



Applications

Applications for the 2026 JIA are due by **March 27, 2026**. The application must include:

- Resume;
- Legal writing sample no more than 10 pages;
- Law school grades; and
- Cover letter explaining why you are a good candidate for the Judicial Intern Academy.

Applications should be submitted to your local FBA Chapter JIA Committee Chair. An informal interview may be required; final decisions will be made by **April 17, 2026**.

Participating chapters can be found here: <https://www.fedbar.org/judicialintern-academy/>

Contact Us

Should you have questions, please contact **Tal Aburos**, National Chair of the Judicial Intern Academy at tal.aburos@us.dlapiper.com.



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2026



Judicial Intern Academy

Internship Highlights:

- Pairing with a former federal judicial law clerk as mentor
- Drafting a substantive written work product based on a real case pending in federal court.
- Observing state and federal court proceedings
- Accessing diverse array of curated programs, locally and nationally, such as:
 - “Conversations with the Court”
 - “Learning from the Legends”
 - Panels on various topics

If you are an incoming second year law student, you now have greater flexibility with your summer by applying for a 20-hour per week judicial internship that works with your other commitments, while providing the opportunity to learn about the court system, meet members of the bench and bar, practice your oral advocacy skills and refine your research, analytical, and writing skills.

Pen Your Path:
Hone Your Legal Voice in the Judicial Intern Academy



Law Clerk Advisors

Each intern will be paired with a former federal judicial law clerk who has agreed to serve as the intern's advisor throughout the summer. Law Clerk Advisors (LCAs) volunteer their time and expertise to work directly with the intern and agree to mentor students in developing their research, analytical, and writing skills.

The interns will be assigned a writing and oral advocacy project based on a real case filed in a United States District Court. The intern will prepare a bench memorandum and may have an opportunity to argue the issues at a mock hearing. The intern will be expected to meet with the assigned LCA each week to discuss the

assignment, review research, and address the proper legal analysis to develop recommendations to the Court and produce a writing sample for future use.

The LCAs are intended to provide better context to the programming and serve as a resource to the intern, similar to the experience shared by other full-time summer interns who work at the courthouse with the judge's law clerks in chambers.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Judicial Intern Academy?
The Judicial Intern Academy (JIA) is a summer judicial internship intended to provide an opportunity for any incoming second-year law student who is not able to devote the summer to a full-time, 40-hour per week judicial internship. Each student will be paired with a former federal judicial law clerk. The ideal candidate has initiative and recognizes the invaluable opportunities the JIA offers – to learn about the judicial system; to network with other students, prominent lawyers in the community, and state and federal court judges; to develop a relationship with a former federal judicial law clerk who serves

as a mentor throughout the student's career; and to produce a high-quality writing sample for use during the on-campus interview period or other job opportunities.

What is the time commitment? *The JIA requires a commitment of 20 hours per week over the course of 8 weeks: **June 8 – July 31, 2026.** The programming will vary each week and will include sessions (remote and, for some interns, in-person) of **Learning from the Legends and Conversations with the Court**, in addition to opportunities to observe proceedings in federal and state court. A main component of the JIA is the pairing with a former federal judicial law clerk who will serve as a Law Clerk Advisor (LCA). The intern is expected to work directly with the LCA to research, analyze, and draft a bench recommendation.*



If I have a part time job, am I eligible?

Yes. However, the student should keep in mind that in order to take full advantage of the opportunities offered, JIA participants must be able to devote approximately 20 hours per week to attend programming and to work on the research and writing assignment.

Will I get academic or pro bono credit? Academic or pro bono credit may be available through your law school. If you are interested in obtaining academic or pro bono credit for participating in JIA, please check your law school's requirements.

Is the writing portion optional? Nothing in the Academy is mandatory. However, if you are not intending to take full advantage of the JIA and opportunities offered, then the JIA may not be the right option for you.

Is the Academy in person or remote? The JIA is designed to be a hybrid program. Some of the components, such as the **Learning from the Legends** and **Conversations with the Court**, will be offered remotely via Zoom and will depend on the location of the intern. Some programs may be held in person. Whether the meetings with the LCAs occur remotely or in person will be

determined by the LCAs and their assigned intern.

How does the Academy differ from a traditional judicial internship?

The interns will not be working in a particular judge's chambers throughout the summer, which is how the judicial internships generally work. Instead, the interns are interns of local Chapters of the Federal Bar Association, will participate in the scheduled programming (either remotely or in person), and receive the guidance and expertise from his/her LCA.

We were told that we must accept a judicial internship when offered one – is this the same?

No. This program has more flexibility because it is intended to serve those who may have applied for a judicial internship but were not selected, or those who are unable to commit to a full-time judicial internship during the summer.

However, if you can no longer participate in the program, we kindly request that you withdraw your application from consideration given that space is limited.

What are the 2024 JIA dates? The Academy is an 8-week internship during the summer, from June 8 - July 31, 2026.



What will the meetings consist of with my Law Clerk Advisor?

The student and the LCA can organize their preferred meeting method, but the meetings should allow you to ask questions, develop a relationship, and discuss your legal research, writing assignment, and prepare for oral argument.

If I receive an offer for a paid position after acceptance into the JIA, am I able to withdraw?

Yes. It is also permissible for a student to intern through the Judicial Intern Academy and be employed somewhere else if his/her employer allows the flexibility to attend the JIA's programs.

Which judges will participate in the JIA?

Specific state and federal judge participation in the programming varies from summer to summer, and location by location.

How can I best prepare for the JIA between now and the summer?

Suggestions include general research about the federal and state courts in your applicable jurisdiction and maintaining a willingness to learn. The JIA objectives are to educate, enhance your legal research and writing skills, and to better prepare the intern for future legal-related

positions. Once the student is paired with a LCA, the student is encouraged to contact and meet with the LCA before the internship commences.

