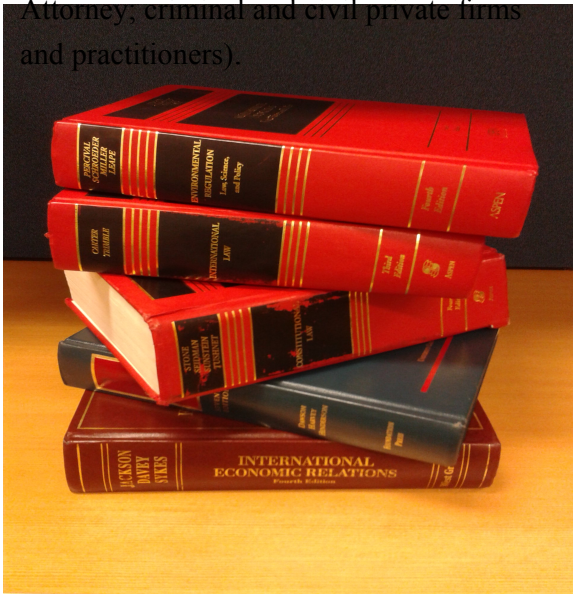


CREATING A PRE-LAW PROGRAM INTERNSHIP



Why Important?

- Students **make connections and network** with local lawyers, judges, and legal professionals.
- Pre-Law Internship assists with **recruitment of new students** to Pre-Law and SIUE.
- **SIUE work with community partners** (Madison County Courthouse; Illinois Justice Corps; St. Clair County State's Attorney, criminal and civil private firms and practitioners).



Problem: Lacking Experiential Learning Access

The Pre-Law Program has, over the past 7 years, experienced a renaissance. It now boasts:

- Active Pre-Law Association for students;
- Pre-Law Interdisciplinary Minor; and
- Pre-Law Mentor program.

However, it lacked experiential learning opportunities for students. Such opportunities would allow students to:

- Assess whether law school is the right choice.
- Learn what life is like in a law firm.
- Decide if this career path, given the high cost of a legal education, is their passion.

Solution: Create Legal Internships

- EUE Grant submitted & approved to create Pre-Law Program Internship.
- Identify Madison and St Clair Counties law firms and legal professionals.
- Work with Madison and St Clair County Bar Associations to identify contact information.
- Create SIUE Pre-Law Program Internship Agreement and cover letter for mailings.
- Mailings completed to over 700 law firms, agencies, and legal offices.
- Establish Excel database of participating firms and programs, once signed Agreement received by SIUE.



New Course: CJ 398.500

EUE WORK PRODUCT:

- Created Syllabus, Form 90 and Form 94 submitted and approved for **Fall 2016**.
- Students journal field notes.
- Students compare their expectations with the internship experience.
- Students earn 3 hours credit for 150 hrs onsite.

Student Feedback

- *"Through this experience, I met some really great people and I believe that I have made connections with people that may help me in the future with law school and obtaining employment in the legal field". Fall 2017*
- *"...my time with numerous attorneys and judges has given me a perspective unlike any other." Sp '17.*
- *"I am starting to get a feel for what day to day life is like as a prosecuting attorney, and I love it!" Sp '17.*
- *"I knew, right then and there, that this is what I want to do with my life." Sp '17.*