SYLLABUS
JUDICIAL PRACTICUM-DISTRICT COURT EXTERNSHIP
Spring Term – 2009
Monday 6:00-7:50  006 Law School

Judge Steven D. Wheeler
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Call or email Judge Wheeler with any questions

CLASS SCHEDULE

There will be six classroom meetings for the District Court Externship. Classroom meetings are devoted to student discussion of issues relating to their experiences while working with their judge, and to discussion of various issues that relate to the work of a judge.

Jan. 26, 2009    Introduction
March 16, 2009    Good Lawyering & Bad Lawyering & Juries
Feb.  2, 2009    How to Draft an Order & Judicial Canons (Ethics)
April 13, 2009    Judicial Decision-Making
Feb. 23, 2009    Judicial Canons Con’t & Good & Bad Lawyering
April 27, 2009    Closing Discussion & Final

READINGS AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS
This is not a heavy reading course. However, every student must read the entire Code of Judicial Standards and Commentary, found in the Minnesota Rules of Court book or online through WestLaw. The Code will be the basis for at least 2 class discussion sessions. Students will report on and discuss various provisions in the Code. Other readings and assignments for this class may be distributed from time to time.

E-MAIL PROTOCOL
All messages are required to have a subject line which sorts easily, and is formatted as follows:

Hamline Judicial Externship - FURTHER SUBJECT INFO HERE (Journal for 2-20-09, Etc.)

Please do not used some other variant of Hamline’s name – Hamline as the first word is the critical piece.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students have widely varying experiences in this externship. Judges have different approaches to working with interns. For example, some judges ask interns to do a great deal of research and writing; some judges peer that interns do one or two writing assignments.

Each student should complete at least one written assignment for their judge.
Regardless of which judge you are assigned to, you should expect to do the following:

1. Observe your judge in the courtroom and in chambers (and hopefully other judges) and other
courthouse staff working on a variety of a cases; no more than 20 percent of your time should
be spent doing administrative or office duties.
2. Discuss in class the different approaches judges take to different types of problems and
situations.
3. Observe many different lawyers working in chambers and in open court.
4. Discuss in class various problems of judicial administration.
5. Analyze and critique, in class and in your journal, different styles of lawyering and judging.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
There are three course requirements for the District Court Externship: Intern work, journaling, and
participation in class discussion and assignments.
All three must be completed satisfactorily in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

INTERN WORK
Each student will be assign judge, magistrate, or referee in the state of
federal court system. During the semester, the student will work in the
judge’s chambers and keep a record of the amount of time worked. Judges
are not asked to grade student work, but work must be completed to the
judges’ satisfaction. Each student should complete at least one written
assignment for his or her judge, at least 10 pages in length. Turn the paper
in to Vicki Jauert, Administrator for the Skills Program, along with a
record of your hours. Hours must be turned in each week to Vicki
Jauert, on the form provided.

JOURNAL
In addition to keeping track of time spent completing course requirements,
students must also keep a journal or diary about their experience working for
the judge. The journal should not simply be a narrative of your experiences. It
should include observations you think are significant or interesting, and your
own thoughts and reflections about those observations. Journals should be
typed in Microsoft Word and e-mailed as an attachment to Judge Morrow. A
journal is due each time the class meets. The journal should be e-mailed as a
cumulative journal, so that each time you send it, it will include all prior
entries. Time spent writing journals may be counted toward fulfillment of the
externship hours requirement Again, journals, must be turned in on the day of
each class period.

CLASS
 DISCUSSION &
ASSIGNMENTS
Students are expected to attend all classroom meetings; we only meet six
times. If you are absolutely unable to attend a classroom meeting, you
must contact Judge Wheeler before the class and then turn in a typed,
double-spaced, 5-page paper on the subject for that meeting. Time spent
in class will be counted toward fulfillment of the externship hour
requirements.