

Access2Practice Legal Externship Program – Fall 2019

Information and Application Form

Chicago Kent has long recognized that classes and textbooks alone are not sufficient to complete the education of our students and their transformation into lawyers. Students also need practical experience in real world legal work to gain insight into the strategic and ethical dimensions of the legal profession and to acquire legal skills not accessible in the traditional classroom.

Some students gain experience when they are hired as part-time clerks. But most students don't have access to paid or volunteer positions in a legal setting of their choice and/or one that exposes them to what they want to learn.

Access2Practice Legal Externship (LEP) is a 4-credit-hour Pass/Fail program which enables Kent 2Ls and 3Ls to extern in a wide variety of legal areas – civil and criminal – and gives students exposure to and supervision/mentoring in an area of law of their choosing.

A2P consists of two separate components: fieldwork and class meetings. The program is offered in the Fall and Fall semesters and in the Summer session.

Fall 2019 Legal Externship Program

Monday, August 26, 2019 - Friday, December 6, 2019

Fieldwork:

Externs must work **16 hours** a week during the Fall semester for a minimum total of **224 hours** and maintain weekly activity and time reports as well as journals based on their fieldwork.

Class: Perspectives in Lawyering

A series of classes meet in the Fall semester on **Wednesdays** from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Classes focus on different legal areas and the often complex and unpredictable realities at the core of the actual practice of law.

To Obtain an LEP Placement:

For many reasons, this program does not assign students to particular field placements. Instead, a student must independently seek and obtain an externship. Each placement will have its own independent screening and selection process.

The greater Chicagoland area offers a wide variety of externship placements. The large majority of opportunities are in the public sector only. To gain access to available externship placement possibilities, students should consult *Symplicity*.

To search on *Symplicity*, click on “Jobs”, and then “Position Type”. Several drop-down boxes will appear listing categories of postings. Search any category that might be applicable, e.g., “Access2Practice Legal Externships”, “Internships”, “Volunteer Internships”, “Fall Volunteer Internships”, etc.

Many listings on *Symplicity* will be marked “**For Credit Only**”: that means that a student **cannot** extern at that placement **unless** he/she is enrolled as a participant in Chicago-Kent's A2P Legal Externship Program. Some postings allow students the option of either applying to volunteer or to convert the opportunity into a for-credit externship.

Please understand that sometimes employers are able to access *Symplicity* independently and place postings that have not been screened, approved, or endorsed by the law school.

Types of Placements:

1. Governmental and Public Interest Sectors

Externships are available with many public interest legal organizations and departments. Externing in a public interest placement is required for those students seeking to obtain the J.D. Certificate in Public Interest Law.

Placement sites include county, city, state and federal legislative and executive offices. For example, students can extern in county offices of the State's Attorney and Public Defender, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, City of Chicago Department of Law, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Commerce Commission, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC).

Externships with a legal aid bureau, legal assistance program, public organizations, and certain governmental agencies may enable a student to acquire a 711 student practice license and appear in court.

2. Restrictions on Private/For Profit Law Firms and In-House Corporate Legal Departments

For many important reasons, only a limited number of private placements are available in Fall and Fall LEP (as opposed to Summer *Access2Practice* LEP). The private firms and in-house corporate legal departments that have been formally screened and approved are listed in *Symplicity* as **For Credit Only** opportunities.

Other Opportunities As For-Credit Legal Externship:

If you have located or obtained an internship or volunteer position not listed on *Symplicity*, but are looking to convert that opportunity into a for-credit Legal Externship, you must first set up a meeting to discuss the possibility with Professor Gross, then submit the attached Legal Externship Program Application. No application will be accepted if you have not a prior interview with Professor Gross.

To Enroll in LEP:

Applications for LEP Fall 2019 must be submitted to Professor Gross by no later than **Monday, August 12, 2019**.

You Cannot Extern for a Current Employer Nor Can You Receive Pay for Doing a For-Credit Externship.

LEP is an experiential educational program. An employer/employee relationship is financial; you do what the employer needs and wants rather than what the law school deems educationally appropriate. For this reason, you cannot get paid and receive law school credit for doing the same work. Moreover, if you were employed by a specific placement, you cannot convert that employer into an externship placement.

If you participate in Fall 2019 LEP, you **cannot**, without prior approval from Professor Gross, simultaneously volunteer or work for pay in another legal position during the term of the semester.

LEP for a Second Semester.

You may do two semesters of LEP. To continue as a legal extern for a second semester, you must first obtain approval from Professor Gross.

If you are in a public sector/public interest placement, you can continue for a second semester with the timely approval of your current supervisor/lawyer and Professor Gross. You may also choose a different placement for a second externship.

However if you are in a private for-profit placement, you are limited to one semester only with that specific placement.

Withdrawal from LEP:

After you have been approved and registered for LEP, you **cannot** then withdraw. Your acceptance to extern and subsequent registration in the program signifies to your externship supervisor, placement, and to the law school that you will complete your externship in a satisfactory and professional manner. It is unprofessional and unacceptable to decline to honor your commitment before the semester has ended.

Contact:

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Professor Gross (vgross@kentlaw.iit.edu), Director of the *A2P* Legal Externship Program.

A2P Legal Externship Program

Fall 2019 Application

Name _____

Home Phone _____

Address _____

Work Phone _____

Cumulative GPA _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Student ID No. _____

Have you been in the Legal Externship Program before? _____

If yes, which semester and for whom did you extern? _____

Law School Division: ___ Day ___ Evening

From what office have you received an offer to extern? _____

Name of Proposed Attorney Supervisor: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Approximate Start Date: _____

Please attach your Resume and Transcript

Applications must be submitted to and approved by Prof. Gross by Monday, August 12, 2019.