Notre Dame Law in D.C.
General Information

Notre Dame Law in D.C. allows Notre Dame law students to spend a semester living in D.C. and to engage in an intensive externship. Students enroll in a companion classroom seminar that meets weekly in D.C. as well as additional course work that may be undertaken via distance learning technology connecting to the home campus courses and professors. The externship term and companion seminar follow the Notre Dame academic calendar, including mid-semester breaks.

The Externship
The heart of the program is a 32 hour-per week volunteer externship placement in federal government-related positions, including federal agencies, executive branch offices, congressional offices and committees, federal courts and non-profit groups engaged in policy research or advocacy. The D.C. legal market offers an astounding array of opportunities in those sectors. The externships must involve substantial legal work. Students earn 8 fieldwork credits, graded on an S/U basis, during their externship placements. They may not receive compensation for their work.

Students work under the supervision of an attorney or judge who agrees to serve in a mentoring role by providing guidance and careful oversight of a student’s legal work, by engaging the student in reflection on broader questions raised by the office’s work, and by providing detailed feedback on the student’s performance.

The Seminar
This two-credit, letter-graded seminar will meet weekly in D.C. The seminar is designed to enhance the learning that occurs during the field placement by deepening students’ reflection on the justice system, lawyering skills, professional identity, ethics, and their own professional development. Students will have reading assignments, regular short writing assignments, and responsibility for class presentations.

Additional Course Work
The Law School requires students to earn a minimum of 14 credits per semester. Students in the Notre Dame Law in D.C. must earn at least 4 credits in courses beyond the externship and companion seminar. Students may do so by connecting to home campus classes through a video link, by doing a directed reading with a home campus professor, or by earning a journal credit, among other options.
Housing
Students are responsible for finding their own housing in D.C. Information on some housing options is available at law.nd.edu/DC.

Eligibility and Application Process
Second and third year students are eligible.

Please see the Application Process document located on the Law School's web site law.nd.edu/DC. Students selected for ND Law in D.C. should meet with Professor Jones before contacting potential placement sites. Students must be accepted into a placement before being enrolled in the program.

Further Information
Visit the Law School’s web site law.nd.edu/DC or contact ND Externship Coordinator Beth Ferrettie in office suite 3110 Eck Hall (bferrettie@nd.edu or 574-631-5867).