

Lawyers for America Partnership Proposal

Organization

Please provide any information about your organization (mission, history, size, office location(s), etc.) that you think would be helpful to student applicants.

The Contra Costa District Attorney's Office serves one of the largest and most diverse counties of California. More information about the office can be found at <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/203/District-Attorney>.

Workplace

If your organization has more than one office location, please note the location to which the fellow would be assigned in the first and second years.

For each of the above offices, please note (approximately) how many FTE attorneys and non-attorney staff work in that office

During the two-year fellowship arc, it is likely that the fellow will be assigned to each of the three office locations, downtown Martinez, 10 Douglas (Martinez), and Richmond.

A total of approximately 100 attorneys and more than 60 non-attorneys, including more than 20 sworn peace officers, work in the three offices. LfA fellows from the UCH Classes of 2014, 2016, and 2017 are currently working in a variety of positions at the office.

Supervision

What is the name and job title of the person you expect to be the fellow's primary supervisor and the LfA liaison? Please describe that person's experience supervising law students, including whether those students earned academic credit. Will other attorneys be giving the fellow assignments as well?

Assistant District Attorney Dan Cabral, head of the Felony Trial Team, oversees the LfA program. Day-to-day supervision is provided by the head of the unit to which the fellow is assigned at the time or her/his designee. Fellows will receive individual assignments from various attorneys in the office.

What formal training will the fellow be provided by your office at the start of the fellowship? Please describe the duration, nature, and scope of that training.

Fellows arrive at the office after participating in UC Hastings's Criminal Practice Clinic training. They will then receive an orientation as well as ongoing litigation training.

What additional training opportunities (regular in-services, conferences, observation opportunities, etc.) will be available to the fellow during the two-year fellowship?

Fellows will be invited to all relevant in-services and may have opportunities to attend local conferences. Work-schedule permitting, fellows will be encouraged to observe court and other proceedings that contribute to their professional development.

Supervisors will be asked to participate in periodic formal written evaluations during the 3L year. What additional (more immediate) evaluation and feedback structures will you implement for the fellow throughout the fellowship? Do you anticipate that you will implement a regular meeting to check in with the LfA fellow(s)? How often?

Fellows typically receive feedback after each assignment they complete. This will include a review of any briefs written before submission to the court as well as a review after court appearances.

Mr. Cabral will meet with fellows individually at least once per semester; in addition, their direct supervisors will meet with fellows bi-weekly.

In addition, each fellow will be assigned a mentor from among the office's newer attorneys. The mentor will have no role in the fellow's evaluation, and will serve only to support and guide the fellow.

Does your office currently employ, or has it recently employed, post-graduate fellows and/or volunteer attorneys? Does your office host externs earning academic credit? Would the LfA fellow(s) supplement or replace other fellows/volunteers?

The DA's office employs summer interns and paid post-bar graduates. LfA supplements these well-established programs.

Fellow's Work and Professional Development

During the 3L year, fellows will rotate through at least three of the following teams: Preliminary Hearing; Law and Motion; and Misdemeanors. They are likely to research, write, and appear on motions and/or conduct preliminary hearings during the Fall semester. They will also assist experienced attorneys on larger cases.

During the Spring semester, it is expected that fellows will work on more complex motions and appearances; they may also handle their own misdemeanor trial(s).

Upon returning after taking the bar exam, fellows will continue the same duties. Once they are licensed, they are likely to receive a misdemeanor caseload.

Preferred pre- and co-requisites

Fellows must take Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Trial Advocacy I, and Professional Responsibility before beginning the fellowship.

Current fellows from the Class of 2016 are Jency Butler and Jessica Guest; Cameren Ripoli, Class of 2017, is a 3L fellow. Applicants are encouraged to contact current fellows for more information.