I. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Enhancement of legal research and writing skills. Students are expected to engage in legal research and writing on complex issues involving constitutional, statutory, and procedural law. Students will generally have the opportunity to prepare memoranda, drafts of briefs or pleadings, or otherwise assist the attorneys with legal research and writing tasks.

2. Enhancement of knowledge of substantive and procedural law. Students learn procedural (including evidentiary) and substantive law through observation of trials and hearings and by assisting the with court and other proceedings.

3. Appreciation of professional responsibilities. Students are exposed to practical ethical and professional responsibility issues. The type, variety, and complexity of these issues, coupled with the student's own involvement with the case, aid students in obtaining greater comprehension of and respect for the standards by which they must practice.

4. Knowledge of the federal or Alabama judicial, administrative, or legislative systems. Students will gain valuable knowledge and insight into the procedures of various stages of the federal or Alabama judicial, executive, or legislative branches. This knowledge helps provide an understanding of the mechanics of how cases and other matters are handled by courts, agencies, or legislative bodies.

5. Acquisition of practical knowledge. Students also benefit from learning the customs and courtesies that exist among lawyers and within law offices but which generally do not lend themselves to teaching through most law school courses.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Work in your placement office full-time (40 hours/week) for one of the two six-week summer externship sessions and receive a favorable evaluation at the end of your placement from your field supervisor.

2. Attend two class sessions. The first session will be held late in the Spring semester (prior to the beginning of your placement) on Sunday, April 23, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. The second session will be held after all placements end (just
before the first week of Fall semester classes) on Sunday, August 13, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

3. Complete two, 3-4 page Reflective Essays (see guidelines below) during your placement, one at the end of the second week of the placement and the other at the end of the fourth week of the placement.

4. Complete a 12-14 page Externship Paper (see guidelines below), a course evaluation, and “thank you letter” forms at the end of your placement.

5. Be available by phone for any discussions with the Summer Externship Program directors about your placement and facilitate any requested discussions between the program directors and your field placement supervisor.

6. Be present during any visit to your placement office by the program directors.

III. GUIDELINES FOR REFLECTIVE ESSAYS:

• Each Reflective Essay should be 3-4, double-spaced pages (1050-1400 words).

• Each Reflective Essay should be in three parts:

  Part I should briefly describe what the extern has been working on and participating in during the externship (or since the last reflective essay). This Part should be less than 1 double-spaced page.

  Part II will be the bulk of the essay and should be 2-3 pages double-spaced. A list of topics (“Ideas for Reflective Essays”) will be provided by the Directors of the Summer Externship Program prior to the due date for the first essay. Each student should choose one topic from the list or can propose an alternative topic to the Directors.

  Part III should identify any potential problem(s) with the placement (if any) and should be less than 1 page.

• For the first session, the Reflective Essays must be emailed by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 26, and Friday, June 9, to Professors Kuehn (rkuehn@law.ua.edu) and Bostick (bbostick@law.ua.edu). For the second session, the Reflective Essays must be emailed by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 14, and Friday, July 28. Professors Kuehn and Bostick will provide comments back to you by email within a few days.
IV. GUIDELINES FOR EXTERNSHIP PAPER:

- The Externship Paper should be 12-14, double-spaced pages (4200-4900 words).

- The Externship Paper should be in three parts:

  Part I will be the bulk of the Externship Paper. This Part should be at least 8-10 pages and should constitute a research paper addressing two to three legal or ethical issues. Each student should choose the topic(s) from matters observed or worked on during the externship (omitting names or other references that might breach confidentiality if the matter was not public record). In conducting and writing the research portion of the paper, be sure not to “cut and paste” work done during the externship or in connection with other courses.

  This Part should contain the extern’s thoughts about some aspect of judging, court, agency or legislative procedures, or the practice of law. For example, if the extern sees poor performance by an attorney, one topic might be to look at the standards for ineffective assistance of counsel, incompetent representation, or legal malpractice. The paper could focus on the requirements in the applicable rules of professional responsibility or analyze how ethics boards or courts have treated similar situations. Or, the paper could look at legal standards: when will a judgment be reversed for ineffective assistance of counsel or when will a client be able to recover for malpractice. Or, it could cover both. The topic could even be similar to (but not the same as) those addressed in a reflective essay, but in more depth. The Directors of the Summer Externship Program are happy to help identify a topic.

  Part II of the paper should be 2-4 pages. It should describe what the externship experience was like. Include the good and bad experiences (if there are any bad). Be sure to include the names of people who helped during the placement and information about their assistance. This Part should also offer any suggestions for improving the externship program.

  Part III should be 2-4 pages and should offer advice for future externs going to the same placement office. Include big and small suggestions.

- Your Externship Paper must be emailed by 5:00 pm on Monday, August 14, to Erica Nicholson (enichols@law.ua.edu), the Externship Program Administrator, as well as to Professor Kuehn (rkuehn@law.ua.edu) and Professor Bostick (bbostick@law.ua.edu).