Criminal Defense

Externship

In the Criminal Defense Externship Program students work either at the Public Defender’s Office or with a private criminal defense firm. Students who have completed 60 credit hours may be eligible to apply for certification under the Student Practice Act and appear in court.

The accompanying one credit Criminal Defense seminar course will take a close look at issues specific to the practice of criminal defense, including negotiating with prosecutors, creating a 'client-centered' practice, identifying and navigating ethical challenges, coping with exposure to trauma, and managing a heavy caseload. This class is not a trial skills class, but instead requires students to reflect upon a wide variety of topics related to the ethical and sustainable practice of criminal defense law.

Students have externed at:

- Colorado State Public Defender
- Kilmer, Lane & Newman, LLP
- Alternate Defense Counsel

“We expose our interns to as much practical day to day courtroom experience, how to deal with clients and opposing counsel, how to be persuasive in our writing and oral arguments, and how to feel comfortable speaking in front of a large number of complete strangers.”

“I had a lot of responsibility, but I was never on my own. An attorney was always there to answer questions or step in if things got crazy.”

“I could not have had a better summer anywhere...”