



County of Ventura
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
TODD W. HOWETH

CLAUDIA BAUTISTA
Assistant Public Defender

PAUL DREVENSTEDT
Assistant Public Defender

ANDRE NINTCHEFF
Chief Deputy Public Defender

TIM QUINN
Chief Deputy Public Defender

MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ
Chief Deputy Public Defender

LARRY CARLTON
Chief Investigator

AURORA LAZARO
Manager/Fiscal Admin Services

VOLUNTEER LAW STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Ventura County Public Defender's Office is committed to providing equal justice to the indigent community. We are seeking students interested in advocating for our vulnerable and indigent population by providing clients with the dignity they deserve through zealous representation. Students can expect to be tasked with criminal research and motion writing, as well as trial preparation and casefile review including watching body camera footage, audio file review and spotting and exploring legal issues. Student clerks will work closely with attorneys on assignments and will be contacting clients and observing court procedures. Students will expect to be assigned to either our general litigation practice or to our Veteran's Treatment Court.

Clerkships are offered throughout the year. Applicants may submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample to Ayala Benefraim, Senior Deputy Public Defender at ayala.benefraim@ventura.org. The cover letter should convey why the applicant wants to clerk for the Ventura County Public Defender's Office and why the office should select the applicant. Applicants that appear well suited for the program will be offered an in-person interview. Internship offers will be made within 4 weeks of the in-person interview to those that seem best qualified and committed to our practice.

Clerkships are not employee positions, they are unpaid and carry no guarantee of future employment with the office.



<u>POSITION/SESSION DEADLINE</u>	<u>SUGGESTED APPLICATION</u>
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Summer Internship*	Feb 1 st of the Same Year
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Fall Internship*	June 1 st of the Same Year
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Spring Internship*	September 1 st of the Same Year
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*All Clerks must complete one year of law school before beginning their internship.

Clerks are encouraged to become “certified law clerks” pursuant to California Bar Association Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students Rule 3.4. Only certified clerks may appear on the record in case proceedings. The Ventura County Public Defender’s Office can assist qualified clerks to become certified. **Becoming a certified clerk does not guarantee record appearances.**

For Inquiries or further information, contact:

Ayala Benefraim, Senior Deputy Public Defender at Ayala.Benefraim@ventura.org

Damon Jenkins, Senior Deputy Public Defender at Damon.Jenkins@ventura.org

Desiree Figueroa, Paralegal at Desiree.Figueroa@ventura.org

