

VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

***Are you seeking client contact and an opportunity to develop your legal skills?
Are you a self-starter interested in gaining exposure to a variety of substantive
issues ranging from criminal law and housing to administrative law?***

If the answer to these questions is yes, you should consider applying for a summer externship with the UCLA School of Law Veterans Legal Clinic. Through this externship, you will gain, among other things:

- client interviewing and counseling skills (trauma-informed);
- opportunities to develop your legal research and writing skills in connection with briefs and motions to be filed in LA Superior Court and/or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
- an understanding of how to engage in effective fact investigation;
- oral and written advocacy skills for (a) dismissal or mitigation of traffic citations in LA Superior Traffic Court and (b) retaining or obtaining disability benefits before administrative agencies;
- exposure and practice with effective (legal) storytelling; and
- for those with the requisite completed coursework, an opportunity to be a certified law student.

Externs will be expected to work at the clinic office on the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs campus Monday – Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. (Click [here](#) for a map to the clinic office.) The summer program is expected to start May 28 and will run until August 2; however, there is flexibility provided that each extern works no less than 9 weeks. Experience working with veterans or prior knowledge of the substantive issues noted above is not required.

Candidates must possess the following:

- strong written and oral communication skills (including demonstrating an attention to details);
- comfort working with individuals who may suffer from emotional and/or physical handicaps;
- ability to commute throughout Los Angeles County;
- exceptional ability to prioritize numerous tasks and complete them under time constraints;
- good interpersonal skills;
- ability to work well as part of a team, but also work independently with minimal supervision; and
- strong organizational and time management skills.

Any candidates who are (or are seeking to become) Certified Law Students under Rule 9.42 of the California Rules of Court, also must meet the requirements for certification and complete the necessary paperwork upon acceptance. (See <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Special-Admissions/Practical-Training-of-Law-Students>)

Credit may be available through your law school's externship program. You should consult with your externship coordinator to confirm. Funding is also available through the AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps program. See the following for details: <https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/law-students/part-time-summer/vlc/>.

To apply, submit your resume, cover letter and transcript to either your law school's externship coordinator (if required for externship credit) or directly to Prof. Watts at watts@law.ucla.edu.