

Law 696.xx: Corporate Counsel Externship (the “Externship”)

Clinical Applications for 2024 Fall Semester

Overview of Clinical Program with the Corporate Counsel Externship

Those who practice as in-house counsel know that their practice is unlike that of lawyers at a typical law firm.

While the exact role of in-house counsel varies depending on the needs of the company, it is safe to say counsel often advises in areas beyond strictly legal matters. Earning the trust of the business units, providing legal advice that is practical, and running a legal department well, are hallmarks of valued in-house counsel.

The University of Calgary Faculty of Law is pleased to pilot its own Clinical Program with the Corporate Counsel Externship (the “**Externship**”).

The Externship places an upper year JD student in the legal department of a participating company for 10 hours per week over 11 weeks in a semester (110 hours total) for course credit. An in-house lawyer from the participating company (the “**Supervisor**”) delegates appropriate tasks for the student and supervises them on the practice of law and professional conduct, as well as provides feedback to the program director (the “**Course Instructor**”) to help evaluate student on a pass/fail basis.

The Externship is run by the Course Instructor who will:

- provide the academic and reflective portion of the Externship via in-class sessions at the beginning and end of the Externship;
- task students throughout the Externship to provide written reflections of their experience; and
- be in regular contact with participating lawyers and students to discuss student’s performance and support the lawyer’s efforts in the Externship.

This Externship is a 3 credit program, and will be graded on a CR/D/F basis. The number of students that will be selected for the semester is based on number of participating companies, but in no event will be more than ten for one semester.

The students who complete this Clinical Program will:

- Learn directly from experienced in-house counsel in a supervised educational environment;

- Apply theoretical concepts learned in the classroom to practical legal and business matters in a particular industry;
- Develop a deeper understanding of professional ethics and responsibility in practice;
- Observe how legal functions run within a company;
- Be able to differentiate how in-house counsel practice varies from typical law firm practice (including the advantages and disadvantage); and
- Understand the legal and non-legal functions of an in-house counsel.

The work assigned by the Supervisor may include:

- Preparing and delivering a training presentation to business units on a relevant legal subject matter;
- Preparing a research memo on a relevant legal subject matter;
- Updating template agreements;
- Shadowing the Supervisor in internal and external meetings;
- Updating contracts and precedents repository; and
- Researching legal technology solutions to enhance legal department efficiency.

Requirements:

- Students must be enrolled in 2L or 3L at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law;
- Students must have an interest corporate or in-house counsel work;
- The selected students must be available to attend the two half-day classroom sessions in the timetable listed below;
- The selected students must agree to maintain confidentiality of all non-public information to which access is provided while at the Externship; and
- The selected students will be required to spend 10 hours per week over the 11 weeks of the Externship with the participating company. The Supervisor and student will mutually agree on when those hours will take place over the week. The portion of student time completed in office/virtually is at the discretion of the Supervisor.

Recommendations:

- Students are encouraged to have taken or be taking Business Associations at the time of the Externship participation.

Application Process:

Students interested in this Clinical Program with the Externship should submit an application package consisting of the following:

- Statement of Interest (not to exceed one page);
- Resume; and
- U of C Law school transcript.

Submit your application documents, **combined as one PDF document**, to Angela Gallo-Dewar: agallode@ucalgary.ca by **noon on Monday, June 17, 2024**. Applications will be shared with the Course Instructor and candidates will be selected and matched with participating companies by the Course Instructor.

Timetable for 2024 Fall Semester

Date	Description
Tuesday September 3, 2024	First day of Fall Semester class
Friday September 6, 2024	3-4 hour classroom session, time to be determined
Monday September 9, 2024	Week 1 of Externship
Monday September 16, 2024	Week 2 of Externship
Monday September 23, 2024	Week 3 of Externship
Monday September 30, 2024	Week 4 of Externship – first journal reflection due September 30
Monday October 7, 2024	Week 5 of Externship
Monday October 14, 2024	Week 6 of Externship
Monday October 21, 2024	Week 7 of Externship – second journal reflection due October 21
Monday October 28, 2024	Week 8 of Externship
Monday November 4, 2024	Week 9 of Externship

Monday November 11, 2024	No Externship this week – Reading Week
Monday November 18, 2024	Week 10 of Externship
Monday November 25, 2024	Week 11 of Externship – Last Week of Externship
Friday November 29, 2024	3-4 hour classroom session, time to be determined; final presentations