STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Court of Appeal
SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT
300 SOUTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
90013

CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL
SUMMER 2027 JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Court of Appeal in Los Angeles offers first- and second-year law students an opportunity to gain an understanding of the appellate decision-making process by participating in the work of a judicial chambers. Performed under the supervision of justices and research attorneys, the work includes reviewing appellate briefs and writ petitions, examining trial court records, conducting legal research, drafting opinions and memoranda, and observing oral argument sessions. Externs may also participate in writ conferences and attend conferences before and after oral argument.

A weekly or biweekly seminar component—taught by justices, research attorneys, and appellate practitioners—provides instruction on the role of intermediate appellate courts in the development of the law, the principal aspects of the appellate process, the influence of oral argument in reaching a decision, and the post-argument decision-making process. The seminar component also instructs externs on effective opinion-writing techniques. The externship is especially well suited for candidates interested in pursuing excellence in research and writing.

To provide a context for understanding issues raised on appeal or by writ, externs observe trial court proceedings (if available) and discuss the trial court decision-making process with judges conducting those proceedings. Externs may also have the opportunity to observe oral argument before the California Supreme Court. Post-argument discussions explore the procedural similarities and differences between the Supreme Court and the intermediate appellate courts.

Students interested in the program are invited to submit applications between December 1, 2026 and February 13, 2027. Applications received before December 1, 2026, will not be considered. Applications must include a cover letter, resume, legal writing sample, and, if available, law school transcript. Strong research and writing skills are preferred. Shortly after receipt of completed application packets, the applications will be electronically circulated to the 32 justices on the court for their consideration. The justices will make externship selections based on a review of the applications and telephonic or remote interviews.

Law students who wish to be considered for the summer program must electronically submit applications (including a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and transcript if available) in **one PDF document** to: Ana.Lemus@jud.ca.gov (213-830-7460). **Applications that are not submitted electronically will not be considered**.