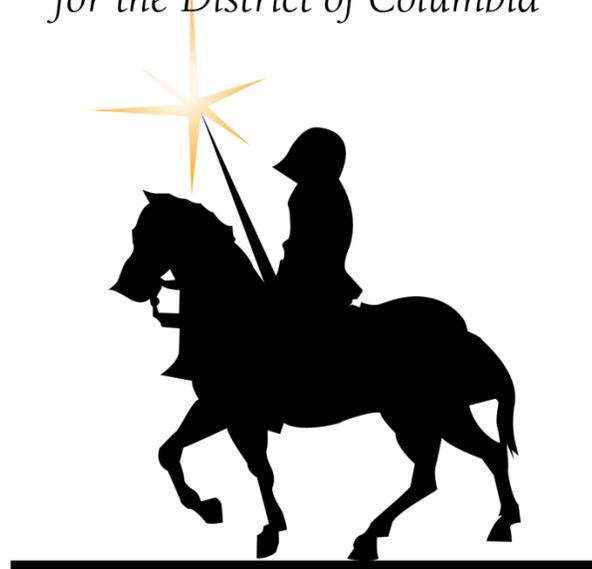


# CRIMINAL LAW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## THE PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE

*for the District of Columbia*



CHAMPIONS OF LIBERTY

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN  
2019-2020

Dear Prospective Interns:

Thank you for your interest in the Criminal Law Internship Program (CLIP) at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). The following pages will provide you with in-depth information for the position of Intern Investigator. Please review all the information carefully.

The Criminal Law Internship Program is one of the preeminent legal internship opportunities in the United States. It has been described by *The Washington Post* as one of the finest pre-law experiences available, and *The Princeton Review* has consistently ranked the program as one of the most hands-on internship programs in the nation, stating that the program is "a criminal law internship at its in-your-face best." Former participants of the program, produced in its 35-year history, are now among the most prestigious members of the legal community.

We offer a unique learning experience that can both prepare you for graduate-level work and provide you with the experience necessary for employment in any field.

I hope that you will find the attached materials informative, but please do not hesitate to contact the Internship Office if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to receiving your application online.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MH', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew Hanna  
Internship Supervisor  
Criminal Law Internship Program  
Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

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***The mission of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) is to provide and promote quality legal representation to indigent adults and children facing a loss of liberty in the District of Columbia, thereby protecting society's interest in the fair administration of justice.***

## General Description and Intern Duties

The **Criminal Law Internship Program (CLIP)** at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) provides undergraduate and graduate students with the fundamental investigative techniques and the relevant criminal law knowledge needed to assist Staff Attorneys. The Internship kicks-off with an intensive week long training session that orients interns to PDS and the city. In the second week, Investigative Interns are partnered together, assigned to one or more Staff Attorneys and are responsible for all investigative aspects of their attorneys' cases. Investigative Interns will be assigned to Staff Attorneys in the Trial Division, but some also investigate for the Parole Division, Community Defender Division and Special Litigation Division. Regardless of the division, Interns should expect to work zealously for their clients!

Investigative Interns are provided direction and supervision by both the Internship Supervisor and their assigned Staff Attorney(s). Typical investigative tasks include: locating and interviewing witnesses, interviewing clients, taking detailed witness statements, performing extensive criminal background checks, serving subpoenas, testifying, photographing, measuring and diagramming crime scenes, preparing courtroom exhibits, writing reports regarding investigative activities, assisting with case development and generally assisting the assigned attorney(s) in and out of the courtroom. Investigative Interns will be given some clerical duties, but the majority of their work is performed out in the community.

The Staff Attorneys in our Trial Division represent adults and juveniles facing felony and serious misdemeanor charges, which require thorough investigation to provide our clients with the highest quality legal representation. Although PDS employs a team of professional Staff Investigators, Investigative Interns perform a significant portion of the investigation, working closely with their assigned Staff Attorney(s) on a daily basis. As the program progresses, additional meetings and training sessions are scheduled to discuss topics that are relevant to the role of Investigative Interns.

To understand just how crucial investigation is to PDS's clients, it is important to know that each court system across the country has different rules specifying what information the prosecution is required to provide to the defense and when they must provide it. In the District of Columbia, the prosecution need not (and generally does not) give the defense the names and addresses of witnesses or the substance of their statements. Thus, to be prepared for trial, the defense must discover who the witnesses are and interview them to find out what they know in advance of trial. No one has an obligation to speak with the defense, so Investigative Interns must rely upon a combination of charm, honesty and persuasion to obtain interviews.

*When shuffling papers at the local law firm just won't do it for you, it's time to seriously consider the Public Defender Service for D.C. The PDS internship is a remarkably hands-on experience, where, in the words of a former intern, "you're out there scrapping, interviewing witnesses, photographing crime scenes, working with attorneys - doing real work for real cases." Add one-of-a-kind field trips, extensive investigative training, and the rush of having the nation's capitol as your training ground, and you've got a criminal law internship at its in your face best.*

-The Princeton Review

This is neither a desk job, nor is it an opportunity to just observe an attorney at work. Each Investigative Intern is an important member of a defense team, enabling our clients to assess strengths and weaknesses of the charges brought against them and to provide a coherent defense.

Training: The first week of the internship is a rigorous training course with presentations by various PDS staff and executives. We ask that no Intern miss any part of the training week, regardless of their schedule.

Hours: Training is during regular business hours. On occasion after training, working hours may extend past 9 to 5, Monday through Friday. Investigative Interns' varied responsibilities require

a willingness to work irregular hours. Each Investigative Intern is responsible for the completion of assigned tasks and for planning with their attorney how and when those tasks are to be accomplished. Some Investigative Interns may hold outside part-time jobs, take classes or be involved in organized programs that require attendance at seminars while working for PDS. However, in order to ensure thorough investigation on behalf of our clients and to maximize participants' experiences, a commitment of 40 hours per week is preferable.

## A Day in the Life of a PDS Investigative Intern

- 7:40 AM** – Receive call from attorney with reminder to dress appropriately for court.
- 8:30 AM** – Meet attorney and walk to the courthouse for trial.
- 9:30 AM** – Testify in court re: statement you took from Witness #1.
- 11:20 AM** – Take pictures of the crime scene for another case.
- 12:45 PM** – Lunch on the run on the way to another witness' home.
- 1:30 PM** – Attempt to interview a government witness, but she isn't home.
- 2:05 PM** – Pick up client's medical records from a hospital.
- 3:00 PM** – Deliver records to attorney. Start background checks on government witnesses.
- 3:50 PM** – Watch your attorney's closing argument.
- 5:15 PM** – Meet with your attorney.
- 6:00 PM** – Interview and take a written statement from a witness.
- 8:15 PM** – Visit Client at the DC Jail.

## Program Specifics

### Investigative Interns must:

- Be available to start on one of our training dates (see end of this bulletin)
- Be a current student at an undergraduate institution or graduate school.
- Be able to make a minimum 12 week commitment (with minimal days off)
- Attend the mandatory full week of training; and
- Volunteer at least 3 full days (24 hours per week) – 5 days (40 hours) strongly preferred.
  - Summer Sessions require Full Time (5 days/40 hours per week) commitment

Background: No specific investigative or legal background is required and students from all majors are considered. Applicants must display strong written and oral communication skills, possess a strong work ethic and the ability to adapt in a dynamic environment. Fluency in a second language is also highly sought in applicants. PDS is an E-Verify participating agency. Please see the [Right to Work Poster](#) and the [E-Verify Participation Poster](#) for more information. Internships are contingent upon confirmation of employment eligibility through E-Verify. PDS is strongly committed to the principle of diversity and actively encourages applications from people of varied and diverse backgrounds.

Dress Code: Investigative Interns normally work in casual clothes; jeans and sneakers are the norm. Interns should be prepared to dress more formally if they are required to testify in court or interview individuals with whom business attire is appropriate.

[Location:](#) The PDS main office is located at 633 Indiana Avenue NW, near the Judiciary Square Metro and the National Archives Metro. [See What's Near PDS.](#)

[Field Work:](#) It should be noted that there are inherent risks in living and working in an urban area that are different from those of college campuses and smaller towns. Investigative Intern training emphasizes how to remain safe while working at PDS.



[Transportation:](#) Investigative Interns spend significant time traveling within DC and surrounding areas; visiting witnesses, crime scenes and collecting documents. It is beneficial to have full-time access to a vehicle, but it is not required. All work-related travel expenses and most parking expenses incurred while on the job are reimbursed. All personal vehicles used by Investigative Interns in conducting official PDS business must be covered by liability insurance and is the responsibility of the Intern. Interns with vehicles should also have their own automobile insurance. Proof of insurance is required at the commencement of the program. PDS cannot provide insurance coverage for vehicles or drivers in the program. Investigative Interns without a vehicle may be reimbursed for on-the-job Metro and bus fare.

[Funding:](#) Interns are encouraged to seek public interest fellowships or grants that may be available through their colleges, universities or other public interest foundations. Funding may be provided to Interns based on budget availability.

[Housing:](#) PDS does not offer Intern housing, but is happy to provide incoming Interns with a housing guide offering information on obtaining their own housing in the DC area. PDS can also provide Investigative Interns with information on other Investigative Interns that are looking for housing, if Interns are interested in rooming together.

[Health Insurance:](#) Interns are responsible for having their own health insurance coverage.

## [Perks](#)

[Training:](#) Investigative Interns receive extensive training in investigation skills including: subpoena service, statement writing, interviewing techniques and an overview of the criminal justice system. These skills are often applicable to and valuable in many professions.

[Tours and Lectures:](#) Each session, CLIP offers tours, lectures and events designed to expose Investigative Interns to many facets of the criminal justice system. In the past, Interns have met informally with prosecutors from the US Attorney's Office, vice squad/homicide detectives and DC Superior Court judges. Tours have included St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital, autopsy room at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the US Capitol, the Supreme Court, Mobile Crime Unit operated by the MPD and tours at the DC Jail and Correctional Treatment Facility.

[Court Watching:](#) Investigative Interns observe a variety of pre and post-trial court hearings as part of their listed duties. In addition, there is always a trial and/or hearing PDS is involved in at DC Superior Court. Investigative Interns are encouraged to 'court watch' during their free time.

[LSAT Discount:](#) Many Investigative Interns take preparatory courses for LSAT or other exams. Testmasters offers PDS Investigative Interns a 15% discount for LSAT prep courses located throughout the United States.

[School Credit:](#) Many undergraduate institutions offer credit for participation. Credit hours offered and requirements for receiving credit vary by institution. It is the Investigative Intern's responsibility to arrange credit with their institution and supply the Internship Supervisor with any documents/requirements that the Intern needs completed to obtain credit. The Internship Supervisor will complete any paperwork and supply any reviews necessary to the institution.

## [Selection Process and Application Information](#)

The application process for the Criminal Law Internship Program is highly competitive, particularly for the Summer sessions. Applications are accepted on a **rolling basis** and there are "Early Priority Deadlines" for each session; however, applications are reviewed 60 days prior to the session start dates. Applications received by the listed priority deadlines guarantee consideration for that session. Applications received after the listed priority deadlines may be reviewed, but they are not guaranteed such consideration. It is recommended that serious candidates for any session submit applications as soon as possible.

Heavy consideration is given to the quality of thought and creativity in the Fact Pattern essay portion of the application. **Note:** the required essay prompt is found in the online application. References are not required, but can be included in the resume portion of the consolidated materials attached to the application. Due to the high volume of applications, not all individuals should expect an interview. Once the applications are received and reviewed, interviews will be conducted for those who are being considered.

Apply online at [www.pdsdc.org](http://www.pdsdc.org). Click on the "**Join Our Team**" Bubble in the middle of the page, and then select Criminal Law Internship Program. When you select "Apply to CLIP", you will need to register (create) a profile to apply.

## Internship Sessions

	<b>Summer Session 2019</b>	<b>Fall Session 2019</b>	<b>Winter/Spring Session 2020</b>	<b>Summer Session 2020</b>	<b>Fall Session 2020</b>
<b>EARLY PRIORITY DEADLINE*</b>	must be received before <b><u>February 10, 2019</u></b>	must be received before <b><u>July 21, 2019</u></b>	must be received before <b><u>November 24, 2019</u></b>	must be received before <b><u>February 9, 2020</u></b>	must be received before <b><u>July 19, 2020</u></b>
<b>INTERNSHIP DATES**</b>	May 6, 2019- July 26, 2019  May 20, 2019- August 9, 2019  June 3, 2019- August 23, 2019  June 17, 2019- September 6, 2019	August 19, 2019- November 8, 2019  September 16, 2019- December 6, 2019	January 6, 2020- March 27, 2020  February 3, 2020- April 24, 2019	May 4, 2020- July 24, 2020  May 18, 2020- August 7, 2020  June 1, 2020- August 21, 2020  June 15, 2020- September 4, 2020	August 17, 2020- November 6, 2020  September 14, 2020- December 4, 2020

*\*Applying by this date means only that your application is guaranteed review. We accept applications on a rolling basis throughout the year and regularly review applications received after these dates.*

*\*\*Internship dates are subject to change.*

*—If you are interested in applying for a later term, please contact the Internship Supervisor.*

*—Be reminded that the first full week is a mandatory training week.*

## Connect with the Criminal Law Internship Program and PDS

**Website:** [www.pdsdc.org](http://www.pdsdc.org)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/pdsdc](https://twitter.com/pdsdc)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/pdsdc](https://facebook.com/pdsdc)

**Email:** [internship@pdsdc.org](mailto:internship@pdsdc.org)

**Phone:** 202-824-2375 / 202-824-2580

**Fax:** 202-824-2101 / 202-824-2581