

4. *How long will the summer internship last?*

We prefer that each internship last twelve weeks. Internships may not exceed 90 days. Students may work a twelve-week period from mid-May to mid/late-August. The USAO works with each student to arrange a mutually acceptable term of employment.

5. *What housing is available in or near Mammoth Hot Springs for summer law interns and how much does it cost?*

The National Park Service (NPS) is generally able to provide housing for our summer law interns in Mammoth Hot Springs (which is the location of the Park's headquarters in Yellowstone National Park, where we occupy office space in the Yellowstone Justice Center). Students pay a small fee for the housing and pay a share of utilities costs each month. Usually, our summer law interns share lodging with other seasonal or permanent NPS employees, but do receive their own bedroom. We cannot guarantee that NPS will be able to provide housing, but we have not yet experienced a situation where housing was not provided. For a shared arrangement, summer law interns pay approximately \$200 per month for all housing costs.

6. *If I am married, would it be possible for my spouse to live with me in the Park?*

Yes. The NPS has provided family housing in the past for a summer law intern and spouse. Again, availability cannot be guaranteed.

7. *How many summer law interns are hired by the U.S. Attorney's Office each summer?*

For Yellowstone, budget permitting, we employ at least one summer law intern each summer. We prefer to hire two summer law interns for Yellowstone if we can, due to the heavy seasonal workload there and the valuable contribution interns make to the work of the office. Currently, we only have room for two summer law interns in our space in the Yellowstone Justice Center.

If our budget is able to support more than two summer law interns (Yellowstone is our first priority), we look to hire up to two additional students to be placed in our Cheyenne office (for a maximum total of four interns each summer). Housing in Cheyenne is not provided.

8. *If I am interested in working as a summer law intern in Cheyenne, how do I make that known?*

The application contains a field for "Additional Information." Please indicate any interest you may have in working in Cheyenne in this section.

9. *What compensation is provided to summer law interns hired through the Attorney General's Summer Law Intern Program?*

Summer law intern appointments are assigned at a GS-7 level, step one, which currently earns \$38,790 per year.