

EXPERIENCE
NETWORKING
PERSPECTIVE



Judicial Internship Programme

Overview

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is the judicial institution of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Inaugurated in 2005, the Seat of the Court is based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The CCJ is a unique court as it functions as two (2) courts in one. It has two (2) jurisdictions: an Original Jurisdiction and an Appellate Jurisdiction. In its Original jurisdiction, the CCJ discharges the functions of an international tribunal, applying rules of international law in respect of the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. In its Appellate jurisdiction, the CCJ hears appeals from domestic Courts of Appeal as a final appellate court, both in civil and criminal matters.

The Court runs a successful Judicial Internship Programme for regional and extra-regional students of the law, with preference given to those who are in the final year of their legal training. The period of Internship is offered up to a maximum of eight (8) weeks.

While at the Court, interns are exposed to various training opportunities and also work closely with the Court's Registry Department and the judges of the Court. Interns will often be asked to research points of law; write draft memoranda for review; attend Court hearings to observe and analyse oral arguments; attend panel meetings; summarise cases; and perform other legal and administrative work under careful supervision.

The CCJ's Judicial Internship Programme is non-remunerative. Successful applicants are required to make their own financial arrangements for their travel, accommodation and living expenses, where applicable.

Opportunities

Experience

Internship at the CCJ will give students exposure to the world of legal professional work. Interns will obtain first-hand knowledge of how the Court works – its rules, procedures, judicial processes and the use of its Court technology. An internship at the CCJ will therefore enhance the curriculum vitae of the intern.

Perspective

A significant objective of the internship is to train interns to become excellent researchers and to appreciate the unique perspective of a judge in the administration and delivery of justice. This provides interns with invaluable insight into what it is like to view the justice system from this unique standpoint, increasing their awareness of what, in a judge's view, does (and does not) work well.

Enhanced Skills

The opportunity to intern at the CCJ will give students the ability to apply what they have learned in law school and will enable them to have a more practical understanding of the law. Improved research and writing skills are major benefits of a judicial internship. A significant amount of writing is usually required of interns which further enhances their writing skills. Analytical skills are also enhanced where challenging issues of law present themselves, enabling the intern to “think outside the box” when analysing information.

Networking

Interns will have the opportunity to make a significant number of valuable contacts during their time at the Court. These will include not only Judges and staff at the Court but also attorneys and other legal practitioners who visit the Court during the period of the internship.

Publication

Interning at the Court can provide opportunities for the intern to research Caribbean materials that could lead to subsequent publication.



Application Process

The CCJ's Internship Programme normally runs between the months of May to August every year. Interns must possess:

- An ability to work both independently and in a team.
- A good standard of computer literacy, especially in the Microsoft Office Suite.
- Important qualities that are in keeping with the Values of the CCJ including discretion, reliability, intellectual rigour, precision, perseverance, honesty, creativity, co-operative spirit, and integrity.

1. Applications for internship from regional law schools/institutions:

The Human Resources (HR) Manager will communicate the details for applying to the Programme with regional law schools/institutions by the end of February of each year and invite the Schools to submit the applications of those students who have applied. The HR Manager's communication will provide information on the number of students that the CCJ can accommodate for the year and the application process which must be followed.

Applications to the Court must include the following:

- A cover letter from the school/institution supporting the student's application to intern at the CCJ and clearly indicating the period during which the applicant would like to intern at the Court;
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae of the prospective intern;
- An Internship Evaluation Form for the Court to complete at the conclusion of the internship;
- A writing sample of no more than one (1) page in which the prospective intern analyses or comments on a decided case or a statutory provision.

2. Other Applications:

Individual applications for internship may be submitted directly to the Human Resources Manager by prospective interns resident, or pursuing a course of study at a law school or university, outside the region. Such applications must include the following:

- Where applicable, a cover letter from the law school/institution clearly indicating the period during which the applicant would like to intern at the Court;
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae;
- Where applicable, an official transcript from the law school/institution;
- At least two (2) recommendation letters, preferably one (1) from a law teacher at the current or most recently attended law school or institution by the prospective intern;
- A writing sample of no more than one (1) page in which the prospective intern analyses or comments on a decided case or a statutory provision.

3. Receipt of Applications:

The Court recommends that applications be sent (via your law school) at least four (4) months prior to the period you wish to intern at the Court. Applications will then be further reviewed and processed by the Human Resources Department. As part of the selection process, applicants may be contacted by Human Resources for a phone or virtual interview. Successful applicants will be contacted in writing by Human Resources with an offer to intern.

Successful applicants may need to provide further information or documentation to the Court, and acceptance for internship may be subject to security clearance, airport entry and visa requirements (where applicable).

Contact Information

All applications with supporting documents should be sent via email to: recruitment@rjpsc.org for the kind attention of:

**The Human Resource Manager
Regional Judicial and Legal Services
Commission
134 Henry Street,
Port of Spain, Trinidad**

The subject line of the email should state: **"Judicial Internship Application - (Full name of the applicant)"**.

