

## Undergraduate Student Internships & Externships (Yakima, WA)

**Description:** The Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington & Idaho offers unpaid undergraduate student internships during the summer and externships during academic semesters/quarters in our Yakima, Washington office. The Yakima office primarily covers federal court in both Yakima and Richland, with occasional clients in Spokane, Washington. All undergraduate interns and externs must work in-person.

Undergraduate interns and externs will primarily work with our investigators and social worker to assist with reviewing discovery, submitting records requests, and performing investigative tasks. Interns and externs will also accompany investigators and social workers on meetings with clients and witness interviews. Interns and externs are encouraged to observe court proceedings. All interns and externs are welcome at staff meetings as well as attorney-investigator meetings to discuss cases.

Receiving academic credit for any internship or externship will be the responsibility of the student. Our staff will complete any requirements (ex. progress reports or evaluations) that your school may have for us. All internships and externships are unpaid. Students will be responsible for arranging their own housing and accommodations. You will be expected to dress professionally when in the office.

**Why Yakima?** You have definitely heard of Seattle, perhaps Spokane, and state capital aficionados will know Olympia. Odds are you are unfamiliar with Yakima. Yakima is quite an interesting place to practice federal criminal defense. Yakima and Richland see their fair share of federal crimes, with a somewhat heavier concentration of drugs, firearms, immigration, and child pornography cases. Yakima is also connected to the Yakama Reservation, which the federal court exercises jurisdiction over, leading to a number of cases normally prosecuted in state court (murders, sex crimes, assaults, arson) being assigned to our office. There is also a significant Spanish-speaking population, driven in large part by the agricultural workforce. As a smaller office with six attorneys, four investigators, and a social worker, you will have opportunities to get meaningfully involved in cases and learn from everyone in the office.

We think you will love it in Yakima even when you are not in the office. Yakima is home to an abundance of farms, breweries, and wineries. There are great hiking trails and plenty of areas for camping and backpacking, as well as all kinds of other outdoors activities like biking, kayaking, and skiing. We have music, wine, and beer festivals throughout the summer and fall. There are two farmers markets that run from May to October. We're approximately a 2 ½ hour drive from Seattle, 3 hours from Portland, and 3 hours from Spokane, making it easy to have some weekend getaways. We even have our own airport! (It only flies back and forth to Seattle, but still...)

**Qualifications and How to Apply:** Undergraduate internships and externships are open to any student who has completed at least their first two years of college when their internship begins. Externships during an academic semester or quarter are open to any student who has completed their first year of college, though two years is preferred. Applicants must demonstrate a legitimate interest in indigent criminal defense.

Interested students should send a letter of interest, resume, references, and short writing sample (10 pages or less) to Cole Rojan, an investigator in the Yakima office. All applications and materials should be submitted by email ([Cole\\_Rojan@fd.org](mailto:Cole_Rojan@fd.org)).

Our office will contact applicants to schedule follow-up phone and/or video interviews as needed.

**Deadlines and When to Apply:** Preferred application dates are listed below, but please feel free to apply any time. If you are interested in coming to Yakima to work with us, please reach out to inquire whether any spots are available even if the preferred deadline has passed. Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received, and offers will be extended to applicants in the order in which they are reviewed. We try to update the website to note when spots are filled, but feel free to ask.

Summer Internships	February 1
Fall Externships	June 1
Winter/Spring Externships	November 1