



EXTERNSHIPS AT UCI

Highlighted Placement: Attorney General of the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians

The Externship Program at UCI Law takes great pride in supporting both student-initiated and faculty expertise-driven placements. Recently, a UCI Law student's interest and a UCI Law Professor's expertise and contacts came together to provide an especially fulfilling externship for Olivia Weber '17.

Weber was the first UCI Law extern with the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, located in Valley Center, California. Rincon is a sovereign government recognized by the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Congress, court precedent, and federal policy. Democratically elected by a majority vote of tribal members, the Rincon Tribal Council has the executive, legislative, and legal authority and responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of the tribal members and jurisdiction over the reservation land. The tribe has a trust relationship with the federal government, and, like state governments, is responsible for enforcing all applicable federal laws from environmental to taxation on the reservation.

Professor Seth Davis is an expert on federal litigation and public administration and teaches Federal Indian Law at UC Irvine School of Law. Weber, a student in Davis' class, got to work one-on-one with the Rincon Attorney General, assisting her with legal representation of the Band by conducting research, writing analytical memoranda, and drafting legislation, commercial contracts, and intergovernmental agreements.

"This experience confirmed that I would one day like to advocate on behalf of a tribe," Weber said. "It was a full introduction to Federal Indian Law and Tribal Law."

Externship Program

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UC Irvine School of Law's strong emphasis on experiential learning includes a robust Externship Program, which provides academic credit for students doing legal work in field placements locally, across the country, as well as internationally. In the field, externs learn how practicing lawyers and judges handle facts and law and integrate theory and skill in real time, facing the sometimes-tough choices and conditions that exist in legal careers. The program increases students' understanding of the fundamental values of the legal profession, including a commitment to promoting access to justice and the ethical practice of law.

Our program encourages students to create their own placements, building on and applying the knowledge they have gained in their substantive coursework. Our faculty offers full support by developing placements through their community contacts and using their expertise to serve as faculty advisors. With part-time opportunities offered in every semester, including summer, and full-time opportunities available in the academic year, the Externship Program at UCI Law can support every students' learning and career goals.

Additionally, as a school partner in the UCDC Law program, UCI Law offers a uniquely collaborative, full-semester externship program in Washington, D.C. Through this total immersion in the theory and practice of Washington lawyering, students have contact with all three branches of the federal government, independent regulatory agencies, and advocacy nonprofits.