JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIPS

What is an externship and how is it different from a clerkship?

- Externs perform duties very similar to that of judicial clerks, including: legal research, preparing memos and drafting orders, writing draft opinions and stipulations, assembling documents, and reviewing motions, memoranda, briefs, and other documents submitted to the court.
- An externship involves working in a judge's chambers, but for **credit, as opposed to pay**.
- Judicial externships are performed while you are still a student, either during the school year or during the summer in between. A clerkship is a post-graduate, paid position.

Advantages

- The opportunity to strengthen analytical skills and legal writing abilities.
- The opportunity to work closely with a judge and receive insights into the judicial system.
- A judicial externship can offer a nice boost to your resume.

Disadvantages

- No pay, only credit.
- You may take your marching orders from the clerk, rather than the judge.

Applying for an Externship

1) Check the externship database for available externship positions
   a. URL: [http://law2.byu.edu/site/career-services/externships](http://law2.byu.edu/site/career-services/externships)
   b. Contact the CSO for the password.
   c. You should be able to find contact information, information about prior externs and application requirements.

2) For courts not located in the externship database, check the “Resources” section of this Guide for directories.
   a. Submit a cover letter and resume directly to chambers.