

Bankruptcy Externship Information Packet

An externship program to let students work directly on bankruptcy problems with pro bono individuals in conjunction with and under the supervision of experienced bankruptcy lawyers.

The externship runs during the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters.

Bankruptcy Externship

Supervising Professor:

Craig B. Young
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Course & Credit Available:

Law 270: 1 credit. Students completing the course will receive one out-of-class credit graded CR/NC.



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Overview

Members of the bankruptcy bar in Northern Virginia run a free Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic to help individual consumers with questions or problems related to bankruptcy, including how to prepare voluntary bankruptcy petitions and other papers that must be filed to initiate a bankruptcy case. These individual consumers typically cannot afford a bankruptcy attorney to help them. The Externship, included as part of the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic, enables students to take what they have learned in the classroom and put it to real use by assisting Clinic clients together with and under the supervision of experienced bankruptcy attorneys.

The student conducts the initial interview of the individual consumer to identify what help or assistance the individual needs. The student and the individual then meet with a volunteer bankruptcy attorney to answer and resolve the individual's questions or problems. This provides students with direct client contact and invaluable counseling experience while sitting next to the bankruptcy lawyer.

Students must have previously taken a course in Bankruptcy Law or must receive special permission to participate from Professor Young. The special permission will be granted to students who have not taken Bankruptcy Law but have clerked for or otherwise worked for a bankruptcy lawyer or a bankruptcy judge.

Educational Objectives of the Bankruptcy Externship

The Bankruptcy Externship is designed to meet the objectives of the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar for professional skills training, live-client or other real life experiences and study outside of the classroom. The teaching of "professional skills" involves teaching and evaluating law student performance on real cases or problems, with the goal of mastering basic lawyering skills, professional responsibility, substantive and procedural law and the theory of legal practice.

Student Requirements & Responsibilities

1. Students must have completed one academic year of legal education to participate in the program.
2. No compensation will be received for work performed during the program.
3. Students must have previously taken a course in Bankruptcy Law or must receive special permission to participate from Professor Young. Special permission will be granted to students who have not taken Bankruptcy Law but have clerked for or otherwise worked for a bankruptcy lawyer of a bankruptcy judge.
4. Students meet with Professor Young and participate in the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic U.S. Bankruptcy Court, 200 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314. The Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic is open between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month during each semester.
5. There are two writing components for this externship –
 - a. Following each Friday clinic, students email to Professor Young a brief report on their experience with the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic using the format below:
 - i. Weekly Report Format
 - Student Name:
 - Date of Clinic:
 - Number of Individuals Interviewed:
 - Briefly (one sentence if possible) describe the problem(s) faced by each individual you interviewed:
 - Briefly describe your interaction with the volunteer attorney:
 - b. At the end of the semester (before the end of the exam period), students email to Professor Young a memorandum discussing their overall experience with the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic including, specifically, what they learned or otherwise gained from the experience. The memorandum shall not be more than three pages.