



## **The Residency-in-Practice Program Information for Prospective Residency Supervisors**

The Legal Residency-in-Practice Program is the signature program of Elon Law's groundbreaking, 2.5-year curriculum that integrates experiential learning throughout a student's law school career. This Program requires every student to complete a faculty-guided, course-connected, credit-bearing, full-time field placement in the law. The Residency is part of the student's iterative immersion into the practice of law which culminates with full integration into the legal profession after graduation.

The Residency promotes "learning from practice" by providing students with opportunities for substantial lawyering experience reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks, under direct attorney or judicial supervision at the field placement. By stepping into the role of a lawyer, Student Residents deepen their legal knowledge acquired in substantive courses, sharpen skills needed to be a successful lawyer, and make the professional connections and observations important to career development.

Students complete their Residency in either their fifth or sixth trimester, after having completed well over half of the academic credits required for graduation. They work 32 – 36 hours per week for ten weeks, earning 7-8 academic credit hours, graded pass/fail. Students may be placed anywhere in the world in an approved governmental, judicial, non-profit, corporate, or private law office.

Residency placement is by preference match that begins in May of a student's first year of law school. Student interests in specific areas of law and in geographic location drive the residency placement process, enabling each student to develop specialized knowledge and skills, while building credentials and networks that support their career goals. Students are allowed to seek approval of an independently arranged placement, though they are not permitted to contact placements participating in the matching process. Residencies run from January – March and April – June of a student's second year.

Residents participate in a concurrent academic component, which includes a faculty-directed orientation session prior to the beginning of the residency, a learning and goals plan, written reflective assignments, student practice affinity group meetings (in person or via technology), faculty conferences and a meeting among the student, supervisor, and faculty member. Students keep and submit weekly timesheets. The on-site supervisors must give regular feedback and evaluate students, in writing, at mid-term and at the end of the trimester.

Students also enroll in a separate academic course related to the type of work in which they will engage during their Residency. Students working away from Elon Law have the option of taking a course with an online participation option as their accompanying course.

Supervising judges and attorneys have been licensed for at least four years and agree to the following responsibilities:

- Accepts primary responsibility for overseeing the Student experience at the placement throughout the term and monitoring the progress of all Student work including any work assigned by other attorneys.
- Agrees to assign tasks to the Student that are representative of the placement and Site Supervisor's work. Where appropriate, the Student will be certified to appear in court or personally represent a client under attorney supervision.
- Agrees that as appropriate, the Student will be offered opportunities to participate in all aspects of placement cases or projects, including, but not limited to, client interviewing, counseling, case planning, negotiation, fact investigation, trial preparation and trial, meetings, policy development, legal research, drafting, legal writing, and guided observation of these or other lawyering activities.
- Ensures that the Student is not assigned clerical tasks, e.g., filing, photocopying, library updating, indexing, unless such tasks are specifically related to an educational activity.
- Agrees to meet with the Student as often as necessary to provide timely and meaningful feedback on assignments and lawyering tasks, and to ensure Student is getting substantial lawyering experience.
- Agrees to meet with the Student at the start of the term to review and discuss the Student's educational goals and strategies for achieving goals, memorialized in a Learning Goals and Plan.
- Understands that the Student is required to take a companion course from Elon Law that may require scheduling accommodations.
- Agrees to prepare a written evaluation of the Student's performance midway and at the end of term and to submit the evaluations to the Faculty Supervisor in such form and at such time or times as required.

We hope you will join us as a Residency Site Supervisor. If you are interested, please complete the attached form. **Thank you for your time and consideration!**