Spring 2011 Journal Topics:

**Journal One (Due February 7, 2011):** Describe your externship supervisor and any other lawyers you are working with. Have you discussed with them any specifics with respect to how they will be supervising you and providing feedback? If so, describe the discussion. If not, tell me how you intend to discuss with him/her the feedback you desire during the externship. Include a specific discussion of the kind of feedback and how often you would like to receive it. Describe any specific issues you see in getting the feedback you desire.

**Journal Two (Due February 14, 2011):** Reflect on your observations of legal practice thus far. What have you noticed about how the lawyers you work with practice law? What behaviors and systems work, and what don’t? What have you observed that you hope to incorporate into your own practice and what would you change?

**Journal Three (Due February 21, 2011):** Every placement gives students the opportunity to develop their lawyering abilities: interviewing, investigation, research, writing, analysis, problem-solving, counseling, advocacy, negotiation, planning, judging, etc. How well are you doing what you’re asked to do? What strengths do you notice? What weaknesses have you discovered? How can you develop the former and counteract the latter? In preparing this journal, sit down with your Supervising Attorney and talk with him/her about the strengths and weaknesses s/he has observed thus far. (This is also a great way to get feedback!) Include a summary of the conversation you had with your supervisor.

**Journal Four (Due February 28, 2011):** Consider your own values and what is important to you in the practice of law and life: money, work/life balance, prestige, family, respect, personal growth and fulfillment. Did your experience in this externship match the personal values described in this journal? If not, what will you do help determine the area and type of practice you desire? (Please read the attached article before writing this journal entry.)

**Journal Five (Due March 7, 2011):** In writing your final journal, please address at least two of the following topics, being sure to discuss, if applicable, how you dealt with the situation you describe and what you wish you had done differently. Please do not repeat anything you have written in a previous journal.

- a. The most difficult problem you faced during your externship;
- b. A problem you had with a supervisor or a client;
- c. Something you learned about yourself or the practice of law that surprised you or gave you great concern;
- d. An ethical problem you encountered during your externship;
- e. Something that occurred during your externship that gave you a new perspective on the law or yourself;
- f. Whether you had to advocate a position you did not personally believe in and how you dealt with this issue;
- g. What you learned about yourself;
- h. What you learned about the practice of law;
- i. What you learned about your work habits;
- j. How this experience has made you feel about practicing law.