

# BRIDGE Externship Program – Fall 2023

*Fall 2023 Bridge Externship Program* is a 4-credit-hour Pass/Fail program which enables 2L and 3L students from communities underrepresented in the legal profession to extern in a wide variety of legal practice areas and gain exposure to and mentoring in an area of law while earning pay for their externships.

***Monday, August 21, 2023 - Friday, December 1, 2023:***

The program consists of two separate components:

- Fieldwork: During the fall semester, students must work **15 hours** a week at their fieldwork placement, either in-person or remotely, for a minimum total of **210 hours**. In addition, externs maintain weekly activity and time reports as well as journals based on their fieldwork experience. We ask that our sponsors commit to a **minimum of \$20/hour** for each extern. Sponsors will commit to a teaching function, to give students a framework in which to understand the daily tasks of the agency, firm, corporation, or organization. This framework will include opportunities for the student to accompany the sponsor on representative matters such as client conferences, firm/agency meetings, negotiations, arbitrations, depositions, court appearances, etc. We also anticipate that sponsors will give externs research and writing assignments.
- Class: Classes will meet via zoom with dates and time TBA. At the first meeting, you will receive a schedule with the dates of the remaining classes. Classes will focus on different practice areas and the often complex and unpredictable realities at the core of the actual practice of law. The class will also focus on professionalism topics that are unique to students from communities that are underrepresented in the legal profession.

## Application Instructions:

Rising 2L and 3L students can submit their resume, transcripts, and an optional diversity statement or cover letter along with other questions pertaining to their background to [this Google form](#) by May 31, 2023. Students will be placed based on a combination of student interests, externship availability, and sponsor needs. Due to a limited number of placement opportunities there is a possibility that not all students will be placed in an externship. Once the deadline has passed, some students may be asked to interview as needed. Students must accept the first offer they receive and cannot withdraw after your acceptance with the respective organization. Once students are placed, they will receive permission to register for the BRIDGE externship classroom component.

## Externship Restrictions:

Regardless of the type of externship placement you accept:

- Students **cannot** engage in other paid or unpaid activities that may create a conflict of interest concerning their work at their externship placement. Any other law-related work must be disclosed and approved by all interested parties.
- You **cannot** withdraw after you have accepted an offer to extern. Withdrawing without establishing extenuating circumstances may be deemed an ethical violation.

**Contact:** If you have any questions, please contact [bridge@kentlaw.iit.edu](mailto:bridge@kentlaw.iit.edu)