



# Bankruptcy Externship

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*The Bankruptcy Externship enables students to work with experienced attorneys on problems raised by consumers and entities.*

*The Externship operates during the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters.*

*Supervising Professor:*  
Craig B. Young, Esquire  
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*Course & Credit:*  
Law 270: Students receive one out-of-class credit graded CR/NC.

## Overview

The Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic (BAC) began in 2017 at the request of the Office of the United States Trustee and is recognized by the U.S. Bankruptcy Judges sitting in Alexandria, Virginia. It is operated as a free resource for anyone with questions or problems related to bankruptcy, especially for individual consumers who typically cannot afford to engage an attorney. The Scalia Law School externship enables students to take what they learn in the classroom and put it to actual use by assisting individuals (usually consumers) under the supervision of experienced bankruptcy attorneys.

The students conduct initial interviews of the individual consumers to identify what assistance they need. The student and the consumer then meet with a volunteer bankruptcy attorney to resolve the consumer's questions or problems. Students have direct contact with the consumers and gain counseling experience with the bankruptcy attorneys.

As a prerequisite, students must have taken a course in Bankruptcy Law or must receive advance permission to participate from the Supervising Professor. Advance permission will be granted also to students who have not taken Bankruptcy Law but have clerked for or otherwise worked for a bankruptcy lawyer or a bankruptcy judge.

## Educational Objective

The Bankruptcy Externship is designed to meet the objectives of the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar for professional skills training, live-client or other real life experiences and study outside the classroom. The teaching of "professional skills" involves teaching and evaluating law student performance on real cases and 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 law school to participate in the externship.
2. No compensation will be received for work performed during the externship.
3. Students must have previously taken a course in Bankruptcy Law or must receive special permission to participate from the Supervising Professor. 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.
4. Students meet with the Supervising Professor and participate in the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic operated twice per month at the 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 each month during each semester.
5. There are two writing components for the externship –
  - a. Following each Friday clinic, students email to the Supervising Professor a brief report on their experience in 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 interviewed
      - Briefly describe your interaction with the volunteer attorney.
  - b. At the end of the semester (before the end of the semester exam period), students email to the Supervising Professor a short 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.