The Judicial Administration Fellowship Program is a partnership between the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento and the Judicial Council of California that provides a unique opportunity to integrate the study of public policy with full-time work in the largest single court system in the nation.

Judicial Administration Fellows work in courts across California, gaining direct experience in the management of a complex and changing court environment. Courts do much more than adjudicate cases. In the service of promoting access to justice for everyone, Judicial Fellows are exposed to the management and/or development of court informational systems, self-help programs, multi-million dollar budgets, policy, and other managerial tasks. The special challenge of court administration is to manage these functions in ways that preserve judicial independence and ensure the efficient and fair administration of the law.

“The Judicial Administration Fellowship Program is one of our efforts to ensure the continued excellence of California’s courts. I have had the opportunity to work with Judicial Fellows and have been inspired by their contributions and their commitment. The fellows gain valuable experience working with the finest judiciary in the world, and we encourage the talent we need now and in the future to manage the largest court system in the nation.”

—Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council of California
“Working in a research division of a large court, I have been treated like part of the team. I’ve conducted both quantitative and qualitative research, which has informed the decision-making process of executive court administrators. I have worked on topics such as strategic planning, access, staff training and development, and alternative dispute resolution. More specifically, some of my projects have included meeting with operational staff to collect qualitative job information, identifying trends in cases, redesigning parts of the courts website, working with staff and a judge to create a pilot mediation program, and designing surveys and analyzing the results. I have also gained invaluable insight from visiting other fellows’ courts for seminars, which are an opportunity to exchange ideas with others that share your interests. Those experiences have allowed me to help shape the face of my court as well as develop my own knowledge and expertise in areas that interest me.”

A day in the life of a Judicial Fellow may include work in...

- Project management
- Collaborative court operations
- Legislative analysis
- Exposure to a variety of court programs and departments
- Research and projects involving contemporary criminal justice issues such as: juvenile justice and teen court programs, reentry court, and realignment

Possible placement opportunities may include...

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Community Relations Office
Superior Court of California, County of Orange
Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco
Superior Court of California, County of Placer
Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino

Compensation and Benefits

- Monthly stipend of $2,550 and health, dental and vision benefits
- Paid university enrollment and student fees for units in the Public Policy and Administration department and student loan deferment

Timeline

February ......................... Applications due*
Last week of April ............. Sacramento interviews**
First week of May ............. Los Angeles interviews**
May ............................. Candidates notified
September ..................... Fellowship begins
July .......................... Fellowship ends

* Applications and specific dates, details and deadlines can be found online at csus.edu/calst/judicial
** All interviews must be conducted in person

For more information, contact:

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2012-13 Judicial Fellows