

STRAUS INSTITUTE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Welcome to the Externship Program

Dear Students:

Welcome to the Straus Institute Externship Program. Externships are a fantastic opportunity for students to combine practical experience with their theoretical course foundation. This program offers various opportunities in which students get professional experience. Some students have amazing experience and get job offers or post-externship referrals and references; others think it was just a learning experience. I encourage all of you to look at this opportunity as a solid stepping stone into your career path.

This packet includes all the information you need to participate in your externship requirements. As you review this information, please be mindful that the forms in the packet must be completed and returned to the Straus Institute.

Students, who are not writing a Thesis, are required to complete one externship for the LL.M. and two externships for the MDR program. Each externship is a two-unit experience requiring 105 hours of fieldwork. Students must complete the following steps to secure an externship placement:

- 1) Set-up Mentor Meeting with your Academic Advisor for suggestions and guidance

Approximately 2-3 months prior to starting your externship, students should set up a time to meet with their Academic Advisor and Externship Administrator, 310.506.4655, to discuss externship possibilities. This is a good opportunity to discuss your career goals and work towards finding an externship placement that best suits your needs and interests. Any work completed without receiving approval cannot be applied toward an externship.

- 2) Review and prioritize possible placements

Students are encouraged to view the placement list on TWEN for placement ideas (class: externship; password: fall10, spring11, etc. depending on the semester). The Externship Placement Book is also available in the Straus Office.

- 3) Coordinate with the Externship Administrator best ways to approach various placements

Please coordinate with the Externship Administrator best ways to approach various placements. Depending on the placement, we may introduce you to a potential placement or ask you to contact them with a resume and cover letter presenting the externship program, as if you were formally applying for employment. However you contact the placement, the goal is to have an interview to discuss the nature and volume of work available at that placement.

- 4) Submit the Externship Placement Form

When you have confirmed externship placement, submit the Externship Placement Form (Form 1) to the Externship Administrator together with the registration form:

<http://law.pepperdine.edu/academics/content/registration-adddrop.pdf>. The call #s are available from the Externship Administrator. You will also need to register on TWEN so that you can receive valuable reminders and be able to submit your work electronically. The class is named externship and the password is the name of the semester (fall10, spring11, summer11, etc.). The TWEN site has assignment drop boxes for your timesheets, journals, and evaluations.

5) Begin Externship

Please refer to the Externship Basics below for externship requirements. It is very important to remember that you are representing not only yourself but Pepperdine University as well. Unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated as it reflects poorly on our program and other students.

6) Submit Timesheets and Journals every 2 weeks

Timesheets (Form 2) have to be submitted every two weeks. Students may email, mail, fax, scan, or return timesheets to the Straus Office. Each timesheet must be signed by a supervisor. Even if no hours were completed during this time, students must still send in a one paragraph update.

Journal (Form 3): Students must submit a one-page (hand-written or typed, double-spaced) progress journal for every 20 hours completed. These journals should reflect on what you have learned during this time. Please make copies of your timesheets and journals for your records. **Journals and timesheets are now encouraged to be emailed to joanna.reese@pepperdine.edu** or submitted on the TWEN site.

7) Upon completing the externship, submit Student Evaluation Form and Supervisor's Evaluation Form

Please submit Student Evaluation Form (Form 4) and Supervisor's Evaluation Form (Form 5) within one week of completing your hours.

8) Check on credit within four weeks of completion

After your timesheets, journals and evaluations are received, your file will be reviewed and credit requested. All externships are graded on a pass/fail basis. This credit request will also be sent to you as your confirmation of completion.

Externships are a combination of hard work, initiative, creativity, integrity, and great reward. If you allow it, your externship will be more than volunteering; it will be the door into your professional field. Our hope is that the Externship Program is another resource for you in addition to our staff and faculty.

Sincerely,
Joanna Reese
Externship Program Administrator
Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
Pepperdine University School of Law