

FRANKLIN PIERCE LAW CENTER has always focused on training students for practice.

In addition to our clinical offerings, Pierce Law has one of the most extensive externship programs available today. Externships offer students the opportunity to learn from practice and to gain essential work experience. Pierce Law is currently working to enhance and expand its externship programs by creating new externship opportunities and increasing faculty/student contact.

Supervisors report that a substantial amount of quality work is performed by our students, but more often, the reason that someone chooses to be a supervisor, is because they enjoy the interaction with the student they are training. And while to some, free labor might sound too good to be true, the attorneys who succeed well in these supervisory positions are really "teachers at heart."

Students on externship need and expect both regular supervision and a degree of mentoring. The recent Duane, Morris & Heckscher LLP Externship is an excellent example of how successful this program can be. Both Michael Wesolowski '02 and Supervisor Anthony Colesanti '97 report very positive experiences, as is captured in their following stories.

If you have experience in practice, and harbor an interest in helping students make the transition from student to professional, please contact Pierce Law. Externships can be a personally rewarding experience for all involved.

Philadelphia Externship Equals **OPPORTUNITY**

Duane, Morris & Heckscher LLP
Externship

Supervising Attorney:
Anthony Colesanti '97

Michael Wesolowski
Class of 2002
mwesolowski@piercelaw.edu

EXTERNING AT DUANE MORRIS & HECKSCHER HAS BEEN A GREAT CAPSTONE TO MY LEGAL EDUCATION. Not only did it allow me to apply my formal classroom education, but the program also gave me valuable insights into intellectual property practice as a whole. For example, working for Pierce alum Tony Colesanti introduced me to the practical aspect of obtaining and maintaining client relationships. My experience largely involved counseling start-up companies; particularly in aiding them in obtaining IP portfolio's, gaining access to investors, and executing confidentiality agreements when disclosing to potential investors or manufacturers. My experience further included prior art searches and patent drafting, amendment practice, trademark searches and applications, and trademark amendment practice. Having taken Professor Jepson's patent practice and procedure courses, I found that my understanding of patent procedure and drafting skills were on par with most upper level associates, and I was able to further refine my amendment practice skills throughout the externship. I particularly enjoyed advising non-corporate clients, who understandably are often quite unfamiliar with patent practice. At Duane Morris, I had the opportunity to meet with individual inventors,

discuss the patentability of their invention(s), and most importantly, discuss whether or not the expected allowed claims would protect the economically viable aspects of their invention.

I think the experience I gained at the externship along with my experience working for fellow alum Thomas Bohan vastly improved my lawyering skills, and hopefully will increase my marketability as I look for a job in today's tight IP marketplace.

–Michael Wesolowski '02

In the fall of 1996, I had the opportunity to participate in an externship program hosted by Victor Genco '91 at W.L Gore and Associates in Newark, DE. In a nutshell, Vic impressed upon me both the legal and interpersonal skills necessary to be an effective attorney. That invaluable experience helped my transition from law school to private practice in Philadelphia, and served as a foundation for my career, first, as an attorney, and later, as both a teacher and mentor.

Last fall, I established a Duane Morris extern program as a way to provide students with the same opportunity I was afforded in law school, that is, the chance to apply lessons learned at Franklin Pierce Law Center in a professional environment. Also, I view the program as an opportunity to develop my own communication skills, which I hope in turn will strengthen my client relationships.

Although the time commitments of supervising have been greater than anticipated, I have taken great satisfaction in showing students how all the pieces of law school fit together. From issues of professional responsibility to broad based strategic counseling involving intellectual property, contract, antitrust and tort law, it is indeed the aggregate of our law school studies that makes a successful attorney. This should be the focus of a successful extern program, and this is what I strive to achieve as an extern supervisor.

Anthony Colesanti '97
Supervising Externship Attorney
Duane, Morris & Heckscher LLP



Pictured above are Michael Wesolowski '02 (lt.) and Anthony Colesanti '97 at Duane, Morris & Heckscher LLP in Philadelphia, PA.