Placements: Students spend 35 hours/week in their placements. See our full list of placements for possible opportunities. The 5 (summer) or 12 (fall and spring) credits earned for this placement are graded pass/fail.

Admission: Rising 2L and 3L students who are in good academic standing are invited to apply. Program acceptance is based on a rolling application process and is limited to a maximum of 25 students per semester.

Housing and Travel: Students are responsible for securing their own transportation to and housing in the D.C. area.

Seminar: The Washington Lawyer Seminar is designed to provide an in-depth look at problem solving for D.C. attorneys. In each class, students will examine a different client problem and discuss possible solutions with distinguished D.C. attorneys and alumni. This 1- (summer) or 2- (fall and spring) credit course is graded off of the curve.

The seminar will be taught by Professor Turnipseed, who has over 17 years of work experience in the D.C. area, including work at a non-profit, the federal government, and several law firms.

Research Paper: Students will complete a 15-page paper (8 pages in the summer) on an approved topic with a strong connection to a federal regulatory or legislative topic/process.

Networking: Students will have the opportunity to build a professional network with D.C.-area alumni and other practitioners throughout the semester.

What students are saying:

“This program will single-handedly help us get jobs.”

“This seminar and placement were life changing and I appreciate having the opportunity.”

“One of the most rewarding experiences of law school. It prepares you for life beyond Syracuse and propels you into one of the best legal markets in the country.”

D.C. PROGRAM INFORMATION:

D.C. PLACEMENT LIST:

Federal Government Placements:
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters
- U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
- U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Inspector General
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- NASA
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Employment and Labor Law Division
- The U.S. National Archives & Records Administration
- U.S. Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. DOE
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Gaming
- Federal Trade Commission, Commissioner Maureen Ohlhausen
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- United States Department of Justice, Tax Division
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Commissioner Ann Marie Buerkle

Federal Military Placement:
- U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service

Non-Profit Placements:
- Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
- Burton Blatt Institute
- Minority Media & Telecommunications Council
- National LGBT Bar Association
- American Chemistry Council
- American Bar Association, Center for Human Rights
- American Red Cross
- Electronic Discovery Institute
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- PCIA – The Wireless Infrastructure Association
- AARP Foundation Litigation
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- New America Foundation
- American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
- NTCA – Rural Broadband Association
- Cold Case Justice Initiative

Hill Placements:
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
- Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ)
- Representative Dan Maffei (D-NY)
- Representative Ron Kind (D-WI)

Local Government Placements:
- The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
- Office of Public Defender (Montgomery County Maryland)
- Maryland Legal Aid

Political Party Placement:
- Republican Governors Association

Judicial Placement:
- The Honorable Dennis L. Phillips, U.S. Administrative Law Judge

United Nations Placement:
- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees

In-House Corporate Placements:
- Sentinel Holdings
- DynCorp International
- Cote Orphan Consulting, LLC

Law Firm Placements:
- DLA Piper
- General Counsel, P.C.
- Furey, Doolan, & Abell, LLP
- Garfield Law Group LLP
- Erik M. Pelton & Associates, PLLC
- H.C. Park & Associates, PLC
- Della Rocca Law LLC
- New America Foundation
- American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
- NTCA – Rural Broadband Association
- Cold Case Justice Initiative

Law Office of Mary Beth Beattie
- Cohen & Burnett, PC

Summer Only Placement:
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Should I participate as a 2L or 3L?
A: Both experiences are beneficial. Participating as a 2L gives you an extra year to build your professional network and a better chance at securing a paid summer position in D.C. in between your 2L and 3L year.

Q: Should I participate in the Fall, Spring, or Summer?
A: All options are valuable. The fall or spring, however, give you four months in D.C. instead of two. Participating in the fall gives you a head start at building contacts and finding a job for the summer, as most positions are filled by the spring. The downside of participating in the fall as a 2L is that you will have to take Professional Responsibility during the summer. Alternately, you may take PR concurrently with your externship at a D.C. law school or via distance learning through SU.

Q: Will I still get financial aid?
A: Yes. You will get your standard financial aid package plus an increase to take account of the increased cost of living.

Q: I am interested in graduating early and being in the New York Pro Bono Scholars program. Can I complete my 500 hours of pro bono work in DC?
A: Yes. We have five outstanding placements that qualify.

Q: I am interested in pursuing a joint degree. Can I still be in the DC Program?
A: Yes, if you plan early.

Q: I am in! Now, where should I live?
A: It’s strongly recommended that you live within walking distance of a metro stop. Students failing to do so have regretted it. I would live either in DC proper or along the first four stops of the orange line in Arlington. All seminars/networking events and almost all placements are walking distance to a metro stop.

Q: Will I need a car?
A: Not if you live and work within walking distance of a metro stop. You may find that having a car is convenient for grocery shopping, weekend exploring, etc., but it is not necessary. However, a small handful of placements would require a car.

Q: But, if I am doing this program will I not miss out on critical bar classes?
A: The answer is complex and depends on a number of factors such as when you participate in the program. Talk to Semester in D.C. alumni to get other students’ perspectives on what worked for them.

The Semester in D.C. Program is an excellent opportunity for law students to experience a variety of ways their law degrees can be used.

Amazing program. I would highly recommend any student wishing to be involved in the D.C. market to apply!

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

SEMESTER IN D.C. PROGRAM

Syracuse University College of Law’s Semester in D.C. Program combines professional experience with unique course work to develop an understanding of the lawyer’s function in our nation’s capital. Externship placements allow students to work as part of a legal team in a variety of legal environments.

The externship is paired with a seminar taught by a Syracuse Law faculty member, in which students engage in and study legal issues specific to D.C. practice. They will also write a substantive research paper on a topic related to federal regulation or a legislative topic.

The Syracuse Law Semester in D.C. Program is offered three times a year: every summer, fall, and spring. Admission is based on a rolling application process until all spots are filled.