

# JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP SYLLABUS

Fall Semester 2008  
Thursday 9 – 9:55  
Room 204

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## TEXT

Rebecca Cochran, *Judicial Externships: The Clinic Inside the Courthouse*, (Lexis-Nexis 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2005). I will give you a schedule of reading assignments in class. I will assign additional readings from time to time.

## ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FIRST CLASS

1. Sign up for the TWEN website for this course.
2. Contact your judge if you have not yet done so to discuss your work schedule for the fall.
3. Read Cochran pp. 1-9, 85-87.
4. Read p. 1 of the *Law Clerk Handbook* (§ 1.1). You can find the *Law Clerk Handbook* at [http://www.fjc.gov/public/pdf.nsf/lookup/lawclhbkb.pdf/\\$file/lawclhbkb.pdf](http://www.fjc.gov/public/pdf.nsf/lookup/lawclhbkb.pdf/$file/lawclhbkb.pdf). It is also available as a link on my TWEN site.

## CLASS GOALS

The ABA has established standards governing externships for credit toward your law degree. One of the requirements is that the externs attend a class contemporaneously with their field placement. The class is intended to give you an opportunity to reflect on your experiences in the field, and in so doing, increase the educational value of that experience. The class will be a forum to discuss professional, ethical, or other issues that may arise. The class will also introduce you to a variety of issues facing the judiciary, including judicial ethics, the role of law clerks, opinion writing, judicial selection, and judicial decision making. Finally, you will discuss your experiences with one another, giving you a sense of the wide variety of ways judges work, depending on the type of cases the court hears and the individual personality of each judge.

## CLASS EXPECTATIONS

You must complete the following activities during the semester to earn credit for this class and for your externship experience. **I will provide more details on each of the following in class.**

### 1. Field work

You must spend at least 100 hours working for your judge. Most of that time should be spent in the courthouse or the judge's chambers, although some work may be performed elsewhere with the judge's approval. If you have concerns about your field placement at any point during the semester, please let me know.

### 2. Submit time sheets

From time to time I will ask you to turn in a time sheet showing the number of hours you have worked and the nature of your activities.

**3. Class attendance and participation**

You must attend class each week, read the assigned material before class, and participate in class discussions.

**4. Attend one judicial activity outside your externship**

You must attend at least one courtroom event in a court other than your own sometime during the semester.

**5. Written reflections**

You must submit 3 written reflections during the semester, each at least 3 double-spaced pages long. **Due Dates: September 18; October 23; November 20.**

**6. Presentation about externship**

You must make a presentation to the class about your externship experience. The last few classes of the semester will be spent on these presentations.

**GRADING**

Field Placement: The field placement will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. At the end of the semester I will ask your judge to complete an evaluation of your work. The final decision on whether you pass is completely mine, but I will take the judge's comments into consideration.

Classroom component: You must complete the requirements listed above. Your grade will be based primarily on three factors—your presentation at the end of the semester, your three reflections, and your participation in class. If you are habitually absent or late to class, I will adjust your grade accordingly.

**OFFICE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

I am happy to meet with you outside of class. You are welcome to stop by my office any time or schedule an appointment. I am generally available for appointments between 8:30 and 2, Monday through Friday, except when I am teaching. Email is always the best way to contact me. My e-mail address is [michele.bradley@uc.edu](mailto:michele.bradley@uc.edu). I will not be available to answer e-mail messages or phone calls after I leave the College of Law in the afternoon.

I will communicate with you by e-mail to convey schedule and assignment changes and to provide other information of general interest to the class. **You must register for my TWEN website so that you will receive all pertinent information.** All information communicated via e-mail is considered to be available to all students, just as if it had been communicated in class. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly.