



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

SUMMER LAW CLERK PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Law Clerk Program
Human Resources Division
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

Office of the Attorney General of Texas

Summer Law Clerk Program

PURPOSE The Summer Law Clerk Program strives to introduce qualified first-year and second-year law students from around the country to the rewarding and diverse legal work of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

THE AGENCY Attorney General Greg Abbott is the lawyer for the State of Texas and is charged by the Texas Constitution to defend the laws and the Constitution of the State of Texas; represent the State in litigation; and approve public bond issues. To fulfill these responsibilities, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) serves as legal counsel to all boards and agencies of state government; issues legal opinions when requested by the Governor, heads of state agencies, and other officials and agencies as provided by Texas statutes; sits as an ex-officio member of state committees and commissions; and defends challenges to state laws and suits against both state agencies and individual employees of the State.

The OAG has taken on numerous other roles through the years. In addition to its constitutionally prescribed duties, the OAG files civil suits upon referral by other state agencies. In some circumstances, the Attorney General has original jurisdiction to prosecute violations of the law, but in most cases, criminal prosecutions by the Attorney General are initiated only upon the request of a local prosecutor. Although the Attorney General is prohibited from offering legal advice or representing private individuals, he serves and protects the rights of all citizens of Texas through the activities of the various divisions of the agencies. Actions that benefit all citizens of this state include enforcement of health, safety and consumer regulations; educational outreach programs and protection of the rights of the elderly and disabled. The Attorney General is also charged with the collection of court-ordered child support and the administration of the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

CLERKS The OAG seeks motivated law clerks who have completed their first and second years at accredited law schools. Although the OAG conducts onsite interviews at Texas law schools, it welcomes applications from qualified students from any accredited law school in the country. In recent years, the OAG has hosted law clerks from a variety of law schools, including the University of Chicago Law School, Duke University School of Law, Suffolk University Law School, Harvard Law School, the Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law, and the University of San Diego School of Law.

CLERKSHIPS

The OAG offers both paid and unpaid clerkships. In 2008, paid clerks received \$3500 for a six-week clerkship. Paid clerkships are for six weeks only and are generally only for students who have completed their second year of law school. Unpaid clerks should commit to at least six weeks but may stay on for a longer period. Clerks are assigned to one division of the agency for a six-week period.

Clerks perform a variety of legal work at the OAG, including legal research, drafting briefs and motions, and attending hearings. Social and professional events throughout the summer also provide clerks opportunities to meet other clerks, OAG lawyers, and members of Executive Management.

APPLYING

Second-year students at Texas law schools: To obtain a clerkship at the OAG, interested second-year students from Texas law schools are encouraged to sign up for on-campus interviews in the fall and submit a resume, transcript and writing sample.

Second-year students at non-Texas law schools: Interested applicants should obtain an application from the Law Clerk Program page in the OAG's website, http://www.oag.state.tx.us/agency/jobs_clerks.shtml, and submit the completed application along with a resume, transcript and writing sample to the Law Clerk Recruitment Coordinator. Completed application packets should be submitted by the first week of October, but applications submitted by the end of the first week in February will be considered. Applications may be submitted via mail, fax, or even email.

First-year law students: Students currently in their first year at any law school should obtain an application from the Law Clerk Program page in the OAG's website, http://www.oag.state.tx.us/agency/jobs_clerks.shtml, and submit the completed application along with a resume, transcript and writing sample to the Law Clerk Recruitment Coordinator no later than the end of the first week in February. Applications may be submitted via mail, fax, or even email. The mailing address, email address, phone, and fax numbers are listed on the website.

DECISIONS

Offers for paid clerkships are generally made by early November, but additional offers may be made in the spring. Responses to offers made in the fall are expected by mid-December. Unpaid clerkships are offered throughout the school year but usually start in November. In the summer of 2008, the OAG hosted 58 law clerks, of which 21 were paid law clerks.

For more information, contact:

Law Clerk Recruitment Coordinator
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