“Hofstra Law’s Externship Program took me from the world of academia into the real world. This program prepared me for the transition and also ensured that I would reflect and learn from each step of the journey. My experience in the Externship Program gave me insight into the judicial system and has better prepared me for my legal career.”

— Matthew McDonagh, Class of 2014
“Whether our graduates choose to provide legal counsel at a transnational level, run a business in the global marketplace, set policy, seek justice or offer legal services to local communities, Hofstra Law courses prepare them to meet any challenge and follow any path.”

— Interim Dean Eric Lane
The Externship Program at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University offers our students the opportunity to gain direct experience in a variety of legal fields under the direct supervision of experienced practitioners. It is a critical component of the experiential education that we offer for all of our students at Hofstra Law. It also contributes to our overall mission to prepare, challenge and inspire our students to make a difference in the world.

In collaboration with our externship faculty, the field placement supervisor plays a fundamental role in our students’ educational experience. Field placement supervisors shape our students’ understanding of the professional responsibilities that come with the representation of clients, legislative and policy formation, and judicial decision-making. They provide critical feedback on written and oral work product and encourage students to reflect broadly on what it means to be an effective, ethical lawyer. In short, field placement supervisors bring to life what our students are learning in the classroom.

The role of professional mentor for our students can be a profoundly rewarding experience for the field placement supervisor, as it offers an opportunity to contribute to the development of the next generation of lawyers. In addition, it can bring new insights into one’s own practice and sense of professional responsibility.

Thank you for your involvement in our program!

Jennifer A. Gundlach
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Experiential Education and Clinical Professor of Law

"The externship program has been the most fruitful aspect of my Hofstra Law career thus far. In addition to providing me the opportunity at an amazing company, Chanel, Inc., it has allowed me to confirm the area of law I want to practice and provided invaluable experience for my future career. Moreover, the academic component of the course allows students to learn from each other by sharing insight into how to deal with various issues that may arise in the workplace."
— Shoel Khodai, Class of 2013
Eligible Field Placements

“Global Experiences not only placed me in a personally ideal legal internship position, but allowed me to embark on a truly life-changing experience. I have developed many practical legal skills and relationships, and have grown as an adult as well as an individual from this unique opportunity.”
— Christopher Muniz, Class of 2014

Generally, field placements are limited to government agencies, public interest or not-for-profit institutions, and corporate in-house law departments. Students’ work must be supervised by licensed attorneys.

Potential field placements with law firms are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are generally guided by the following criteria:

- the quality of the legal experience to be provided by the proposed placement;
- the nature and quality of the proposed supervision of students;
- the likelihood that the proposed placement will satisfy the educational goals of Hofstra Law;
- the contribution of the proposed placement to the intellectual and professional development of students; and
- confirmation by the law firm that it will not bill to any client any of the time worked by students during the course of the externship.

In addition to U.S.-based field placements, the Global Legal Practice Externship Program allows students to work over the summer in international field placements for academic credit.

law.hofstra.edu/Externships
Your direct supervision of the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University students is a critical part of their legal and professional education. Students receive academic credit for their work as externs, and for this reason, we want them to engage in meaningful and demanding work and receive regular, honest and comprehensive feedback and supervision by field placement supervisors and other experienced legal practitioners.

We expect that students participating in Hofstra Law’s Externship Program will take part primarily in the substantive legal work performed by your office, as opposed to focusing on ministerial or administrative work. We also expect that the work provided to our students will be that which might typically be handled by a lawyer, is intellectually challenging and will aid in their growth and development as future attorneys.

An effective field placement provides students with the following educational experiences:

- opportunities to increase knowledge of substantive areas of the law;
- observation and reflection about legal practice, professionalism, professional goals and the lawyering role;
- exposure to the history, goals, structure, values, rules and responsibilities of the legal profession;
- opportunities to engage in legal analysis and research;
- development and practice of professional judgment in the context of solving legal problems;
- drafting predictive, persuasive and/or dispositional legal writing;
- development of other professional skills relevant to the field, such as factual investigation, client interviewing and counseling, negotiation, drafting, oral advocacy, organization and management, and recognizing and resolving ethical dilemmas; and
- building a professional network of lawyers, judges and non-lawyers for future professional development.

At the end of the placement term, field placement supervisors provide a description and assessment of students’ educational experiences.

A survey of tri-state law firms conducted by the Hanover Research Council revealed that, compared to graduates from other law schools, Hofstra Law graduates received an overall higher rating in a majority of competencies, including business knowledge, communication skills, advocacy skills and general workplace skills.
“Interning for Judge Sullivan has benefited me exponentially. The internship has given me the opportunity to participate in criminal trials and apply information I learned in my first-year courses to a real-life setting. The greatest benefit of the internship is the personal relationships I have built with judges, defense attorneys and district attorneys that I will be able to use in my future career.” — Courtney DeCicco, Class of 2014
In addition to supervision by attorneys in the field placement, students who participate in the Externship Program must attend a one-hour weekly seminar taught by a Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University faculty member. In the classroom component, students report generally on the work that they are doing, consider issues relating to supervision, professional responsibility and the lawyering role, and gain further exposure to the substantive law and legal skills relevant to the field. As part of the seminar, students are required to keep a reflective journal about their work in the field placements. You can expect the supervising faculty member or the director of the Externship Program to be in contact with you during the semester to ensure the continued quality of the experience, and you should feel free to reach out to them as well. They may also schedule a site visit.

Minimum Hours of Work by Students in Field Placement
- Fall / Spring Semesters: At least 12 hours per week over the 14-week semester.
- Summer Session: A total of 200 hours over eight weeks.

Writing Requirement
Students must produce a substantial amount of original writing involving legal research and analysis during their field placement:

- A minimum of 15 pages of written work based on legal research for government, public interest or not-for profit and corporate in-house placements.
- A minimum of 25 pages of written work based on legal research for judicial placements.
- A minimum of 20 pages of written work based on legal research for the Global Legal Practice placements.

The writing requirement may be satisfied by a single document or a series of smaller documents but cannot include the production of forms or pro forma/boilerplate motions. A student’s written work must be submitted to the supervising faculty member for review, with appropriate deletions and redactions to protect and preserve privileged or confidential information.

No Compensation
Students may not be compensated for work performed in connection with any for-credit field placement, other than reimbursement for travel expenses.

Eligible Students
Only those students who have completed a full year of study in law school can participate in the Externship Program.
Establishing a Field Placement

If you are interested in serving as a field placement supervisor during the fall semester, you should contact the Office of Career Services in early March, or for the spring semester, in early October. This will ensure ample time for the Office of Career Services to post the opportunity and for you to interview potential externs. Once you interview and select an extern, you must sign and return the Field Placement Supervisor Letter of Agreement to the director of the Externship Program. We also encourage you to participate in the Externship Fair, held each fall and spring at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. Please contact the Office of Career Services if you would like to do so.

Externship Program Faculty

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<tr>
<th>Civil Externship</th>
<th>LGBT Rights Externship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Silberfeld</td>
<td>Lauris Wren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Assistant Professor of Law</td>
<td>Clinical Professor of Law</td>
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<th>Criminal Externship and Prosecution Clinical Practicum</th>
<th>N.Y. Insurance Litigation Externship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Klein</td>
<td>Michael D. Jaffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Assistant Professor of Law</td>
<td>Special Professor of Law</td>
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<th>Domestic Violence Externship</th>
<th>Patent Practice Externship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara S. Barron</td>
<td>Gerard A. Messina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor of Skills and Director, Trial Techniques Program</td>
<td>Special Professor of Law</td>
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<th>Judicial Externship and Matrimonial Externship</th>
<th>Summer Externship</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Honorable Edmund Dane</td>
<td>Rita Sethi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Professor of Law Supervising Judge, Nassau County Family Court</td>
<td>Special Professor of Law</td>
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Contact Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vernadette Horne</th>
<th>Franca Sachs</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Director of Pro Bono, Externship and Fellowship Programs</td>
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“The value of the externship is reciprocal; law students gain not only an understanding of substantive areas of the law, but also insight into what is exciting to them in the legal profession. Our office gains much-needed research and writing assistance as well as enhancement of its well-established practices of case management. The externs bring ‘modern’ philosophies and skills and apply them in a respectful and efficient manner to long-standing practices. At the same time, the deputy county attorneys offer observation opportunities as well as drafting experience. Both skills are pivotal to turning law students into law school graduates able to effectively participate in the legal profession.”

— Martha Krisel, Field Placement Supervisor, Chief Deputy County Attorney for Special Projects, Office of the Nassau County Attorney