

CRIMINAL PLACEMENTS (Updated 4/9/09)

1. **Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney's Office**
L. Dennis Collins, Esquire (Adult)
Senior Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
P.O. Box 25
Chesterfield, VA 23832
Telephone: (804) 751-4924

J. David Rigler, Esquire (Juvenile)
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
P.O. Box 25
Chesterfield, VA 23832
Telephone: (804) 748-1341
2. **Hanover Commonwealth's Attorney's Office**
Shannon O. Hoehl, Esquire
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
General District Courts Building
P.O. Box 470
Hanover, VA 23069-0470
Telephone: (804) 365-6184
3. **Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney's Office**
Heidi S. Barshinger, Esquire
Assistant Commonwealth Attorney
P.O. Box 27032
Richmond, VA 23273
Telephone: (804) 501-4218
4. **Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's Office**
Elizabeth A. Hobbs, Esquire
Supervising Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney
John Marshall Courts Building (Northside)
400 North Ninth Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 646-3500

Mary E. Langer, Esquire
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
Oliver Hill Courts Building (Juvenile Section)
1600 North 17th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 646-2950
5. **United States Attorney's Office**
Stephen W. Miller, Esquire
United States Department of Justice, Eastern District of Virginia
Suite 1800, Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 819-5400

6. **Office of the Appellate Defender**
Joseph Sadighian, Esquire
Special Appellate Counsel
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 1001
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 225-3598 Ext. 103

7. **Office of the Capital Defender**
David P. Baugh, Esquire
Central Virginia Region
701 East Franklin Street
Suite 700
Richmond, VA 23219-2512
Telephone: (804) 225-3003

8. **Office of the Federal Public Defender**
Robert J. Wagner, Esquire
Supervising Assistant Federal Public Defender
Eastern District of Virginia
830 East Main Street, Suite 1100
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 343-0800

9. **Richmond Public Defender's Office**
Sara M. Gaborik, Esquire (Adult)
Deputy Public Defender
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 600
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 225-4330

TBA (Juvenile)
Supervising Assistant Public Defender
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 600
Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: (804) 646-2958

Criminal Placements

All students must have a third year practice license, except students in the Office of the Capital Defender. Criminal Procedure is also essential for criminal placements. Students who have not completed the course may be considered for the placements if they are taking the course as a corequisite, but it is far preferable to have completed the course before electing any criminal law placement.

Morning hours are very active in all criminal courts and students need to be available for a substantial number of morning hours in order to gain the maximum benefit from the criminal law placements.

Students in these placements will have the greatest opportunity of any externship students to appear in court and try cases. The placements are demanding in terms of time commitment, skills requirements and willingness to take independent initiative in the placement.

Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
P.O. Box 25
Chesterfield, VA 23832
(804) 751-4924 (Mr. Collins)
(804) 748-1341 (Mr. Rigler)

Field Instructors:

L. Dennis Collins, Esquire (Adult)
Senior Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney

J. David Rigler, Esquire (Juvenile)
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney

Program Description:

The Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney's Main Office is located in the County Courthouse, at 9500 Courthouse Road in Chesterfield County. William ("Billy") W. Davenport has been the Commonwealth's Attorney since January, 1988. There are a total of 22 attorneys on staff including the Commonwealth's Attorney (6 assigned to Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, 15 assigned to General District Court and Circuit Court, and 1 assigned to Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Grand Jury).

Placement Description:

Students who work with this office will have the opportunity to work in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations, General District, and Circuit Courts. The emphasis is on obtaining practical trial experience under the supervision of experienced attorneys. Students will have the opportunity to work with numerous attorneys to see how each has developed his or her own particular style, which will aid students in developing their own style.

Students are initially familiarized with the dockets. They are then allowed to try cases in the District Courts, and, as they progress, in the Circuit Courts. Many students have progressed to the point of actually trying one or more jury trials.

Students will also be responsible for memoranda, briefs in opposition to petition for appeals, as well as general legal research, file preparation, and interviewing witnesses.

Additionally, students are encouraged to ride with a police officer on a DUI patrol along Jefferson Davis Highway. Students will also be able to visit the State Lab with one of the drug prosecutor specialists.

Parking Provided.

**Hanover Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
General District Courts Building
P.O. Box 470
Hanover, Virginia 23069-0470
(804) 365-6184**

Field Instructor:

Shannon O. Hoehl, Esquire
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney

Program Description:

Seven attorneys are employed in the Hanover County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. All are involved in the prosecution of felonies and misdemeanors in the circuit court, general district court, and juvenile and domestic relations district court. Such prosecutions require conferences with police officers and defense attorneys, the interviewing of victims and other witnesses, courtroom appearances and the filing of memoranda and briefs.

The attorneys are assisted by an administrative staff of six and two victim/witness coordinators.

Placement Description:

This clinical placement will provide the law student who meets the requirements of Virginia's Third Year Student Practice Rule with the opportunity to prosecute a significant number of cases in various courts.

Following an orientation period, it is anticipated that the student will become actively involved in the prosecution of cases in the general district court, and the juvenile and domestic relations district court. This responsibility will compel the student to interview witnesses, conduct conferences with defense attorneys, and identify issues which require legal research.

Depending on the progress of the student, the opportunity exists to prosecute cases in the circuit court, including preparing for and participating in jury trials.

In all courtroom proceedings, the student will be closely supervised by a staff attorney who will be readily available to answer any questions the student might have and to give appropriate direction.

Parking Provided.

Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
P.O. Box 27032
Richmond, VA 23273
(804) 501-4218

Field Instructor:

Heidi S. Barshinger, Esquire
Assistant Commonwealth Attorney

Program Description:

The Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has 22 full-time & 2 part time prosecutors and 18 support staff personnel, including an assigned police investigator. The Office also includes the Victim/Witness Program for Henrico County, which is staffed by a Director, 8 permanent staff persons and several volunteer workers. In addition, this Office provides the Special Prosecutor and a full-time staff person for the multi-jurisdiction Drug Task Force serving Henrico County, Hanover County, the City of Richmond and Chesterfield County.

The Office is responsible for the prosecution of all misdemeanor and felony charges that occur in Henrico County. The prosecutors appear in twelve courts, including four Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts, four General District Courts and four Circuit Courts. They also advise Henrico County Police and private businesses and private citizens, concerning investigations which may lead to criminal charges.

Placement Description:

The student will be assigned to a supervising prosecutor who will coordinate the student's daily activities, which may include occasional assignments from other prosecutors in the office.

The supervising prosecutor will assist the student in acquiring a working knowledge of Virginia's criminal justice system. The student will learn about Virginia's court system, Virginia criminal law and procedure, applicable state and federal constitutional provisions, and relevant sections of the Virginia Code of Professional Responsibility. In addition, the supervising prosecutor will encourage the student to examine the many social and ethical issues which arise in criminal cases.

The student needs to have an interest in criminal trial work and should have completed Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Constitutional Law. Experience with Moot Court, trial tactics, interviewing, counseling, and negotiations would also be beneficial.

Absolute confidentiality about cases is required. Students must also conduct themselves with the highest degree of professionalism in interacting with persons who have contact with the office. Because of the docket schedule in the Henrico Court, the student must be available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The student will be required to observe and participate in a number of criminal trials at all court levels. Qualified students who demonstrate the required proficiency may also have the opportunity to try their own cases. The student will also be expected to observe and participate in the following activities:

- Interviewing and preparing witnesses for their court appearances
- Advising and assisting law enforcement officers in various criminal investigations

- Researching various legal issues and preparing legal memoranda and/or briefs for the Circuit Court, the Court of Appeals and the Virginia Supreme Court
- Preparing pre-trial motions and answers, trial exhibits, jury instructions, etc.
- Consulting and negotiating with criminal defense attorneys on various criminal cases; and
- Consulting with members of the public who have concerns related to criminal law for specific criminal cases.

All work will be done under the supervision of the assigned prosecutor pursuant to the applicable Third Year Practice Rules.

Students are also encouraged to schedule times when they can "ride along" with the Henrico Police; visit crime scenes with the police and some of the prosecutors; visit the Division of Consolidated Laboratories of Virginia to observe such forensic testing as drug analysis, ballistic testing, etc.; and visit the Office of the Medical Examiner to observe an autopsy.

The Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office provides an ideal opportunity for students who are interested in criminal law to expand their understanding of Virginia's criminal justice system beyond the classroom and to learn about criminal trial work in the "real world". Every effort is made to give students as many opportunities and as much individual responsibility as they are capable of handling.

Parking Provided.

**Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
John Marshall Courts Building (Northside)
400 North Ninth Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 646-3500**

**Oliver Hill Courts Building (Juvenile Section)
1600 North 17th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 646-2950**

Field Instructors:

Elizabeth A. Hobbs, Esquire

Supervising Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney (John Marshall; Northside)

Mary E. Langer, Esquire

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney (Oliver Hill; Juvenile Section)

Program Description:

Students are given a basic overview of the criminal justice system. During the course of the semester, the student should be able to develop a general knowledge of all criminal statutes. The student will need to develop a particular knowledge of the statutes dealt with most frequently by the supervising attorney.

Students prosecute a wide range of cases including traffic cases, misdemeanors, preliminary hearings and felonies. Every effort is made to have students participate in a jury trial. Students learn about witness preparation, evidentiary matters, grand juries, trial strategy and advocacy, and plea negotiation. The placements also afford students the opportunity to develop research and writing skills. Students work closely with law enforcement, attend planning meetings, assist with field investigations, and participate in a "ride along" with police.

It is a must that the student have an interest in criminal trial work and have a background in evidence, criminal law, criminal procedure, and constitutional law. Any experience with Moot Court and/or trial practice would also benefit the student. An interest in juvenile law is important for the student working in the Oliver Hill Court Buildings

John Marshall Courts Building: The student assigned to work at the John Marshall Courthouse will be assigned cases on both the General District Court misdemeanor docket and the Circuit Court criminal docket.

Oliver Hill Courts Building: The student assigned to the Oliver Hill Courts Building will handle both misdemeanors and felony cases involving both juveniles and adults. The student will assist the attorneys assigned to Juvenile Court with their cases, the majority of which will be in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court.

Note: Students should plan to devote at a minimum at least one full day and two mornings to the placement or two full days.

**United States Attorney's Office
United States Department of Justice
Eastern District of Virginia
Suite 1800, Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 819-5400**

Field Instructor:

Stephen W. Miller, Esquire

Program Description:

The Office of the United States Attorney is a component of the United States Department of Justice. The Richmond office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia employs twenty-five attorneys who perform a wide range of legal services on behalf of the federal government and its numerous agencies. The primary mission of the office is to enforce the nation's federal criminal laws. Accordingly, the attorneys who are engaged in this function work closely with federal law enforcement agencies to establish prosecutorial priorities and investigate violations of federal criminal laws. When prosecutions are authorized, the attorney assigned to the case is responsible for drafting and presenting criminal charges, conducting plea negotiations with defense counsel, representing the United States at all court proceedings, including trials and appeals, and preparing all jury instructions, briefs, and other legal documents that may be necessary.

Placement Description:

Clinical students will spend a significant portion of their time researching legal issues and writing drafts of legal pleadings, as well as assisting in the investigation of, and supporting the prosecution of, a variety of felony cases. Students may also have an opportunity to appear before the Magistrate's Court, the District Court and Court of Appeals on matters that are within the range of their experience and ability.

The primary benefit offered by a clinical placement in the Office of the United States is the opportunity it provides students to share in the functioning of a busy litigation practice. Through research and writing assignments, students are expected to learn to analyze legal issues, refine their research skills and improve their writing ability. Through the opportunities that may be afforded under the Third Year Practice Rule, students are also able to experience the rigors and rewards of representing a party in contested judicial proceedings.

Time Commitment:

Students may enroll in a clinical placement in the Office of the United States Attorney for either four, five, or six credit hours. Experience has shown that students are more likely to have a satisfactory and productive clinical experience if they are able to arrange their class schedule to allow the clinical hours requirement to be fulfilled in blocks of time no shorter than three hours in length. The student will need to be available on Tuesday mornings for Magistrate Court.

Prerequisite:

In order to qualify for this clinical program, students must meet the requirements of the District Court's Third Year Practice Rule. In relevant part, this Rule requires that the students have completed at least four semester hours of law school and be certified by the dean as being of good character and competent legal ability.

Note: The United States Department of Justice only permits United States citizens to serve as interns. Students will be required to undergo a background check, which includes a criminal records and credit check. A copy of a birth certificate or passport is required. Students will also be fingerprinted. The University of Richmond campus police will perform this service at no charge. The type of information required may be found on the Office of Personnel Management's website, www.gsa.gov. See standard form 85. Please see the Director of the CPP for additional details.

Office of the Appellate Defender
701 East Franklin Street
Suite 1001
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 225-3598 Ext. 103

Field Instructor:

Joseph Sadighian, Esquire
Special Appellate Counsel

Other Instructors

S. Jane Chittom, Appellate Defender

Program Description:

Public defenders in Virginia provide criminal defense for indigent clients in state courts only by appointment from the courts. Public Defender offices are state agencies overseen by a state-wide Board of Directors, members of which are appointed by the state legislature. The system is administered by a full-time Executive Director. The Office of the Appellate Defender is the office established by the Virginia Public Defender Commission (now the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission) with the sole purpose of representing indigent persons on appeal. The office has three full-time attorneys, two part-time attorneys, and one office manager.

The OAD becomes involved in a case after an indigent defendant has been convicted and has indicated his desire to pursue an appeal. Cases come to this office by way of referrals from local public defender officers throughout the Commonwealth. The OAD researches and drafts arguments for petitions and briefs to the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of Virginia and engages in motions practice as needed. This office is also responsible for oral arguments before both Courts.

Placement Description:

An intern will assist in researching and drafting court documents, including petitions for appeal and appellant's briefs. The placement will offer opportunities to attend and, for qualified students, participate in oral arguments. An intern will improve his or her research and writing skills through the preparation of motions and memoranda of law. An intern will actively participate in collaborative oral argument preparatory sessions.

Through preparing to draft appellate documents, an intern will not only expand his or her knowledge of criminal and constitutional law, but will also strengthen his or her ability to critically examine evidence in a case. Under the direction of the supervising attorney, an intern will review records and peruse transcripts for legal error. An intern may also assist with client communications.

This internship is an opportunity for a bright and motivated student to learn how to be an effective appellate advocate. Though the cases handled by this office are exclusively criminal, the skills involved translate to all areas of appellate practice.

Prerequisites and Recommended Courses:

Students who seek this internship should be skilled at legal research and writing.

The following courses are strongly recommended: Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

**Office of the Capital Defender
Central Virginia Region
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 700
Richmond, VA 23219-2512
(804) 225-3003**

Field Instructor:

David P. Baugh, Esquire

Other Instructors

Taylor George, Sr. Asst. Capital Defender

Catherine French, Asst. Capital Defender (eff. 08/06)

Program Description:

The Office of the Capital Defender in Central Virginia is one of four (4) state-wide offices established by the Virginia Public Defender Commission (now the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission) with the sole purpose of defending at trial indigent persons charged with offenses for which they may receive the death penalty. The Central Virginia office covers 43 separate jurisdictions, including the Richmond Metro area as well as Charlottesville, Petersburg, Lynchburg and Bedford.

Placement Description:

Interns will assist in the preparation and trial of death penalty cases throughout Central Virginia and observe experienced trial attorneys who specialize in capital litigation. The placement will offer opportunities to attend trial and pre-trial proceedings for the most important and significant cases throughout the state. The intern will hone research and writing skills through the preparation of motions and memoranda of law, and they will also participate in pretrial strategy meetings with counsel and investigators to help formulate both factual and legal strategies to prevent the conviction and execution of clients.

Students will also learn about fact investigation. Under the direction of the supervising attorney, the intern will accompany the staff investigator on investigations. The intern can also assist the staff mitigation specialist who develops mitigation issues to help provide compelling reasons for a jury not to sentence a client to death. The intern may also have client contact as well as contact with family and witnesses throughout the proceedings.

This internship is an opportunity for an enthusiastic student to learn trial skills during the most complicated and important of criminal trials and to observe some of the most skilled criminal trial lawyers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. An intern assigned to this office must be willing to dedicate him or herself to providing the highest quality of work in an efficient manner.

Prerequisites and Recommended Courses:

Students who seek this internship should be skilled at legal research and writing.

The following courses are recommended: Criminal Procedure, Trial Practice, and Evidence.

Note: Although priority will be given to third year students in assigning this placement, second year students will be considered.

**Office of the Federal Public Defender
Eastern District of Virginia
830 East Main Street, Suite 1100
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 343-0800**

Field Instructors:

Robert J. Wagner, Esquire
Supervising Assistant Federal Public Defender

Program Description:

Richmond's Federal Public Defenders provide criminal defense for indigents in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, by appointment from the Court. There are six attorneys in the office: Robert J. Wagner, Amy L. Austin, Paul G. Gill, Mary E. Maguire, Charles D. Lewis and Gerald T. Zerkin work in the office. Federal Public Defender offices located in Richmond, Alexandria, and Norfolk are agencies of the United States Courts.

Placement Description:

Students working in the Federal Public Defender's Office will have an opportunity to observe first-hand the federal criminal justice process. Students will accompany attorneys to the United States District Court, and will have an opportunity to participate in client interviews and engage in investigations. If approved by the client, students will have an opportunity to defend clients in Magistrate's court under the supervision of an Assistant Federal Public Defender and possibly argue motions in United States District Court. Students will be most involved in case preparation, research and investigation rather than actually trying cases.

An overall exposure to the federal judiciary system will prove invaluable to the students upon completion of law school. Students should expect to learn to conduct comprehensive assessments of a client's situation. They will gain familiarity with a wide array of federal statutes and valuable experience in the application of federal sentencing guidelines. Exposure to the procedures of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals will broaden the students' experience with the federal system. An intern in The Office of the Federal Public Defender can also expect an opportunity to observe negotiations with The Office of the United States Attorney and participate in the various stages of trial strategy and preparation. The experience will include an exciting environment, the opportunity to work with dedicated professionals and a broad range of opportunities.

Richmond Public Defender's Office
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 600
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 225-4330, ext. 131 (Adult)
(804) 646-2958 (Juvenile)

Field Instructors:

Sara M. Gaborik, Esquire (Adult)
Deputy Public Defender

TBA (Juvenile)
Supervising Assistant Public Defender

Program Description:

Virginia Public Defenders provide criminal defense for indigents in state courts by appointment from the courts. Public Defender offices in Virginia are state agencies overseen by a state-wide Board of Directors, members of which are appointed by the state legislature. The system is administered by a full-time Executive Director.

The Richmond Public Defender's Office has been serving the public since July 1, 1986. With a current staff of 27 attorneys, 4 investigators, 6 secretaries, 1 sentencing specialist - adult, 1 sentencing specialist – juvenile, and 1 office administrator it is the largest of the state's fourteen Public Defender offices and defends the most serious caseloads. Richmond Assistant Public Defenders have defended every type of case from reckless driving up to, and including, murder.

Placement Description:

Students working in the Public Defender's Office will have an opportunity to observe first-hand the entire criminal justice process. There are two placements available. In one placement, the student will work exclusively with adult defendants. Cases are generally heard in the John Marshall Courts Building. The students will accompany the attorney to general district court and circuit court. The second placement is with the office's Juvenile Division. Students will represent both juvenile and adult defendants. The cases assigned the Juvenile Public Defender's Office tend to be particularly serious in nature. Charges against juveniles include drug distribution, robbery, and breaking and entering. Students working in the Juvenile Division will also have an opportunity to work on cases appealed or transferred to circuit court. Students in both the adult and juvenile placements will have an opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities. They will observe and participate in the interviewing and counseling of clients, fact investigations, and negotiations with prosecutors. They may also have an opportunity to defend clients in court under the supervision a Public Defender. As individual personal liberties are at stake in these trials, the defendant must agree to be defended by the student; therefore, students will typically not get as much third year practice experience as their counterparts in prosecutorial placements. Students will, however, develop a familiarity and comfort level with courtroom advocacy which will be of enormous benefit upon completion of law school. In addition, students will have an opportunity to gain research and writing experience.

Parking Provided: At Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court only, not at main office.