

Learn the ins and outs of appeals with the California Appellate Project of Los Angeles this summer!

California Appellate Project - Los Angeles (CAP-LA) oversees the court-appointed counsel program for the California Court of Appeal, Second District. Our attorneys directly represent indigent clients who have suffered a felony conviction or juvenile adjudication as well as clients facing loss of custody and termination of their parental rights in dependency proceedings. We also directly train, assist, supervise, and evaluate a panel of over 300 private attorneys who take appointments in indigent appeals. Our mission is to ensure that indigent appellants receive the effective representation guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment of the federal constitution and the laws of the State of California.

CAP-LA is looking for up to four summer interns to participate in our full-time, 10 week summer program. The summer program will be conducted in a hybrid format, with at least three days per week in-person at our downtown Los Angeles office. Interns will work closely with staff attorneys and gain an understanding of appellate criminal defense, juvenile delinquency, and juvenile dependency law by reviewing records, writing memoranda, and drafting an opening brief in an active case under the supervision of a staff attorney. Interns have the opportunity to observe every aspect of the appellate process, from briefing to oral argument in the Second District. Interns will also observe proceedings at the trial level in both criminal and dependency court and have the opportunity to meet with numerous members of the judiciary in both state and federal court. This experience will teach interns not only what is necessary to be an effective advocate at the appellate level, but also what trial attorneys must do to be constitutionally effective and set a case up for an appeal.

At the end of the summer, interns will have a solid understanding of state appellate law and a well-polished legal writing sample. This is an ideal opportunity for law students looking to gain hands-on experience in appellate work while developing a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system and juvenile law.

We are looking for rising 2L or 3L students with a strong interest in social justice, criminal defense, juvenile delinquency, or juvenile dependency law who have:

- Excellent legal research and writing skills,
- Strong attention to detail and ability to work independently,
- Ability to work collaboratively in a hybrid office environment, and
- Demonstrated commitment to criminal justice, indigent defense, and/or the rights of parents and children.

To apply, please email a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to Jennifer Peabody at JP@lacap.com.

