

# **BYU EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & INTERNSHIPS**

2019 Stories & Spotlights



**J. REUBEN CLARK  
LAW SCHOOL**



# INTERNSHIP COORDINATORS

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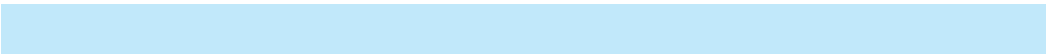
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*\*These stories were submitted by the students via survey. If your department is not represented, then we did not receive a suitable response from your interns. The college internship statistics only reflects internship courses where the students completed an internship application before enrolling.*

# COLLEGE INTERNSHIP STATISTICS

## DEPARTMENTS

LAW  117

## COURSES

599R  117

# 117

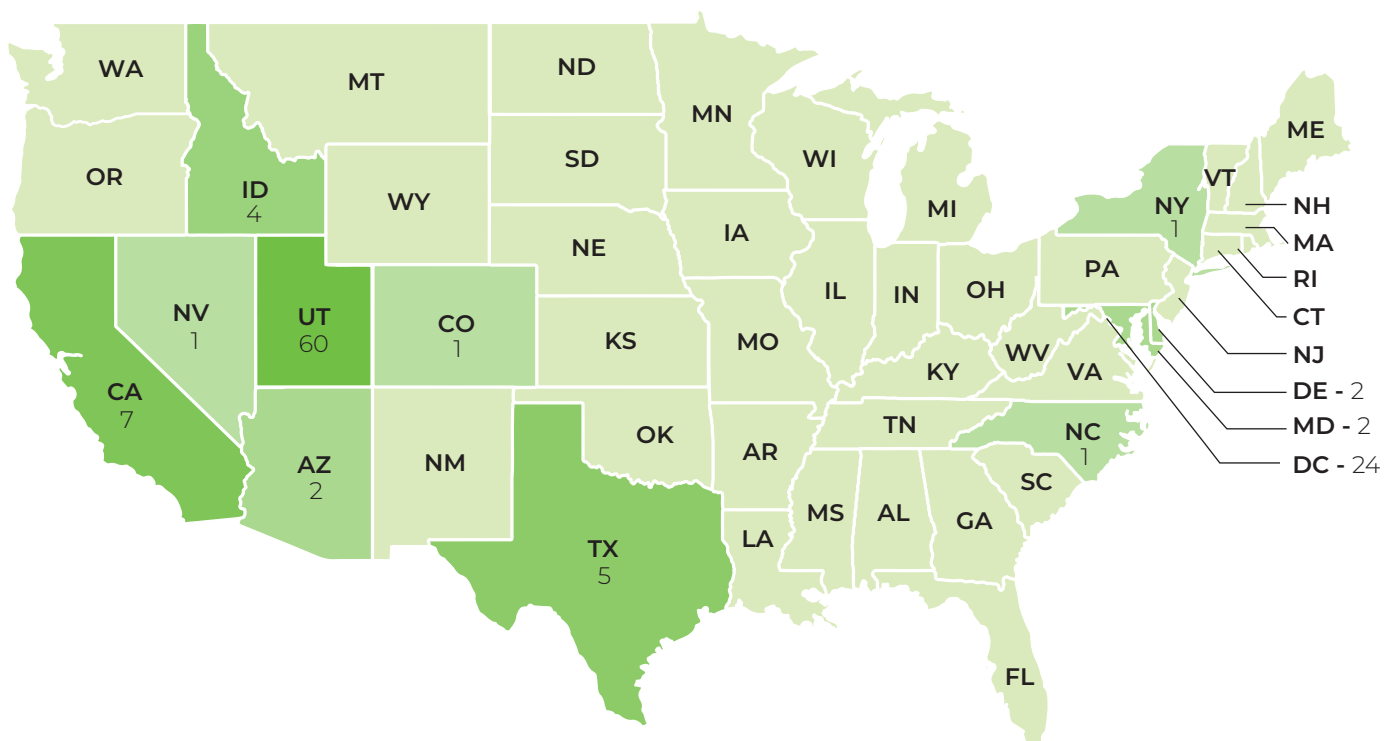
# INTERNS

2019: WINTER • SPRING/SUMMER • FALL

## TOP 5 PROVIDERS

1. Utah Supreme Court (6)
2. US District Court - District of Utah (6)
3. US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit (5)
4. Utah Fourth District Juvenile Court (3)
5. Utah County Public Defenders (3)

## IN 12 TOTAL STATES



# SHANNON HAVLICAK


## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



*Shannon at the U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division.*

In the Office of International Affairs I worked specifically with two teams: the Incoming Mutual Legal Assistance team and the South America Extraditions and Outgoing Mutual Legal Assistance team.

On both teams I reviewed many criminal cases from countries across the globe to determine if the requesting countries qualified for mutual legal assistance from the U.S. or if they had enough proof for us



to order the extradition of a fugitive living in the U.S. This determination was based upon the standards set forth between the treaty held between the U.S. and that specific country. If they provided sufficient evidence, I would then draft subpoenas to obtain pertinent information from persons or organizations based in the U.S. to assist in the requesting country's case

***"I came to realize the importance of always putting forth your best work no matter how small the task may seem. "***

or I would begin the process of drafting documents for the extradition of fugitives living in the U.S. to force them to stand trial for crimes they committed abroad.

I learned to treat every assignment as though my entire career were riding on it. It is easy to give less than my full effort to an assignment in order to get it done quicker or to move on to a new or more interesting case sooner, but I came to realize the importance of always putting forth your best work no matter

how small the task may seem. At the end of the day, each assignment I submitted to the attorneys had my name on it and eventually would be submitted to the courts with their name on it and I could not afford to make mistakes when they were trusting me enough to allow me to assist them in the important work they do each day.

I believe I developed my organizational and communication skills the most in this internship as I was constantly completing assignments for five to six attorneys at a time, who each had their own differing preferences when it came to the manner in which I wrote and submitted each assignment.

Law school in general strengthened my reading comprehension skills, allowing me to read through hundreds of pages in cases quickly, while maintaining a firm grasp on the content. My legal writing class was especially useful, as it taught me to write the way lawyers do-- brief, concise, and in accordance with the rules of the Bluebook.

It is a great experience where you can participate in the same work done by each of the attorneys in the office from day one.

**[READ MORE ABOUT SHANNON'S STORY HERE](#)**



# TANNER SCHENEWARK

## BAKER MCKENZIE

I wrote an official client-facing memo detailing my research, drafting suggestions, and advice on a non-profit corporate restructuring. I also assisted with a corporate restructuring dealing with assets of more than half a billion dollars.

For the non-profit project, I researched whether it was better for a non-profit to dissolve one of its entities or to transfer that entity's assets to the main organization. I researched how both processes would work and which one aligned with the client's goals for its foundation. My memo was not just a reflection of that research, but also a document crafted to inform and persuade the client in a way that would help them make the right decision.

For the large corporate restructuring project, I researched how different state laws would affect that company's application for certain tax exemptions. This project was made more interesting by the recent elections in Australia. The new ruling party in one of the states immediately did away with part of the law that granted our client an exemption. That meant that our team had to get its work done urgently so it could receive the exemption before the new law goes into effect on the first of next month. I also

finished the project for the employment team that I had been working on the week prior, researching whether an individual had been illegally buying and selling second-hand gambling machines.

This internship has taught me much more beyond purely legal skills. Namely,



*Tanner Schenewark (second from the left) and fellow Baker McKenzie employees enjoying a game of basketball.*



I have become a better, more confident networker. That has opened up countless doors and made this experience much richer. It has, however, made saying goodbye much harder.

***“This internship has taught me much more beyond purely legal skills.”***

I learned a lot about networking, legal research, legal analysis, legal document preparation, and client management. They gave me a confident foundation to approach new tasks and projects. I would absolutely recommend this internship! This experience helped me decide whether a career path at a large law firm is right for me (it is!) and helped me grow as a person in an international setting.



*Tanner Schenewark (right) and a fellow student in front of the Sydney Opera House.*

**READ MORE ABOUT TANNER'S STORY HERE**

# BRIAN CASPER

## PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

As an intern at the Public Defenders Office, I did legal research for the attorneys, drafted court motions, and appeared in front of fourth district court judges on behalf of clients. I familiarized myself with criminal procedure in Utah and conferred with clients and prosecutors in criminal cases. I learned the importance of criminal defense in our justice system and society at large. I learned that most of those being charged with crimes have been victims themselves, either of abuse, neglect, or social class. I learned that the most important part of the criminal justice system should be to protect society and also help those whose lives have fallen apart.

I significantly improved my research skills, my writing skills, my communication skills (both with supervisors and with clients), and my organization skills. The most important course was my legal research and writing class, as legal research is the foundation of criminal defense. The writing skills I learned in that class, as well as my Civil Procedure class, were very important in drafting motions. My Criminal Law course was important because it taught me what to look for when considering the elements of a crime. Intention: because I intend

to work in criminal law after graduation, the skills I learned working with the Public Defenders are directly applicable, especially if I decide to stay in Utah. They will improve my resume and make me more desirable because I have experience and skills that are directly relevant to any attorney working in criminal defense. I would absolutely recommend this internship to other students. It gave me hands-on experience that other legal interns are unlikely to have. While research and writing are common to most legal internships, getting the opportunity to speak with clients and discuss their cases, then actually appear before the judge on their behalf, is a much more proximate experience than most internships offer.



*Brian Casper*

[READ MORE ABOUT BRIAN'S STORY HERE](#)

# CHRISTIAN SONDEREGGER

## FILLMORE SPENCER

I worked with nearly every attorney at the firm on a wide range of cases, including personal injury, criminal appeals, family law, immigration, mergers and acquisitions, contract law, property disputes, employment law, and several other areas of interest. I helped prepare for a multimillion dollar fraud case in federal court in New Mexico, which we ended up successfully settling. I did a ton of research on Utah legislation, regulation, and case law and a few cases involved international law, treaties, and conventions. I wrote short email memos answering specific questions and memos for clients, drafted complaints, responses, and other motions, and even drafted a full criminal appeal. I tried to sit in on mediation and arbitration sessions and as many court cases as I could, and the attorneys were more than willing to help me and let me observe.

I learned a lot about civil litigation, and that it is incredibly interesting but that I prefer transactional and business work. I also enhanced the following skills: drafting, legal research, mediation strategy, and trial procedure.

Stancil's Civil Procedure class was easily the most useful course for me this



*Christian Sonderegger*

semester, in addition to Legal Research and Writing. Those two classes covered so much of what I ended up doing on a daily basis. Some of the conceptual classes were helpful, but the information needed from those could have been obtained fairly easily using the knowledge from the practical classes.

I would absolutely recommend this internship. Fillmore Spencer is an amazing firm with a fantastic environment. The attorneys here are excellent mentors and take time to help students experience and grow.

[READ MORE ABOUT CHRISTIAN'S STORY HERE](#)



# EMILIE STILES

## VENTURA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

This summer, I worked for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. I worked writing motions, briefs, and sitting second chair in trials. This helped prepare me for a future law career by advancing both my writing skills and my oral advocacy skills.

The most useful thing that I learned from my internship is that even simple cases aren't that simple.

Sometimes, a case that seems straightforward can be derailed on a technicality. Additionally, I learned a lot about the inherent value and dignity

***"It was a lot easier to deal with the often difficult subject matter when you realized that you were representing the victim of a crime, who sometimes couldn't speak for themselves."***

of human beings. It was a lot easier to deal with the often difficult subject matter when you realized that you were representing the victim of a crime, who sometimes couldn't speak for themselves. It helped me recognize that everyone deserves to have their rights vindicated.

My criminal law courses, legal writing and research, and civil procedure courses helped prepare me the most. I learned about the aspects of the law that I was using in my internship, as well as how to communicate what the law was in a way that could be presented in court.

Throughout the internship, I improved my writing skills, oral advocacy, professionalism, and interpersonal relationships.



*Emilie Stiles (bottom right) at her internship.*

[READ MORE ABOUT EMILIE'S STORY HERE](#)

# MARISSA PAXMAN

## UTAH APPELLATE COURT SYSTEM

It was a phenomenal learning experience in the Utah appellate court system. My internship mainly consisted of reading/editing opinions for publishing, researching topics, writing memos on my research, and discussing legal topics with the judge and clerks.



*Marissa Paxman (middle left) in front of Utah Supreme Court.*

I loved researching novel areas of the law and having one-on-one conversations with the Justice himself daily.

I learned a great deal about doing legal research, following precedent, and legal citations. By reading and editing opinions everyday, I become thoroughly familiar

with Utah case law and how opinions and developed and written.

My courses gave me a basis for research and writing which proves very useful. My writing and research skills improved dramatically of necessity. It was great to learn from valuable mentors that will benefit you no matter what area of law you go into.

*"It was great to learn from valuable mentors that will benefit you no matter what area of law you go into."*



*Marissa Paxman (left) at Utah Supreme Court.*

[READ MORE ABOUT MARISSA'S STORY HERE](#)

# MELISSA JO TOWNSEND

## U.S. DISTRICT COURTS

Working with Judge Sam's chambers was a pleasure this summer. I enjoyed a short visit with Judge Sam and his clerks almost every morning before beginning the day's work. Throughout my externship, I worked on several legal memorandums to give insight into the cases at hand. To prepare these memorandums, I spent several hours each day researching and reading case law, and then drafting my thoughts. Throughout the summer, I drafted about 70 pages of analysis for the Judge and his clerks to consider as they formed their opinions about the cases.

*"During my internship, I learned that the people you work with are your greatest asset."*

During my internship, I learned that the people you work with are your greatest asset. Especially in my case, I was surrounded by brilliant legal minds with years and years of experience in the legal field.

Judge Sam, my supervisor, and the other clerks mentored me with care,

personally and professionally, throughout the summer and I realized as my externship progressed how lucky I was to share a workspace with them. I spent the bulk of my time reading, researching, and writing and feel that these skills definitely improved along the way. Conversing with and observing Judge Sam in court also improved my oral communication skills such that I feel more confident and excited to talk with people about the law and the legal professions.



*Judge Sam and Melissa Jo Townsend*





*Melissa Jo Townsend next to her cubicle with a sign that reads "This space reserved for Judge Sam Interns. Thank you."*

I would recommend interning at the U.S. District Court -- especially in Judge Sam's chambers -- to everyone. The experience was intellectually rigorous and professionally (and personally) meaningful in every regard.

Long live Judge Sam and his chambers!

***"I feel more confident and excited to talk with people about the law and the legal professions."***

**READ MORE ABOUT MELISSA JO'S STORY HERE**