

INFORMATION SHEET FOR POEHLS/HOBBS DISTRICT ATTORNEY PRACTICUM

Are you interested in becoming a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney or Civil Trial lawyer?

Are you looking for actual courtroom experience as a law student?

If so, you should consider interviewing for the Poehls/Hobbs District Attorney Practicum!

This program is an incredible opportunity for law students to take a semester trial advocacy course that fully prepares them for a second semester working in court for the LA County District Attorney's Office! Two semesters of work are required. You must take all courses for units as explained in the following. The first semester is the Trial Advocacy class (which is role-playing and simulation) here at the Law School (3 units). The second semester is field-work (actual in-court work per the State Bar Certification Rules) in the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney.

The Trial Advocacy class is a pre-requisite to the field-work. The District Attorney requires that you commit to a minimum of two full 8-hour days per week. It is not required that these days be consecutive, **but it is *HIGHLY recommended***. During the second semester, in addition to the field-work (4-6 pass/ fail clinical units), there is also a one unit seminar at the Law School. To enroll in the practicum, you must be in good academic standing. The trial ad course and seminar are graded; the field work units are pass / fail.

Interviews are conducted for the Trial Advocacy class by Professor Poehls each semester. Please look for sign up information in emails, on the program's web page, and In-Brief. Interviews are conducted because this is a limited enrollment class due to the fact that there are only 12 field placements. Of primary importance during the interview are your communication skills (i.e., how you would sound and look to a jury). A career (or possible career) interest in litigation (criminal or civil) and grades are considered. Participation in Scott Moot Court, Byrne Trial Advocacy, and having completed the pre-requisites (see below) will also be considered. Students may interview during more than one semester as long as they are able to subsequently complete the full year of work. ***First year students will be eligible to interview if they will be taking evidence over the summer or will take a required three day evidence intensive over the summer. Evidence (or the intensive) is a pre-requisite for the Trial Advocacy class.***

The field-work prerequisites are Criminal Law, Evidence and Criminal Procedure: Investigative Process. Students who will have completed the prerequisites by the end of the semester during which they are interviewing may be given priority over students who will not have, but an interview cannot be guaranteed. These classes must be completed before the beginning of the second semester field-work.

The first semester (at the Law School) ***begins one week earlier*** than regular semester classes, and ***attendance at this first week class is mandatory***. You will be dropped if you are not present when roll is taken at the beginning of class. This class may not meet at the same time or on the same day as the regular semester classes.

The class begins anew each semester (Fall and Spring). Fall students do their fieldwork during the Spring semester. Spring students do their fieldwork during either the Summer or Fall semesters (though a fall placement is recommended to allow for more courtroom opportunities). Placements are assigned by the District Attorney's Office. The Law School cannot guarantee where you will be assigned. It is even possible (though very unlikely) that, due to unforeseen circumstances within the Office, some of you may not be placed. You must, of course, have your own means of transportation to and from your assigned office, and be willing to travel anywhere in Los Angeles County. The District Attorney considers it a conflict of interest to be clerking for a law office or a law professor doing any criminal defense work during the same semester that you are doing the field-work, regardless of whether or not you are asked to work on those cases.

The District Attorney interviews for its placements at semester's end. This includes a criminal record check. If you have a record of arrest or conviction, the District Attorney might not place you. Please discuss any record of arrests or convictions with Professor Poehls during your interview.

Placement by the District Attorney is not an offer of future employment; however students from this program have been extremely successful at securing post bar DA positions in several counties including Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange County, Riverside, Sacramento, San Francisco, Contra Costa, San Bernardino and Ventura.

For further information, contact Professor Poehls at Susan.Poehls@lls.edu or apply through Symplicity on the [Practica](#) webpage.