

NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC)

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Placement Supervisor(s):	Jennifer L. Powell, Assistant Regional Attorney
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Time Requirements:	<u>Academic Year:</u> Either Average of 12 hours / week or Average of 8 hours / week.
Position Requirements:	None
# of Externs per Academic Year:	1
Summer Participation:	Yes
# of Externs per Summer:	1
Website:	http://www.dec.ny.gov
Special Note(s):	N/A

Externs who have been selected have started out by reviewing existing files. After reviewing the files, the extern discusses with the project attorney the status of the file and what needs to be done next. The next step might include contacting technical staff, drafting a letter, consent order, or pleadings to be directed to a respondent, or telephoning the respondent or his or her attorney. Externs are involved in internal discussions between lawyers and technical staff and assist in face-to-face negotiations with respondents and their attorneys. Externs can go to affected sites and facilities for inspections involved in negotiations or hearings.

While the largest percentage of our legal work in the Regional Office involves the practice of administrative law, our attorneys also deal with some criminal cases in local justice courts. We also recommend the prosecution of more serious criminal environmental offenses and work cooperatively with the State Attorney General's Office when administrative orders are referred to that agency for judicial enforcement. Externs are involved where appropriate in those discussions.

Externs spend little time in the law library writing classic legal briefs or memoranda of law. The bulk of their work is hands on with particular matters. An extern's involvement on a new case would be from start to finish to the extent practical with his or her schedule. Externs have found the experience legally rewarding.

When externs are accepted, they are advised of their ethical responsibilities in relation to their efforts in this Office. Over time we try to inculcate not just strong ethical standards, but also a reasonable balance of prosecutorial judgment in our effort not just to enforce the law but also to achieve justice.