

Federal Court Judicial Internships in San Antonio

Semesters: Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023

Deadline: Noon Friday March 4, 2022

Applications are now being accepted for roughly fifteen pre-graduation judicial internships with federal judges who have chambers in San Antonio. A detailed brochure, entitled “*Pre-Graduation Judicial Internships*,” accompanies this e-mail. Questions about the various internship programs can be directed to the faculty advisors listed in that handout.

The United States District Court

At the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, internships will be available with the Honorable David A. Ezra, the Honorable Xavier Rodriguez, and the Honorable Jason K. Pulliam. Interns will assist the judges with a variety of tasks, which may include rulings on motions, preparation of jury charges, and research and writing related to trial court litigation. Interns at the U.S. District Court will have the opportunity to observe courtroom proceedings.

United States District Court interns are normally required to work 120 hours during the semester at the federal courthouse in downtown San Antonio and may earn two pass/fail credits, for which tuition must be paid. (See the *Pre-Graduation Judicial Internships* brochure for details.) *Successful internship candidates typically have a very strong academic record.*

Judge Pulliam offers not-for-credit internships that have different time requirements. He has emphasized that the application process for internships with his court is open to all law students.

The United States Magistrate Court

At the United States Magistrate Court, one internship may be available during the summer and spring semesters with the Honorable Henry Bemporad. In the internship with Judge Bemporad, a student is required to work *240 hours in exchange for four graded credits*. The Bemporad internship is designed to be especially demanding and to provide for intensive supervision of the intern’s research and writing. This internship can be a valuable credential and steppingstone to a post-graduation judicial clerkship. Magistrate judges handle motions and other matters at the request of the United States District Court and may preside over trials with the consent of the parties. *Successful candidates typically have a very strong academic record and must submit a writing sample.*

The United States Bankruptcy Court

At the United States Bankruptcy Court, one or more internships may be available during the summer 2022 semester with the Honorable Craig Gargotta. Interns are required to work 120

hours during the semester at the Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse in downtown San Antonio near the Alamo. Interns assist the judge with matters related to bankruptcy proceedings. *Successful candidates typically have a very strong academic record.* Prior completion of a course on Bankruptcy Law is useful but not required.

Pass/Fail Credit Limitations

Students normally may not count toward graduation more than eight ungraded (pass/fail) *elective* credit hours earned at any law school.

Applications

Please give your application materials to the receptionist on the second floor of the Raba Law Building. Questions can be directed to Professor Johnson at: vjohnson@stmarytx.edu.

An application for each judge by whom a candidate wants to be considered should include:

(1) A federal court internship form, attached to this message or available from the Receptionist desk on the second floor of the Raba Building. (On the form the applicant should indicate the judge to which the student is applying and the semesters the student is available to serve as an intern.)

AND

(2) The following items:

- A resume
- A cover letter in business-letter format (return address, date, judge's address (see below), proper salutation (e.g., Dear Judge Rodriguez), and signature. In terms of tone, the letter should be professional, factual, interesting, confident, and modest;
- An unofficial transcript (only required for Judge Rodriguez)
- A writing sample (only required for Judge Bemporad and Judge Gargotta; optional for Judge Pulliam)

Please fasten the materials (1 and 2) for each judge with a staple, binder clip, or rubber band. No special folders or bindings.

Eligibility of Full-Time and Part-Time Students: Students may apply for any internship that will commence in a semester after the student has completed 29 credit hours of course work. Thus, a first-year full-time student may apply for an internship that will take place in the summer between first and second year, or during any subsequent semester.

In past semesters, interns from St. Mary's have been enthusiastic in their praise of the internship programs at these federal courts. The positions provide students with excellent opportunities for deepening their understanding of the federal courts, improving their writing skills, contributing to the administration of justice, and cultivating as potential references persons of importance in the federal

judiciary.

Addresses for Cover Letters

(Please do not send letters directly to the judges; they will return them to the Law School. Submit applications to the Receptionist on the second floor of the Raba Law Building.)

The Honorable David A. Ezra
United States District Court for the Western District of Texas
United States Courthouse, 262 W. Nueva St., San Antonio, TX 78207

The Honorable Xavier Rodriguez
United States District Court for the Western District of Texas
United States Courthouse, 262 W. Nueva St., San Antonio, TX 78207

The Honorable Jason K. Pulliam
United States District Court for the Western District of Texas
United States Courthouse, 262 W. Nueva St., San Antonio, TX 78207

The Honorable Henry Bemporad
United States Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the Western District of Texas
United States Courthouse, 262 W. Nueva St., San Antonio, TX 78207

The Honorable Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas
Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse
615 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205

In each case, the proper form of salutation is “Dear Judge _____” (*e.g.*, Dear Judge Ezra)