

## ONONDAGA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

<b>Address:</b>	John H. Mulroy Civic Center 421 Montgomery Street, 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor Syracuse, NY 13202
<b>Telephone:</b>	315-435-2170
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<b>Placement Supervisor(s):</b>	Daniel C. Robb, Administrative Officer
<b>Email Address(s):</b>	<a href="mailto:drobb@ongov.net">drobb@ongov.net</a>
<b>Time Requirements:</b>	<u>Academic Year:</u> Either Average of 8 hours / week or Average of 12 hours / week. <u>Summer:</u> Average of 21 hours / week minimum
<b>Position Requirements:</b>	None
<b># of Externs per Academic Year:</b>	At least 4
<b>Summer Participation:</b>	Yes
<b># of Externs per Summer:</b>	Between 3 – 4
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.ongov.net/Law">http://www.ongov.net/Law</a>
<b>Special Note(s):</b>	The County Attorney's Office pays for parking for externs. For day-to-day office operations, dress is business casual.

**THE LITIGATION UNIT** handles all cases involving the County and its departments in Federal Court, Supreme Court and Small Claims Court. Typically, the County is a defendant in matters related to accidents on County roads or occurring on county owned or maintained property resulting in significant personal injury. Other areas of practice include, defense of claims based upon allegations of false arrest, excessive force malicious prosecution including actions brought under both the state and federal constitution as well as other general negligence matters. In some matters concerning the administration of major public works projects or other as the result of the operation of other municipal contracts, the County assumes the role of plaintiff providing for exposure to both sides of the litigation process. The Unit attorneys handle each case from start to finish, from supervising the investigation to drafting of the pleadings, discovery, trial preparation, trial and appellate work as necessary. Working with the Litigation Unit will provide exposure to investigative work, motion practice, trial and trial practice as necessary to each file.

**THE MUNICIPAL LAW UNIT:** There are approximately ten attorneys in the office functioning as legal counsel to each county department. These attorneys render legal opinions as needed, draft and approve contracts, counsel the legislature and its committees, draft legislation, and assist the County Attorney in his role as legal advisor to the County. Some attorneys in the unit represent the County in administrative proceedings. The attorneys in this unit function similarly to corporate attorneys, since the County is a municipal corporation.

Externs in the Litigation and Municipal Law Units conduct extensive legal research and assist attorneys in drafting pleadings, legal opinions, discovery and appeals.

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW:** With a 1.1 billion dollar annual budget, Onondaga County government operations encompass a broad range of activities that require adherence to environmental regulations and permits. Environmental practice in County government focuses on state and federal Clean Water Law, industrial pretreatment regulation, hazardous waste and hazardous materials management, environmental health, environmental risk management, environmental review and real estate.

An interesting aspect of the practice of environmental law at the County level is the opportunity to apply environmental law in the context of both a regulating and a regulated entity. Law students interested in environmental law will have an opportunity to examine environmental law legal and policy issues from the perspective of the regulating agency and the regulated community.

**FAMILY COURT UNIT:** The work performed by the unit is a collaborative effort designed to promote family unity and community safety, as well as security and permanency for children. The nine attorneys, two paralegals and support staff in the unit represent the Department of Social Services in child abuse and neglect cases, pertinent custody matters, termination of parental rights proceedings, surrenders, permanency review hearings and all other related matters before the presiding Family Court Judges and referees. The unit also serves as the presentment agency or prosecutor in PINS (persons in need of supervision) proceedings and JD (juvenile delinquency) proceedings, which are analogous to adult criminal proceedings. The daily routine for the unit involves drafting petitions, trial preparation, discovery, legal research, providing rapid-fire legal opinions, preparing orders and appellate practice. The unit engages in outreach to local schools, service providers, police departments and other community organizations. The unit is also responsible for training caseworkers, foster parents, police officers and service workers on Family Court related issues. Externs in the Family Court Unit gain a hands-on experience in all phases of Family Court proceedings from drafting pleadings, client consultation, witness preparation, court appearances and trials. Externs are encouraged to accept case assignments and appear in Court under the supervision of an attorney from the unit.