Greetings wonderful supervisors! Our Externship Office is excited to present our first ever supervisor newsletter. In this issue, we will provide some information about enrollment at the law school and specifically, in our Externship Program. Additionally, this issue contains some praise from previous externs and a summary of a law review article that provides some tips for critiquing student writing.

As you can see from the charts below, enrollments have drastically declined. We will certainly try to keep the externs flowing to your offices despite the dips, and we thank you for your patience. If you have suggestions for our program, please let us know. We welcome constructive criticism and positive feedback. Please feel free to contact us with any thoughts or concerns as the semester progresses.

Finally, I want to close by offering our sincerest thanks for the guidance and mentorship that you provide to our students. You are strengthening our profession, as you model the characteristics that we hope our students will one day emulate in the field, and for that, we are extremely grateful.

Sincerely,
The Gonzaga Law Externship Program

As indicated above, enrollment of 2L and 3L students has dropped, causing a subsequent drop in the number of students participating in externships.

A Note from the Director

What Our Externs Say About Their Supervisors...

“I’m excited for the next law student who has the chance to work under such supervision. I am confident that he or she will have a great experience, just as I have.”

“I am so grateful for all that I have been taught and for my supervisor’s faith in me. I appreciate my supervisor trusting my discretion in the courtroom and allowing me to make important decisions on my own. I have acquired many skills that I know I will carry with me to future jobs.”

“The feeling of support allowed me to confidently face the challenges associated with the tasks I undertook, which gave me a profound sense that I really am capable of thriving in the legal field.”

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity.”

“I love that I was able to spread my wings and fly and make my own mistakes. I believe the best way to learn is ‘to do,’ and I was given as much experience as possible.”

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“I can firmly say that I would be happy with a job as a prosecutor and that is largely due to my experience in my supervising office.”

“I will definitely think back on my experience fondly and always be grateful for the guidance and trust of my supervisor.”

“What I have learned is truly invaluable and will be a great benefit to me in the future.”

“I have had the opportunity to utilize and develop skills I already possessed, gain new skills essential for pursuing a career after law school, and gain significant substantive and procedural knowledge of the law.”

**Top Ten**

**Tips for Field Supervisors on How to Efficiently and Effectively Critique Student Writing**

1. Set a tone for learning upfront. This helps students see constructive criticism as a necessary step for all students to improve legal writing, rather than as a personal attack on their writing skills.

2. Provide guidance before and during the assignment. It is helpful to explain the context of the assignment, discuss research strategy tips and any specific reference materials in your field, and the goals of the assignment.

3. Give an overall assessment of the work before discussing details. Students will understand specific comments better if they see the overall picture.

4. Comment on organization to help the reader grasp more easily the logical relationship between ideas.

5. Comment on analysis to prompt students to see holes in their arguments and better articulate their analysis. Techniques such as drawing analogies or distinctions between the client’s case and previously decided cases can help make analysis more apparent to the reader.

6. Mix positive comments with constructive criticism. Providing a positive comment, in and of itself, is an effective learning tool because novices need to hear what they have done well.

7. Use good writing samples to illustrate points, including the student’s own work. It is helpful for the novice to see samples or models of prior good work so that they understand what is expected.

8. Don’t fix everything! Editing and reworking the entire piece is time consuming and may overwhelm the student.

9. Feel free to comment on grammar and conciseness. Some novices may not have learned some writing basics.

10. Remember that a little experience can make a big difference. There can be a wide gap of knowledge between law students and attorneys, even those who have been practicing for only a short time. Keeping this in mind can help maintain an effective mentoring relationship.