

Students gain valuable experience from D.C. internship program

This spring, Georgia Law launched its Washington, D.C., Semester in Practice program through which up to 15 second- and third-year law students can earn course credit while living and working in our nation's capital for a semester.

Participants have the option to stay in housing maintained by UGA while working 35 hours per week at entities such as the Federal Communications Commission, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to name a few.

"Our students are not only gaining full-time, hands-on, legal work experience critical to compete in today's legal employment market, but they are doing so in a wide range of placements not available outside of Washington, D.C.," program instructor and 1997 Georgia Law graduate Jessica L. Heywood said.

"In just its first semester, the program allowed several of our students to participate in litigation matters of national, historic significance as well as in rulemaking for new legislation.

"Additionally, our students were able to broaden their own professional networks," Heywood added. "Many of our spring students have received summer and permanent job offers as a direct result of their participation in the program."

Third-year student Karen E. Tanenbaum, who served as an intern in the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, said she signed up for the clinical program for that very reason – to network.

"I enrolled in the D.C. program because I knew I wanted to move there after graduation," Tanenbaum said. "In a place like D.C., where connections are everything, this clinic is an invaluable way to jumpstart a legal career in the area."

For other participants, it was the chance to gain experience in a specialized field that drew them to enroll in the clinic.



Photo by Lomnie D. Tague, DOJ Photographer

Georgia Law students participating in the school's new Washington, D.C., Semester in Practice program had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder (center) while working full-time in our nation's capital at various internships.

"Given my bachelor's degree from UGA's Terry College of Business as well as my genuine interest in economics and finance, I wanted a placement that addressed how those subjects intersect with the law," second-year student Michael V. Mannino said.

And his internship in the Office of General Counsel for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission did just that.

"The CFTC specializes in a niche area of the law, the regulation of futures and commodities, that gave me a unique work experience not available in many other legal environments," Mannino said. "It is my hope that this experience will give me the credentials necessary to specialize in this area of the law after I graduate."

Heywood said she is confident it will.

"Whether students in the D.C. Semester in Practice program decide to remain in Washington or go elsewhere, they have gained work experience very few law students have on their résumés. Our students are quite lucky to have this opportunity," Heywood said.

Top honors for Georgia Law

As one of the top public law schools in the country, Georgia Law routinely receives a variety of recognitions.

During this past year alone, the school was named the fifth "best value" law school in the nation for providing a quality legal education at an affordable price and second for having a high graduate standard of living. —*preLaw* magazine, 2011

With 13 clinical programs, it is no surprise the school was recognized as having the second highest ratio of service-learning opportunities for its students. Based on 2011 numbers, the school was listed as offering more than 450 clinical positions. —*National Jurist* magazine, 2011



Another testament to Georgia Law's status is the success of its alumni body. In a listing that looked at where partners in the nation's 100 largest law firms earned their law degrees, UGA was named as the number one feeder school for firms located in Atlanta and a top 50 feeder school for those nationwide.

—*Journal of Legal Education*, 2011

The Alexander Campbell King Law Library was also noted for its prominence and was featured in the Georgia Library Association's *Georgia Library Spotlight* as a leader in the provision of information in electronic formats and for maintaining a large collection of historical state documents.

—*gla.georgialibraries.org*, 2011