

The Her Justice *Extern* Program



Associates from major law firms work full-time at Her Justice for roughly six months, representing women in our most legally complex cases. They handle active, litigated family law and divorce matters, as well as immigration law matters representing victims of gender violence. Externs have an average of two to three court appearances per week. Experienced Her Justice attorneys provide Externs with dozens of hours a week of focused, hands-on training and mentoring throughout their entire session. Each Externship firm serves as the attorney of record on the cases handled by its Externs.

BENEFITS FOR EXTERNS

Externs quickly gain significant on-their-feet experience as the lead counsel representing their own clients in every aspect of high-stakes, litigated matters. They become adept at interacting with judges, court personnel, and opposing counsel and develop confidence and skill in oral and written advocacy. Externs hone valuable, practical litigation skills at an early stage of their careers, and uniformly report that they return to their firms as better lawyers. As one Extern recently observed she “picked up the phone to lawyer more times in the first month of the Externship” than in her years at the firm prior. Externs also experience the personal satisfaction of bringing safety, greater financial security, and freedom from abuse to women and children who are among NYC’s most vulnerable families. During their Externship, externs remain employees with salaries and benefits paid by their firms.

BENEFITS FOR FIRMS SPONSORING EXTERNS

Externs return to their firms as significantly more confident attorneys and strategists on all of their matters—paying and pro bono—and stay on with the firm for an average of 3-4 additional years; many former Externs have become partners of their firms. Participation in the Extern program can meaningfully drive firms’ total reported pro bono hours, and because Externs return as in-house experts, they are able to supervise and advise their colleagues on pro bono matters referred by Her Justice and serve as support for incoming Externs. Externships promote associate satisfaction and retention and are a positive recruiting tool, as partners at Externship firms report that law students are impressed by the firm’s strong, active commitment to providing access to justice to low-income, minority women and children in New York City.

FIRMS CURRENTLY
PROVIDING EXTERNS:

Akin[®]



WHITE & CASE

WILLKIE
WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP

Her Justice’s expertise and guidance shaped me into a stronger advocate. For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to lead a trial. This externship allowed me to fulfill that dream and so much more.

YARDEN HODES | AKIN