

The Judicial Externship Program

The UBC Judicial Externship Program accepts up to 8 students per term to serve as interns to the judges of the BC Provincial Court. Students receive two weeks of orientation to the Provincial Court and training from judges of the Court and others on topics including family law and child protection, sentencing, the work of Crown counsel, police and judicial justices, the Provincial Court's Indigenous sentencing courts, cultural competency, judicial independence, judgment writing, and problem-solving courts. Students are then assigned to a courthouse or a rotation of courthouses and work with judges Monday through Thursday of each week. Students' work will include research, memorandum preparation, attendance at trials and other hearings, editing, and other tasks to assist judges. Students will have the opportunity to attend one of the Provincial Court's Indigenous sentencing courts and may have the opportunity to travel with a circuit court sitting in a remote community in the north of the province.

The main courthouse placements for students are Surrey, Main Street (Vancouver) and Victoria. Students placed at these courthouses often do a shorter secondary rotation at courthouses such as Robson Square (Vancouver), Port Coquitlam, Abbotsford or Chilliwack.

Students in the program are required to attend a 4-credit reflections seminar held at Allard Hall on Friday mornings.

The Judicial Externship is open to students who are planning to apply for a clerkship with a superior court (e.g. the BC Supreme Court or the BC Court of Appeal) and is in fact excellent preparation for a clerkship following graduation.

Total credits for the program: 15

Only **third year** students are eligible for the program.

Application Process: Students interested in participating in the Judicial Externship must submit an application by the common application process.

Please **be sure to include all of** the following information in your cover letter:

- 1) Any special interest you have in particular areas of the Provincial Court's work (i.e. child protection, criminal, or family law, problem-solving courts, sentencing, youth justice work etc.);
- 2) Any special skills or background you would bring to the Judicial Externship;
- 3) Are you able to relocate to work at a Provincial Court outside of the Lower Mainland (e.g. Victoria or Kelowna, etc.), **including** securing your own accommodations in that community? Please be specific about any and all possible Provincial Court locations to which you could relocate. A student's ability to relocate may increase their chance of being selected for the program;
- 4) Whether you have completed the pre-requisite course (Law 476 Evidence) and recommended course (Law 359 Family Law). ***If you will not have taken Law 476 Evidence before Fall term, please note that;***

- 5) In which term(s) (Fall or Winter) you would be able to participate in the Judicial Externship;
- 6) Whether or not you have access to a car to commute daily to a courthouse outside of Vancouver (as not all students can be placed at courthouses in Vancouver, and public transit is not a feasible option for travelling between the Vancouver area and courthouses outside of Vancouver such as Surrey and Port Coquitlam);
- 7) Please expressly confirm that you are not currently engaged, nor do you anticipate being engaged during the academic year, in litigation at the Provincial Court of British Columbia. If you are unsure or have questions, please discuss with Professor Martz before applying.

Marks achieved in law school are only one of the criteria considered for selection for the program. Maturity, ability to work in a professional environment, interpersonal skills and genuine interest in the work of the Provincial Court are equally if not more important. Please ensure that you provide sufficient information about your background, interests and career goals in order that these can be taken into consideration fully.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee made up of Professor Lisa Martz and a Legal Counsel from the Office of the Chief Judge of the BC Provincial Court. There will also be an interview process.

Pre-requisite: Law 476 Evidence

Additional recommended course: Law 359 Family Law

For additional information, please contact Professor Lisa Martz at martz@allard.ubc.ca.

Last updated September 2024