



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

September 2007

2006–2007 Ralph N. Kleps Award Recipient: Judicial Extern Program, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

This comprehensive education program benefits both the court and the externs by providing intensive background about trial and appellate court proceedings.

Why This Program Is Innovative

The program is unique from other appellate externship programs in that it involves a higher level of judicial participation and offers intensive, conceptualized instructional and observation components. It attracts applicants from law schools across the country and involves a larger number of students than other externship programs.

Problems the Program Was Designed to Address

Before 2004, the Court of Appeal's judicial externship program was limited to a small number of law students drawn from the five local law schools. The externs worked on opinions under the supervision of a handful of justices and received no formal instruction about the appellate process or opinion writing.

Program Goals and Desired Outcomes

- Increase the extent of judicial participation to permit more students to learn lawyering skills under the justices' guidance.
- Increase the extent of student participation to acquaint more students with appellate practice and the appellate process.
- Introduce an instructional component to teach students about the skills needed to improve their performance and productivity as externs.

Actual Program Outcomes and Benefits

- Increased judicial and staff participation—in 2003, only a handful of judicial chambers participated. Presently, 25 of the 32 chambers supervise the externs' work.
- Expanded the pool of qualified applicants—in 2003, 25 law students applied for the program. In 2004, that rose to 53. In 2005, 155 applied. In 2006, applications were received from 327 law students.

Second Appellate District Judicial Extern Program

Page 2 of 2

- Increased law school participation—expanded from the five local Los Angeles law schools—Loyola University, Pepperdine University, Southwestern University, University of California at Los Angeles, and University of Southern California—to include Baylor University, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at San Francisco, Brigham Young University, University of Chicago, Columbia University, University of California at Davis, Georgetown University, Harvard University, University of Michigan, New York University, Northwestern University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Texas, Vanderbilt University, and University of Virginia.
- Increased court productivity—each extern generates a substantial body of work product consisting of three written opinions and two writ memoranda.
- Introduced more law students to the appellate process and practice—numerous students have received summer associate positions with prestigious firms with appellate practice groups or worked as appellate litigators after their externships.
- Added visits to and instruction on the workings of trial courts, and the participation of superior court judges as facilitators.

How This Program Was Originally Funded

Funded internally; costs limited to reimbursement of extern travel and parking.

Ongoing Budget and Staffing Impacts

Ongoing staffing requires the program be administered by a justice and a judicial assistant. Law library and administrative staff provide support services, consisting of law library training, legal research assistance, and processing of paperwork.

How the Program Is Sustained

The court continues to refine the program by providing additional guidance on judicial supervision of externs and re-evaluating and restructuring the instructional and observation component.

Recommendations for Courts Wanting to Replicate This Program

Outline and copies of materials are available from the court.

Contact:

Joseph Lane, 213-830-7112, joseph.lane@jud.ca.gov

Additional resources:

Ralph N. Kleps Award information, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/innovations

Second Appellate District's Web site:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/courtsofappeal/2ndDistrict