Gaining Exposure to the Legal Profession
Through Work, School or Volunteerism

If you are considering a career in law, you should gain exposure to the legal profession in order to make an informed decision about attending law school. Many opportunities exist for students wanting to gain exposure to "law in action," but you should spend time searching and researching for the right position. Begin looking for positions months in advance. Start your search early and apply to several positions.

Decide when you want to work. How much time can you commit? A summer job, a part-time job during semesters, an internship where you earn college credit, etc. Some students gain experience through volunteer work or by simply sitting in courtrooms. Many academic departments can arrange internship credit for their students. Becoming a CoOp student or PPIP intern requires you to commit for several semesters, but may yield career benefits later. For some positions, you may receive academic credit; check with your academic advisor about opportunities within your department.

Decide whether you expect to be paid for your work and what proportion of your income you must earn in the position. Your choices in positions are greater if you can forego the income. However, many students find paying jobs in firms, courts and offices.

Decide where you want to work. Determine whether you are restricted geographically in your job search. Some students find positions in towns where they can live with relatives or friends, thereby saving money on rent. Others get away from it all and travel to D.C. or New York City. The Andersen Library, 2nd Floor Koldus Building, keeps multitudes of books of internship possibilities located all over the world.

Decide where to start your search. Make a list of possible leads and begin sending resumes and letters of interest. Let your fingers do the walking through the Yellow Pages and/or contact your county bar association. Many legal aid societies would be grateful for your volunteer hours. A partial listing of some volunteer opportunities appears on the back of this page. Remember, the earlier you start, the greater your chance of success! You could begin your list by contacting the following:

- Law firms in your hometown
- Courts - municipal, county, district, state and federal
- Your state Senators and Representatives
- U.S. Senators and Representatives
- Legal Aid Societies
- Governmental agencies (federal, state and local)
- Public interest groups
- Texas Aggie Bar Association
Prepare a resume. Campus resources to aid you in your search and resume preparation include the Andersen Library in the Career Center, your academic advisor, the Writing Center, and the Office of Professional School Advising.

**Summer and Volunteer Opportunities**

*Texas Attorney General’s Office*

Child Support Enforcement  
4001 E. 29th Street Suite 102  
Bryan, TX 77802  
979-823-4080  
512-358-3215 — Statewide office  
Act as legal assistant through volunteer or intern opportunities.  
Positions available throughout the state, including Brazos County.

*College Station Municipal Court Internship*

Judge Edward Spillane III  
(979) 764-3850  
www.cstx.gov  
Contact the court to request information

*Brazos County Juvenile Services*

Mentoring Program  
Sara Herbst or Yves Raeolina  
1904 West SH 21  
Bryan, TX 77803  
(979) 823-3544 ext. 278  
Work with juveniles currently on probation in either school or extra curricular activities.

*Brazos County District Attorney’s Office*

300 E. 26th St., Suite 310,  
Bryan, Texas 77803  
979-361-4320  
Work with an investigator from the DA’s Office. Requires a minimum commitment of 15 hours per week.

*Lone Star Legal Aid*

219 N. Main, Suite 509  
Bryan, TX 77803  
http://www.lonestarlegal.org  
Provide assistance to people who cannot afford to hire an attorney

*Sponsors of Educational Opportunity*

23 Gramercy Park South  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 979-2040  
http://www.soeusa.org  
Minority Corporate Law Program for students starting law school in the fall. Provides stipend.

*Texas A&M Public Policy Intern Program*

203 Jack Williams Building  
979-845-3210  
http://www.tamu.edu/ppip  
Assists Aggies with internship opportunities, including funding and housing, in Washington, D.C., and Austin, Texas.

*Council On Legal Education Opportunity*

740 15th St NW 9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
(866) 886-4343  
http://www.abanet.org/cleo or http://www.cleoscholars.org  
Summer program for minority or disadvantaged students.

Programs for each level, freshman through senior.

**Professional School Advising is partially funded by the Association Former Students.**

Florida State University College of Law  
Summer for Undergraduates Program  
Nancy Benavides  
Florida State University College of LawOffice of Student Affairs  
425 West Jefferson  
Tallahassee, FL 32306  
Provide experience for students who are underrepresented in the legal profession. Provides room and board, course material, and stipend.

*National Endowment for the Humanities*

Christine Kalke  
Internships Coordinator  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20506  
(202) 606-8843  
http://neh.gov  
Introduce college students to the programs and operations of the federal agency charged with promoting scholarship, education, and public programming in the humanities.

*Summer Law School Preparation Academy*

University of Texas San Antonio  
Richard Gambitta, Ph.D.  
6900 N Loop 1604 W  
San Antonio, TX 78249  
(210) 458-5883  
http://utsa.edu/ilpa/

*Oxford-Ohio State Summer PreLaw Program*

Michael E. Moritz College of Law Ohio State University55 West 12th Avenue Columbus, OH 43210-1391  
http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/oxford/prelaw/index.html  
Spend the summer in Oxford, England learning about the British and American Legal Systems.

*City of College Station Municipal Volunteer Program*

Mike Mullen  
Community Programs Assistant  
City of College Station  
(979) 764-5792  
Teen Court, local boards, city government, law enforcement.