

Criminal Justice Internship Program Description
Law Clerk Internship Program Description
Summer And Mid-Term Law Clerk Internships
General Internship Program Description
High School Internship Program Description
Social Worker Internship Program Description
Letter from Former Law Clerk
<p>Comments from former law clerks</p> <p>“In ten short weeks I saw two closing arguments, two opening arguments, a full trial, met four clients, met one client’s family, saw two verdicts read (my heart sank at one of them), saw a sentencing hearing..., saw a change of plea hearing, helped interview several witnesses, researched a few briefs, wrote a few memos (one was quoted in front of Judge Thompson)....”</p> <p>“Before the summer began, I was told by an attorney that criminal defense work would make me change my mind about practicing law – he was wrong. Each day that I saw an un-winnable case get the same attention as a “good” case, I left work smiling.... I learned more this summer than I ever dreamed I would and I am grateful for having been given the opportunity.”</p>

**FEDERAL DEFENDERS
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

FEDERAL DEFENDER PROGRAM, INC.
817 SOUTH COURT STREET
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
TELEPHONE (334) 834-2099
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Website: www.almfd.org

CHRISTINE A. FREEMAN
Executive Director

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama provides representation to persons charged with federal crimes in the twenty-three southeastern counties of Alabama and to people on Alabama's death row whose appeals are entering federal habeas. This office also offers training and educational programs to lawyers and students seeking to learn more about federal criminal practice.

This office offers criminal justice students internships each semester, including during the summer, to undergraduate students who possess excellent research and writing skills and demonstrate an interest in providing services to indigent individuals in the federal criminal system.

Interns may receive training and orientation after which they will provide assistance to attorneys and other office staff as requested at all stages of client representation. Assignment of particular tasks will depend on the prior experience and skill of the individual intern. Duties may include assisting in interviews of clients, client family members, and/or witnesses; organizing case materials; contacting community resources, developing appropriate referrals for services; assisting with the investigation of a criminal case, and gathering evidence.

Compliance with the confidentiality responsibilities of the attorney-client relationship is mandatory and must include a signed confidentiality agreement. All applicants must have a car, driver's license and appropriate motor vehicle insurance.

This office will comply with the supervision or record-keeping required for school credit. The Federal Defender Program is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified people, regardless of sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

Applicants should submit, by mail or fax, a resume with a contact address and phone number, short writing sample, and the names and phone numbers of references, to:

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LAW CLERK INTERNSHIPS

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama provides representation to persons charged with federal crimes in the twenty-three southeastern counties of Alabama and to people on Alabama's death row whose appeals are entering federal habeas. This office offers summer and mid-year internships to law students who possess excellent research and writing skills and demonstrate an interest in federal criminal trial work, capital habeas issues, and indigent defense issues. Prior course work in criminal law and criminal procedure would be helpful to the students. Split summers are considered. We are particularly interested in students in joint degree programs.

Law Interns complete a training program which includes lectures, role plays, and a brief research project. After completing the training program, Law Interns assist attorneys and investigators at all stages of client representation, including interviewing clients and witnesses, reviewing and organizing discovery materials, researching federal constitutional and criminal law issues, and investigating and preparing cases for pleadings, hearings and/or trial.

Law Interns will have opportunities throughout their internship to observe criminal trials and hearings of Federal Defender staff, appellate arguments conducted locally by the Alabama appellate courts and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and other court proceedings.

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SUMMER & MID-YEAR LAW CLERK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama provides representation to persons charged with federal crimes in the twenty-three southeastern counties of Alabama and to people on Alabama's death row whose appeals are entering federal habeas.

This office offers summer and mid-year internships to second and third year law students who possess excellent research and writing skills and demonstrate an interest in federal criminal trial work, capital habeas issues, and indigent defense issues.

Law Interns assist attorneys at all stages of client representation, including interviewing clients and witnesses, reviewing and organizing discovery materials, researching federal constitutional and criminal law issues, investigating and preparing cases for pleadings, hearings and/or trial.

Prior course work in criminal law and criminal procedure would be helpful to the students. Split summers and mid-year externships are permitted.

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GENERAL/NON-LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama provides representation to persons charged with federal crimes in the twenty-three southeastern counties of Alabama and to people on Alabama's death row whose appeals are entering federal habeas. This office also offers training and educational programs to lawyers and students seeking to learn more about federal criminal practice.

This office offers non-law student internships each semester, including during the summer, to graduate and undergraduate students who possess excellent research and writing skills and demonstrate an interest in providing services to indigent individuals in the federal criminal system. Interns in the past have included students with majors in Criminal Justice, Social Work, Paralegal Studies, History, and Public Administration. No particular major is required.

Interns may receive training and orientation after which they will provide assistance to attorneys and other office staff as requested at all stages of client representation. Assignment of particular tasks will depend on the prior experience and skill of the individual intern. Duties may include assisting in interviews of clients, client family members, and/or witnesses; organizing case materials; contacting community resources, developing appropriate referrals for services; and assistance with mail delivery, filing, copying and other office tasks.

Compliance with the confidentiality responsibilities of the attorney-client relationship is mandatory and must include a signed confidentiality agreement. All applicants must have a car, driver's license and appropriate motor vehicle insurance.

This office will comply with the supervision or record-keeping required for school credit. The Federal Defender Program is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified people, regardless of sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

Applicants should submit, by mail or fax, a resume with a contact address and phone number, short writing sample, and the names and phone numbers of references, to:

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HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama provides representation to persons charged with federal crimes in the twenty-three southeastern counties of Alabama and to people on Alabama's death row whose appeals are entering federal habeas. This office also offers training and educational programs to lawyers and students seeking to learn more about federal criminal practice.

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama has established a paid summer internship for a limited number of high school students, to provide exposure for the students to the federal criminal justice system and to provide assistance to office staff.

Interns will receive training and orientation, after which they will provide assistance to attorneys and other office staff as requested at all stages of client representation. Assignment of particular tasks will depend on the particular skills of the individual intern. Duties may include assisting in organizing case materials; contacting community resources, developing appropriate referrals for services; and assistance with mail delivery, filing, copying and other office tasks.

Compliance with the confidentiality responsibilities of the attorney-client relationship is mandatory and must include a signed confidentiality agreement. Applicants with access to a driver's license, appropriate motor vehicle insurance, and access to a car may be given preference.

This office will comply with the supervision or record-keeping required for any school credit. The Federal Defender Program is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified people, regardless of sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

Applicants should submit, by mail or fax, a letter describing their interest in the internship, a resume with a contact address and phone number, and the names and phone numbers of references, to:

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SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP/FIELD PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama provides representation to persons charged with federal crimes in the twenty-three southeastern counties of Alabama and to people on Alabama's death row whose appeals are entering federal habeas. This office also offers training and educational programs to lawyers and students seeking to learn more about federal criminal practice.

The Federal Defender Program for the Middle District of Alabama offers social work internship opportunities and field placement to social work students who possess excellent research and writing skills and demonstrate an interest in providing services to indigent individuals involved in the federal criminal justice system. Depending on a student's skills and prior experience, a social work intern will assist in: (1) interviewing clients and family members of clients, (2) contacting community resources; (3) writing appropriate interview summaries, needs assessments, treatment plans, and case activity notes; (4) determining appropriate referrals; and (5) reviewing the effectiveness and success of client referrals.

Supervision will be provided by both a skilled professional with a masters in social work, staff attorneys, and investigators. Supervision includes weekly meetings with the MSW each week, review of all written work, participation in field work, in addition to consultation with staff attorneys and investigators on each individual case in which the intern is involved. This office will comply with the supervision or record-keeping required for an intern's school credit.

Interns must agree to comply with social work ethics and the confidentiality responsibilities of the attorney-client relationship. Interns must sign a confidentiality agreement. Interns must also have a car, driver's license and appropriate motor vehicle insurance. The Federal Defender Program is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

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My Summer 2009 clerkship assignment with the Federal Defender's Office (FDO) was an unforgettable experience. From the first day, I knew the summer with the FDO would be memorable. On Monday mornings, the entire office – lawyers, paralegals, and even support staff – gather in a conference room to discuss their assignments for the week. This allows everyone to see the importance of their role in the grand scheme of how the office works. The interns jumped right into the process. By the second week, we too were being asked what we would be working on and how our work would affect the entire office. Being made to feel like part of the team made us all work harder and want to do our best to ensure the success of the projects we were assigned.

The entire FDO was helpful, encouraging, and easy to relate to. The atmosphere they created was critical to making the experience so enjoyable. Whenever interns had questions, the attorneys would take time to explain things and be sure that we understood. When attorneys had strategy meetings, interns were encouraged to attend. Not only did we attend, but the attorneys actually asked for, and listened to, our insight and observations, and went so far as to incorporate them into the strategies if they could. Above all else, the entire staff was really personable. It was not uncommon for attorneys and staff to stop and chat with interns about any number of subjects; politics, sports, current events, and any other topic that may arise.

Assignments in which I participated over the summer included:

Wrote interoffice memoranda

Prepared memos for attorneys that were included in motions in limine, sentencing memoranda and recommendations for judges, appeals, and general defense strategy.

Interviewed clients

In conjunction with attorneys and/or investigators, conducted client interviews concerning background, living experiences and other pertinent information to gain facts to be used in argument and mitigation purposes.

Investigating and Interviewing witnesses

Identified, investigated, and interviewed witnesses to determine which individuals' testimony would be an asset to cases, if there were any circumstances that would detract from their effectiveness as a witness, and determined what information, if any, they could contribute.

Witness trial preparation

Briefed witnesses on their area of testimony, demeanor and etiquette in the court room.

Trial preparation

Assisted attorneys in developing theory and theme for case-in-chief, determining witness order and line of questioning, and made suggestions for opening and closing remarks.

Having never done a legal clerkship before, I didn't have a clear point of reference, but the clerkship with the FDO met and exceeded my expectations. I knew I would be given assignments, but I never imagined that I would work so independently, or that the work would be challenging and critical to the outcome of our cases. I anticipated the people I met would be cordial, but never knew the people at the FDO would be so enjoyable, insightful and helpful. Most importantly, while I was certain that the FDO clerkship would be a worthwhile experience, I was pleasantly surprised to find that it would be such a life-changing experience and make me completely reconsider an area of law to which I had never given much attention. In every area, this clerkship was above and beyond anything that I had anticipated.