

Navajo Nation Hashkééjį Nahat'á (Judicial Branch) Law Student Internship/Externship Program

The mission of the Internship/Externship Program is to enable students to become actively involved in the Navajo Nation Hashkééjį Nahat'á government and to improve their skills and experience. The Navajo Nation Hashkééjį Nahat'á Internship/Externship Program provides students with a unique opportunity to build a substantial working knowledge of the role and function of Navajo Nation courts. It offers a compelling study experience and valuable exposure to work in a professional environment.

Internship/Externship Opportunities

The Navajo Nation Hashkééjį Nahat'á is composed of one appellate court (the Navajo Nation Supreme Court), eleven districts (comprised of family and district courts) and one circuit court. Each court welcomes law student interns/externs who seek to further the mission of the Navajo Nation Hashkééjį Nahat'á (mission statement) by providing accessible, prompt, and efficient forums for the fair and independent administration of justice, with respect for the dignity of all we serve. Hashkééjį Nahat'á internships may be paid or voluntary positions. Externships are performed in conjunction with a supervising law professor for credit at your law school institution.

College Students Eligibility

Summer internships/externships are available for both 1L and 2L students, and semester-based internships/externships are available for both 2L and 3L students. Generally, 2L and 3L students will receive more challenging and complex assignments than 1L students. However, all interns/externs at each court level will have the opportunity to observe court proceedings, review filings and evidence submitted by the parties, and conduct legal research and writing regarding a variety of matters that come before the court. In addition, all students can expect to work closely with the assigned judge or justice at the assigned court.

How To Apply

Law students interested in serving as an intern at any court within the Navajo Nation Hashkééjį Nahat'á may apply by submitting a single application form (**hyperlink**), a resume, a writing sample, and an official transcript. Separate applications must be submitted for each internship/externship term that is of interest. Applications may be emailed to (**email**). Before applying, interested students should review the Employee Code of Conduct and Judicial Code of Conduct as well as the Navajo Nation Bar Association Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Requirements

Law School Students

Applicants must be a law student currently enrolled in an accredited ABA school.

College Students:

Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college or university and have taken or currently be enrolled in legal writing and Diné Fundamental Law or Federal Indian law (or similar course).

Applicants should demonstrate an interest in understanding the workings of the court systems on Navajo Nation and an interest in a career in public service.

Application Deadlines

Law students interested in interning/externing during the summer should apply by April 1st of the year in which they hope to serve as an intern/extern. Law students interested in interning during the fall of their 2L or 3L year should apply by June 1st of the year in which they hope to serve as an intern/extern. Law students interested in internship during the spring of the 2L or 3L year should apply by October 1st of the preceding year. Any applications received after the above deadlines will be considered on a rolling basis, as space allows.

For more information regarding these internship/externship opportunities, please contact:

ocjprogram@navajo-nsn.gov

Opportunities Application Information

All interns must be able to work a minimum of fifteen hours per week during the fall and/or spring semesters, or thirty hours per week during the summer. The number of interns accepted each semester/summer will depend on the needs of the courts at that time. Interested students are directed to submit an application packet prior the deadline. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt thus the earlier you apply, the greater your chance of acceptance, provided you meet established criteria. An interview will be required.