

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW  
SOUTH AFRICA EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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The South African Programs Committee invites you to submit an application for an externship during the Fall 2017 or Spring 2018 semester. To be eligible to participate in the School of Law's externship in South Africa, you must take the law school's course on South Africa and the Law.

### ***A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM***

A South Africa externship consists of serving in a public interest law office or legal clinic in South Africa for 14 weeks. Each extern receives 11 law school credit hours. Externs are expected to participate on a full-time basis at their assigned offices in South Africa. Each externship office is responsible for providing appropriate legal work and assigning a regular staff member to supervise each extern.

### ***THE APPLICATION PROCESS***

Please submit your application, including a copy of your law school transcript and the written statement, no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017** to Crystal Edwards (Suite 260). After the application deadline, the South African programs Committee will schedule interviews of each applicant. Applicants will be considered on the basis, inter alia, of their commitment to an in-depth learning experience; maturity and other personal traits indicating an applicant would do well in a foreign environment; evidence of sufficient law school academic preparation, such as legal writing and research; and demonstrated ability to complete law office work assignments and independent study with initiative, thoroughness, and reliability.

The Committee will forward the names and resumes of selected externs to law offices and clinics in South Africa. Each of those offices makes the ultimate decision about which extern(s) will be assigned to their respective offices. The Committee expects that our externs will be flexible and open to unknown rewards in South Africa. The Committee cannot guarantee that externs will be placed in specific offices or cities in South Africa.

### ***PREPARATION FOR AN EXTERNSHIP***

***Can You Afford A Semester Away From Law School?*** Former externs return to the U.S. convinced that, far from "interfering" with their law studies, a semester in South Africa can be one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime. Prospective employers know that applicants who have participated in this kind of program often are more mature and have broader base of knowledge than other applicants. And you can take steps to ensure that you can combine the externship with your other academic and employment plans. For example, create a schedule now for completion of your certification paper, the Cardin requirement and other courses you want to take before graduation. You might prepare letters to prospective employers explaining what the South Africa externship is and requesting alternate times for interviews. Talk with former externs and faculty members of the South Africa Programs Committee about these kinds of concerns. The Committee will gladly provide names and contact information for Program alumnae who can answer some of your questions.

***Costs.*** It is expected that the costs of transportation, housing and incidental expenses of a South Africa externship will approximate the non-tuition costs of attending a semester at the law school in Baltimore. Externs may incur additional expenses if they elect, for example, to travel in other countries before or after the South Africa semester. Each applicant should begin to calculate anticipated costs and available resources.

Financial aid is not available for non-academic costs related to a South Africa externship. An updated student manual for the program will be distributed to all accepted applicants. The manual will provide students with up-to-date tips on life in South Africa, housing, travel and other useful information.

**Travel.** South Africa Airways now has frequent flights between the United States and South Africa. Other airlines can be used too. However, costs vary widely, depending on when tickets are purchased, the travel itinerary, and even which travel agent is used. Each extern is responsible for arranging his/her own travel arrangements to and from South Africa. Nevertheless, the Program will assist students in finding information about the best, most affordable flights.

**Housing.** Externs also make their own housing arrangements in South Africa. Again the Program will provide to students the housing information we have available. Students should be able to find decent housing in South Africa at prices well below what they pay in the Baltimore area. In addition, employees in the host offices and other students often have information about suitable rental opportunities.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Visas.** Each student traveling to South Africa will need a visa. Each extern should apply for a visa at the nearest South African embassy or consulate. The Committee will provide a letter for each extern that should be submitted when the visa application is submitted. Externs should contact the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. by phone to learn what steps and information are necessary.

**Health.** South Africa does not require proof of immunization. However, each student should consult his/her private physician about recommended inoculations. Your doctor can also suggest medications for minor illnesses that you might want to take along on the trip.

**Insurance.** Each student should arrange for adequate insurance coverage during the trip abroad, which may include emergency evacuation insurance as well as health and accident insurance.

## **THE REWARDS**

Our externs have been warmly received in South Africa. South African attorneys with whom we work recognized that our students have excellent research and writing skills, and are used to thinking critically about legal issues. The host offices praise our students for their initiatives and strong interest in South Africa. Our externs witness and make an important contribution in South Africa's struggle to transform every aspect of their government.

As you know from your studies, South Africa offers a wide variety of cultures, color, sounds, and landscape. The externship semester will enable you to experience that variety first hand, and to obtain perspectives from people living in the country. These experiences will enhance your legal education far beyond what is available by only reading about the country from the U.S.

Feel free to contact any of the faculty Committee members if you have questions about the application or the externship program.