Indiana University Maurer School of Law
Intellectual Property Externship Program

(1) Objectives
a. To provide a program of unpaid, for-credit law student externships for upper-level JD and international IP students, especially students who have an interest in patents and trademarks
b. To coordinate the administration of IP externships through the Center for Intellectual Property Research (CIPR) at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law (IU Maurer), as part of the CIPR’s oversight of the IU Maurer intellectual property curriculum
c. To develop partnerships with corporate IP legal staff, university technology transfer professionals, and others in the U.S. and abroad who can serve as externship partners in the program

(2) Overview
a. Extern Selection Process
   i. The Center circulates postings for all IP externship opportunities as a group on a predetermined date in advance of the externship semester (usually mid-September for spring semester opportunities; mid-February for summer and fall semester opportunities) so that selections can be made before students sign up for classes (by Oct. 15 and March 15, respectively). The deadlines can be waived when circumstances warrant.
   ii. The externship partner interviews and selects the externs, in consultation with Prof. Janis if desired.
b. Conduct of the Externship
   i. Work Hours/Credit Hours
      1. Students work approximately 50 work hours per credit hour earned.
      2. Part-time Model: students work 150 work hours and earn 3 credits. This model is frequently used by externship partners whose facilities are located close to Bloomington. Students usually work on-site with the externship partner for a full day on Fridays and off-site (at the law school) at other times.
      3. Full-time Model: students work 400 work hours and earn 8 credits. This model is typically used by partners whose facilities are not within easy driving distance of Bloomington. Students usually relocate from Bloomington for the semester so that they can work on-site at the externship full-time for the semester.
ii. No Compensation
   1. Students receive no compensation for externship work in the program.

iii. Travel and Housing Stipend
   1. For full-time externships, the Center recommends that externship partners consider providing students with stipends for travel and/or housing expenses.

iv. Working On-Site
   1. There is no requirement that students complete all of the work hours on-site, although the externship partner could, of course, require this. We have found that externship partners have been able to work out mutually acceptable arrangements with their student externs that may involve some work in Bloomington and some work on-site.

v. Confidentiality
   1. Because students are likely to be working on matters that are confidential to the externship host, students understand that they may be required, at the externship partner’s discretion, to agree to the terms of non-disclosure agreements and other related obligations expected of traditional employees.

vi. Journal Requirement
   1. Students are required to write brief journal entries periodically during the externship reflecting on their externship experiences. Students submit the journal entries to Prof. Janis for review. Students also write a research memo (approx. 2500 words) as part of earning credit for the externship.
   2. Students are expected to clear their journal entries with their externship supervisor as necessary to ensure that no confidential matter is disclosed in the journal entries.

vii. Feedback/Evaluation
   1. Prof. Janis will serve as the faculty supervisor for the IP externships and will take charge of the administrative requirements for the award of law school credit.
   2. Externship supervisors are asked to provide periodic emails to the Center confirming that the student’s work is satisfactory.
3. At the end of the externship, externship supervisors are asked to provide a written review of the student’s performance. Reviews frequently are short (e.g., one page) and are intended to ensure that the student’s performance was satisfactory according to a pass/fail standard.

4. On-site visits or conferences via Skype can be conducted as needed for externships exceeding four or more credits.

5. A different review process will be administered for externships taking place outside of the United States.

viii. No Promise of Full-Time Employment Opportunity

1. The externship is an important part of the student’s education in intellectual property law at IU Maurer. Students are advised that the externship does not carry any expectation, even implicitly, that the externship partner will consider the student for full-time employment.

For further information contact:

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Externship Partners:

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Office of Licensing and Trademarks at IU
Purdue Research Foundation
Roche Diagnostics (prospective)
US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
US Department of Energy
US International Trade Commission
US Patent and Trademark Office

- International students are welcome to apply for many of our positions. Hiring decisions will be made by externship hosts. See postings for more information.