

Bankruptcy Externship Information Packet

An externship to let students work directly on bankruptcy problems with pro bono individuals in conjunction with and under the supervision of experienced bankruptcy lawyers.

The externship operates during the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters.

Bankruptcy Externship

Supervising Professor:

Craig B. Young
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Course & Credit Available:

Law 270: 1 credit. Students completing the course will receive one out-of-class credit graded CR/NC.



SUMMER 2025

Overview

The Northern Virginia Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic is a free clinic to help individual consumers with questions or problems related to bankruptcy, including how to prepare voluntary bankruptcy petitions and other papers that must be filed to initiate a bankruptcy case. The individual consumers typically cannot afford a bankruptcy attorney to help them. The Externship enables students to take what they have learned in the classroom and put it to real use by assisting individual consumers who come to the Clinic together with and under the supervision of experienced bankruptcy attorneys.

The students conduct the initial interviews of individual consumers to identify what help or assistance the individuals need. The student and the individual then meet with a volunteer bankruptcy attorney to address and resolve the individual's questions or problems. This provides students with direct client contact and invaluable counseling experience while working with the bankruptcy lawyer.

Students must have previously taken a course in Bankruptcy Law or must receive special permission to participate from Professor Young. The special permission will be granted to students who have not taken Bankruptcy Law but have clerked for or otherwise worked for a bankruptcy lawyer or a bankruptcy judge. Students may participate in the Externship for up to two semesters.

Educational Objectives of the Bankruptcy Externship

The Bankruptcy Externship is designed to meet the objectives of the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar for professional skills training, live-client or other real life experiences and study outside of the classroom. The teaching of "professional skills" involves teaching and evaluating law student performance on real cases or problems, with the goal of mastering basic lawyering skills, professional responsibility, substantive and procedural law and the theory of legal practice.

Student Requirements & Responsibilities

1. Students must have completed one academic year of legal education to participate in the Externship.
2. No compensation will be received for work performed during the Externship.
3. Students must have previously taken a course in Bankruptcy Law or must receive special permission to participate from Professor Young. Special permission will be granted to students who have not taken Bankruptcy Law but have clerked for or otherwise worked for a bankruptcy lawyer or a bankruptcy judge.
4. Students meet with Professor Young and participate in the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, 200 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314. The Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic operates between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month during each semester.
5. There are two writing components for the Externship –
 - a. Following each Friday clinic, students email to Professor Young a brief report on their experience with the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic using the format below:
 - i. Weekly Report Format
 - Student Name:
 - Date of Clinic:
 - Number of Individuals Interviewed:
 - Briefly (one sentence if possible) describe the problem(s) faced by each individual interviewed by the student:
 - Briefly describe the student's interaction with the volunteer attorney:
 - b. At the end of the semester (before the end of the exam period), students email to Professor Young a short memorandum discussing their overall experience with the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic including, specifically, what they learned or otherwise gained from the experience. The memorandum shall not be more than three pages.