

TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF LAW RESIDENCY EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN PUBLIC POLICY

Learn. Serve. Lead.

January / February 2019

Texas A&M School of Law Residency Externship Program in Public Policy - Spring 2019



Back Row: Michael Galyen (2L), Taylor Winn (3L), Ryan Grant (2L), Daniel Howell (3L), PEdor Bravo (2L)
Front Row: Jacob Hugentobler (3L), Megan Fullerton (3L), Ashley Graves (3L), Daniel Weinstein (3L)

TAMU LAW SENDS PUBLIC POLICY STUDENTS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. & AUSTIN, TEXAS

The Texas A&M School of Law kicked off its news season of the Residency Externship Program in Public Policy in January 2019. The Class of 2018-2019 includes 6 students in Washington, D.C. and 4 students in Austin, Texas who are serving in semester-long substantive policymaking placements. "We are delighted to send another outstanding class of students to two of the most influential policy centers in the country," said Program Director Lisa A. Rich. "These young lawyers are spread throughout the state and federal government and already are tackling some of the most important policy issues this country faces," Rich continued. Students are placed in think tanks, with Congress and the Texas Legislature, the Governor's office, a lobbying firm, and a state agency where they are engaged in substantive policymaking, using the skills acquired at school, and meeting the policy stakeholders. Students and placements are set forth on pages 2-3.

AUSTIN STUDENTS JUMP INTO LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Program students arrived in Austin, Texas just in time to jump into the work of the 86th Session of the Texas Legislature. These students already are working on some of Texas' biggest policy matters including, property taxes, school safety, short-term rentals, criminal justice reform, and hemp regulation. Austin Program students are serving in policy roles within the Governor's Office of Budget & Policy, the Senate Business & Commerce Committee, the Senate State Affairs Committee, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

These students join recent Program graduates working in the Capitol including Lola Wilson, Class of 2017, General Counsel to Senator Charles Schwertner (Program Participant-2017), Hope Shelton, Class of 2018, Policy Advisor to the Senate State Affairs Committee (Program Participant-2018), Shelby Sterling, Class of 2018, Policy Advisor, Texas Public Policy Foundation (Program Participant-2018).



Before, when I worked in politics, I possessed little legal knowledge. Now, with the skills I have learned in law school, I look forward to being able to see why and how laws are made, and have a more advanced role in policymaking.

Megan Fullerton Robinson, 3L
Texas Senate State Affairs Committee



Public policy has always been of interest to me, and I am excited to observe policy making first hand. This program was something I just could not pass up given my policy interests.
Michael Galyen, 2L
Texas Senate Business & Commerce Committee



This experience will distinguish me from other job candidates who do not have the same experience shaping public policy as I do.

Jacob Hugentobler, 3L
Office of Governor Greg Abbott,
Office of Budget & Policy

I wanted to become involved in a policy-oriented externship because I haven't yet done anything like this in my legal career, and I feel it will better prepare me for post-grad work and provide a new perspective.



Taylor Faught, 3L
Texas Agriculture Commission

TAMU LAW STUDENTS ARRIVE IN DC WITH A NEW CONGRESS

Program students arrived in Washington, D.C. just as the 116th Congress began to organize. These 6 law students are working in a wide variety of policy positions covering some of the country's most pressing national issues. Already students are involved in national and international environmental matters; international and national agriculture and natural resources matters; Judicial and Executive Branch nominations proceedings; healthcare; education; and states rights just to name a few. Students are placed with a lobbying firm, a think tank, an advocacy organization, and in both the U.S. House and Senate.

I first heard of the Residency Externship Program during orientation week my 1L year, and from the moment I heard about it, I knew I wanted to earn my externship hours through it because when I picture my career as an attorney, it is in the public sector.

Ashley Graves, 3L
Environmental Law Institute

Politics and policymaking have always been a passion of mine. The Residency Externship Program in Public Policy gives me the opportunity to explore the intersection of law and policy in practice.

Ryan Grant, 2L
Republican Study Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

After leaving the Army in 2014, I knew I wanted to attend law school in order to pursue a life of continued public service. The Residency Externship Program in Public Policy was a no brainer in working towards that goal.

Pedro Bravo, 2L
Placement: Texas Public Policy Foundation, Washington, D.C.

I am excited to develop experience in regulatory and non-litigation arenas and to build a network in the area in which I want to practice - health law and policy.

Daniel Weinstein, 3L
U.S. Senate, Office of Senator Patty Murray

This Program will give me the invaluable opportunity to see the actual process of legislation & regulation in the nation's capital.

Daniel Howell, 3L
Cornerstone Government Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

By working in Washington, D.C., the hub of our country's policymaking, I will be able to gain insight and work alongside others making a difference every day.

Taylor Winn, 3L
U.S. Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
for Senator John Cornyn

TEXAS A&M PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM LAUNCHES POLICY & LAW SPEAKERS SERIES IN FORT WORTH

The Texas A&M School of Law launched its new “Policy & Law” Speakers series in February 2019. Each month, the Program will highlight a different substantive area of law and policy. The Program provides relevant facts about the substantive area of law and policy on its video monitor at school, as well as the new Public Policy listserv and other social media. The culminating event for the month is a panel presentation by practitioners and policymakers.

The series kicked off with “Health Law & Policy” as the focus. Texas has some of the most pressing issues in health policy including, 232 of its 245 counties being designated medically underserved; 1 in 10 of the nation’s homeless children residing in Texas; and 15 percent of its rural doctors serving 85 percent of Texas’ geography. “The law school is very interested in entering the health law and policy space, particularly given our location in the DFW area where we are surrounded by some of the largest health systems in the country,” said Professor Lisa Rich. “It was natural to start this important series with a topic so important to the state of Texas.” The month concluded with a Health Law & Policy presentation by Kip Poe, a registered nurse and Associate General Counsel with Children’s Health System of Texas. Ms. Poe shared her views on the healthcare industry, the role of lawyers in the field, and stressed the need to find ways for young lawyers to get involved in healthcare law and policy as early as possible in their careers.

The Policy & Law series continues in March with “Transportation Month.” “The DFW area is a transportation hub for the country,” Rich explained. “It also is growing exponentially so transportation flow is critical. This month’s speakers will explore all of these issues and offer our students great advice on careers in this area of law and policy.” March will actually host two transportation-related events, including a panel presentation with various policymakers at the beginning of the month and a presentation by the Texas Transportation Institute highlighting its work on autonomous vehicles at the end of the month.

The series will conclude in April with a focus on “Defense Policy Month.” “DFW is home to a number of the most important contributors to the national defense industry, and Texas A&M is heavily invested in this area as well,” Rich noted. “This will be a great ending to this very exciting series.”

Upcoming Policy & Law Speakers Series Events

March 8, 2019

1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Room 201
Transportation Panel with-
Holly Reed, Vice President for Government Relations, Texas Central
The Honorable Andy Eads, Denton County Judge
Senator David Cain, David Cain Consulting

March 20, 2019

12:00 – 12:45 p.m., Room 201
The Honorable Betsy Price
Mayor of the City of Fort Worth

March 25, 2019

12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Room 201
Presentation by the Texas Transportation Institute on Autonomous Vehicles

April 3, 2019

12:00- 1:00 p.m., Room 201
National Defense Panel with
Dr. Stephen Cambone, Associate Vice Chancellor & Engineering Professor of Practice, Texas A&M
Paula DeWitte, Associate Professor of Practice, Computer Science & Engineering, and Interim
Director Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center



TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF LAW DEVELOPS PUBLIC POLICY CONCENTRATIONS

In April 2018, the Texas A&M School of Law faculty approved a Public Policy Concentration for students. The concentration provides a focus on either Domestic or International Public Policy, and joins the law school's 10 other concentrations that provide students an opportunity to engage in specific courses of study — similar to majors in college. Earning a Public Policy Concentration and taking the prescribed courses offer students a valuable credential in the job market as an official acknowledgment of their expertise in a specific area of law.

IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

- Meet the Faculty of the Residency Externship Program in Public Policy
- Learn How Program Graduates Are Leading & Serving In Their Communities
- Get Caught Up on The Policy & Law Speakers Series in Fort Worth
- Learn Who Is Speaking in Austin & Washington, D.C.

Students are required to take a minimum of 16 credits and maintain a 2.33 gpa or better throughout all courses taken for the Concentration. Students may also specialize in sub-areas or combine the Concentration with another to demonstrate to employers significant substantive policy expertise.

Four students from the class of 2018 gained the new Concentration – three with a focus on Domestic Public Policy and one with a focus on International Public Policy.

SPRING 2020 IS COMING! REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019-2020 PROGRAM WILL OPEN SOON

The Residency Externship Program in Public Policy will hold an Interest Meeting for students on March 21, 2019, at 12:00 and again at 5:00 p.m. During the meeting, students will plan their course of study to ensure they meet all curricular, graduation, and Program requirement-including class scheduling. Deadline to apply for the 2019-2020 Program **is June 1, 2019.**

Visit the Program webpage, law.tamu.edu for more information.

Newsletter Photography by Doug Thurman
Text by Lisa A. Rich