



Law Student Opportunities

Civil Law Division

Business Litigation Section

Los Angeles/San Diego

The Business Litigation Section of the Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice, represents state tax and business regulatory agencies in all phases of civil litigation and administrative mandamus proceedings in state and federal trial courts, including discovery, pretrial motions, and trials, and handles appeals from trial-court judgments. Deputies also represent client agencies in bankruptcy matters, such as claim disputes, plan objections and adversary proceedings. The Section represents state agencies responsible for collecting or assessing taxes, including the Franchise Tax Board, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and State Board of Equalization. The Business Litigation Section also represents various business, regulatory, and trade-industry agencies such as the Department of Insurance and Department of Real Estate. Attorneys in the section primarily litigate civil matters in state and federal trial and appellate courts throughout California, and occasionally in other states. Many cases in the section involve significant, sophisticated constitutional and statutory interpretation, millions of dollars of state revenue, as well as multi-jurisdictional procedural issues that often present complex questions of first impression and result in published opinions.

The Business Litigation Section in Los Angeles and San Diego accepts 2-3 law-student interns per semester (spring/summer/fall) for unpaid internships. Interns must be students in good standing at an accredited law school, or law-school graduates awaiting bar results. Interns are expected to work a minimum of 20 hours per week and typically work 40 hours during the summer. The internship-selection process includes an interview as well as criminal background check. Interns are selected based upon: relevant experience and courses; writing ability; and maturity and readiness to work in a complex litigation environment. Strong legal analysis and writing skills are essential.

Every attempt is made to give interns experience and work that suits their interests and abilities. Interns' assignments may include preparation of written work product including pleadings, motions, discovery requests and responses, and memoranda; attendance at court appearances, oral arguments, settlement conferences, mediations, or other meetings; interaction with attorneys, clients, opponents, witnesses, and court personnel; evaluation of evidence; development of case theory and litigation strategy; and in-depth study of areas of law in which the section specializes.

Further, interns have many opportunities to explore diverse career paths and build connections with attorneys and other law students, including:

- Assignments from Deputy Attorneys General in the Business Litigation Section, located in offices throughout the state.
- Weekly meetings with fellow interns and the internship coordinators to discuss assignments, law school, employment prospects, and career preparation and development.
- Meetings with attorneys of various backgrounds and former Business Litigation Section interns, who speak about their own law-school and career paths, share insights about their experiences, and answer questions about the challenges and rewards of various career and internship opportunities.
- Pairing with an attorney mentor, with whom each intern can also discuss assignments, school, and career.
- Access to legal training on issues important to government attorneys and litigators.
- In summer, Department-wide internship programming, which has included legal training and presentations from Deputy Attorneys General in various sections, the attorneys who lead sections or divisions with the Department, and members of the judiciary.

Applications for internship positions are accepted on a rolling basis. Note, however, that by applying near the beginning of the internship term, the applicant risks the likelihood that all positions for that semester have been filled.

Given the success of our virtual internship program during the pandemic, we will continue to consider applicants seeking to participate remotely.

How to Apply:

An application package should consist of the following: (1) cover letter; (2) resume; (3) one or more writing samples; and (4) unofficial law school transcript. The cover letter should include reasons the applicant wishes to be an intern for the Business Litigation Section, current contact information, and any other information relevant to the application.

Email the application package to the below e-mail addresses (preferred). Or mail the application package to the following address:

Charles Tsai, Deputy Attorney General
Kara Siegel, Deputy Attorney General
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