

Questions regarding the program may be directed to the Training Division staff at

703-820-3007

or

703-820-3005



ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor

The U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) provides legal advice, training and services required to support the ICE mission while defending the immigration laws of the U.S. in the administrative and federal courts.

Pursuant to section 442(c) of the Homeland Security Act, OPLA is the exclusive legal representative for ICE and is the component within the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) Office of General Counsel that is authorized to represent the U.S. government in all exclusion, deportation and removal proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

Externship Program Requirements

Students selected for an externship with one of the OPLA divisions will be required to complete the following forms as well as undergo a security screening:

- Student Volunteer Services Agreement
- Three sets of fingerprint cards (#FD258)
- E-QIP Information Form
- Law School Enrollment Form: Students will be required to provide official documentation to verify the student's current enrollment in law school. The enrollment form must contain credit hours and the law school's imprint.

Resumes should be submitted to the Training Division at least three months in advance of the beginning date of the semester for which you are applying in order to provide sufficient time for the necessary background investigation.



ICE

Office of the Principal Legal Advisor

OPLA

Externship Program

Report Suspicious Activity:

1-866-DHS-2-ICE

1-866-347-2423

www.ice.gov



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement





Training Division Externship Program

OPLA fulfills its mission through the work of a variety of divisions from Appellate and Protection Law to Strategic Management.

The Training Division has developed an externship program in which students are placed with one of the various divisions based upon the student's interests and abilities. Each student's externship experience will therefore be somewhat different, but all students should expect to engage in skill-enhancing legal work, including but not limited to, research and writing.

OPLA externships are not paid positions. It is expected that students participating in this program will perform the assigned work in exchange for academic credit through their respective schools.

Students selected by the Training Division for the externship program will receive assignments at either ICE headquarters in Washington, D.C. (Potomac Center North) or the Falls Church, Va. office (Skyline, 5201 Leesburg Pike). OPLA divisions, their locations and respective responsibilities include the following.

Appellate and Protection Law Division (APLD) provides oversight of ICE administrative and judicial appellate matters and serves as the lead appellate litigator for ICE; provides legal and procedural guidance to the 26 ICE Chief Counsel offices and headquarters components; acts as the liaison with EOIR and other agencies; provides specialized legal advice on matters involving asylum, withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture; coordinates ICE's administrative litigation efforts before immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) in cases involving foreign fugitives; and reviews adverse BIA and federal court decisions, and makes recommendations for further review.

Commercial and Administrative Law Division (CALD) provides legal representation for ICE officers and agents; supports ICE in the areas of fiscal law, employment law and litigation, civil rights violations, labor law, garnishments, information disclosure, contracts and procurement, memoranda of understanding and other agreements, and federal tort claims.

Enforcement Law Division (ELD) supports and monitors removal proceedings against aliens before EOIR as well as related federal court litigation on a variety of issues from automatic stays to customs laws.

Ethics Division (IEO) administers the statutorily mandated Federal Ethics Program for the ICE workforce; provides ethics training for ICE attorneys and other personnel; and provides timely and personal ethics counseling to ICE employees on the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Executive Branch Employees.

Human Rights Law Division (HRLD) coordinates, enhances and works to improve ICE's litigation and operational efforts to pursue judicial orders against human rights abusers and provides legal and litigation support to effectuate their removal from the U.S.

Knowledge Management Division (KMD) provides oversight for requisition, distribution and use of computer hardware, peripherals and software for knowledge management and legal research; trains attorneys and support staff in the secure and expert use of the equipment; evaluates new knowledge management and legal research systems; and assesses and reports on compliance via performance management software metrics.

Labor and Employment Law Division (LELD) provides ICE with labor and employment law advice and represents the agency before all courts and administrative

tribunals in employment-related litigation. In addition, the division advises ICE managers on labor and employment issues; advises the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) on issues which arise during investigations, suitability issues during pre- and post-employment background investigations, and the legal sufficiency of investigation reports. LELED also advises the Principal Legal Advisor on attorney hiring, promotion, discipline and employment-related matters.

National Security Law Division (NSLD) handles the growing number of cases involving terrorism, espionage, sabotage and other immigration issues related to national security; serves as ICE's national security liaison to other agencies including FBI, CIA, DOJ Criminal Division, and U.S. Attorney Offices; and works closely with DOJ's Office of International Affairs and the Department of State.

Strategic Management Division (SMD) is responsible for budget formulation, tracking and projecting payroll; reviewing, formulating and publishing OPLA policies; providing oversight for risk management and threat assessment; and creating and monitoring performance workload measures.