



## **Notre Dame Law in Chicago**

### **General Information**

Notre Dame Law in Chicago allows Notre Dame law students to spend a semester living in Chicago and engaging in an intensive externship in a non-profit, governmental, judicial, or corporate counsel setting. Students enroll in a companion classroom seminar that meets weekly in Chicago as well as additional course work that may be undertaken either in Chicago or on the South Bend campus. 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 a non-profit legal organization, a governmental law office (local, state or federal), a judicial chambers (state or federal), or an in-house corporate counsel office. The Chicago legal market offers an astounding array of opportunities in those sectors. The externships must involve substantial legal work. Some placements such as low income legal services providers, public defender offices or state government agencies may allow students to provide direct legal representation and appear in court pursuant to an Illinois 711 license. 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 meets weekly in Chicago. 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 Notre Dame Law in Chicago must earn at least 4 credits in courses beyond the externship and companion seminar. Students may do so through courses offered either at the Law School's Chicago Center at 224 S. Michigan Street or on the South Bend campus.

### **Housing**

Students are responsible to find their own housing in Chicago. Information on some housing options is available at [law.nd.edu/Chicago](http://law.nd.edu/Chicago).

## **Eligibility and Application Process**

Second and third year students are eligible. Third year students will generally be given priority. Second year students are discouraged from applying for the fall semester.

Interested students should contact Professor Jones or Program Director McBride to discuss their interest, Chicago opportunities, timing and preparation. Students should talk with Professor Jones or Program Director McBride before contacting potential placement sites. Students must interview with a field placement before being enrolled in the program. Placements should be arranged during the semester before the externship takes place.

Students are encouraged to review the ND Law in Chicago listings posted on the website, and also to be proactive in identifying other potential externship sites. Students are not limited to sites listed on the Approved Sites document.

Students should be aware that many potential placement sites have their own externship application procedures and deadlines. Those offices may receive applications from students at multiple law schools. Students can normally check the organizations' web sites to find externship application information. For Chicago-based organizations, there is a directory of organizations and helpful information on the Public Interest Law Initiative web site, [www.pili-law.org](http://www.pili-law.org).

## **Further Information**

Visit the Law School's website, [law.nd.edu/Chicago](http://law.nd.edu/Chicago), or contact

- Prof. Robert L. Jones, Jr., [rjones1@nd.edu](mailto:rjones1@nd.edu), 574-631-4863;
- Program Director Katelynn McBride, [katelynn.mcbride@nd.edu](mailto:katelynn.mcbride@nd.edu), 574-631-6917; or
- Coordinator Cathy Kustner, [ckustner@nd.edu](mailto:ckustner@nd.edu), 574-631-9301.