



UC Davis law students volunteer at county DA's Office

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Courtesy

Law students from UC Davis talk to Judge David Rosenberg in his courtroom. The students are interning this summer at the Yolo County District Attorney's Office.

Last month, four law students from local area law schools started the Yolo County District Attorneys Summer Legal Internship Program.

UC Davis King Hall Law students Anh Nguyen and Remy Goldsmith, and Adam Guernsey and Benjamin Levy from McGeorge School of Law are spending the summer volunteering at the DA's office.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig started this formal Legal Internship Program shortly after taking office in 2007.

His mission was to create a program where law students would have an enjoyable, rewarding and educational experience, and also provide invaluable legal support to his trial attorneys. He tasked Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Raven with developing and coordinating the program.

Interns are involved in a wide variety of cases, both misdemeanor and felony. The summer program begins with a two-day training and orientation. A typical day for an intern involves drafting motions and conducting research on complicated legal issues. If the intern is certified with the State Bar, he or she may argue the People's position in the courtroom. Interns are also encouraged to observe ongoing trials to learn about the criminal justice system and gain better insight into what it is like to be a prosecutor. Ultimately, an intern may have the opportunity to conduct a jury trial in a misdemeanor case.

Students were interviewed last spring at OCI (On Campus Interviews). As part of the secondary interview process, each applicant conducted

opening statements during the lunch hour in Presiding Judge David Rosenberg's courtroom.

Six senior deputy district attorneys observed and critiqued them. Goldsmith, Nguyen, Guernsey and Levy were selected from over 30 applicants.

"Success for us is when students leave the office convinced that they want to make a career as prosecutors," Reisig said. "And also, that they want to do so in this office."

Kari McFadden, a 2008 graduate of UC Davis King Hall and 2008 summer intern, is now a deputy district attorney at the San Mateo County District

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Attorney's Office.

She stated, "As a practicing deputy district attorney in another county, I am so grateful for all I learned as a legal intern at Yolo County and would encourage anyone considering prosecution as a career to apply. Yolo County is a truly unique office that should not be passed up!"

After the summer, all four interns will continue volunteering during the fall semester.

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