

**Application for the University of San Diego School of Law Intellectual Property Externship (“IP Externship”) & Corporate Technology Externship (“TEC Externship”) 2026-27**

**PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE MEMO CAREFULLY PRIOR TO COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION OR SENDING QUESTIONS TO THE PROFESSORS ABOUT THE COURSE.**

**Program Coordinators**

[Ted Sichelman](#) (Professor, USD); [Anthony Mauriello](#) (Adjunct Professor, USD)

**Intellectual Property Externship (1-6 units) (Sichelman)**

This course places students at local law firms and companies to provide legal assistance to local individuals (inventors, artists, musicians, and others) and tech and media companies in the areas of patent prosecution, patent searching, trademark prosecution, filing of provisional and utility patents, intellectual property litigation, intellectual property transactions, and related areas (including copyright and trade secret law). Students will be supervised by attorneys at the local law firms and companies as well as the professors. Students begin work during the first week of the semester with companies and law firms, attend two bootcamp sessions, and meet one-on-one with the professors on a regular basis.

**Corporate Technology Externship (1-6 units) (Mauriello)**

This externship places students at local law firms and companies to provide legal assistance to technology companies in the areas of corporate formation and transactions, contracts, securities, employment, and related areas. Students will be supervised by attorneys at the local law firms and companies as well as the professors. Students begin work during the first week of the semester with companies and law firms, and meet one-on-one, attend two bootcamp sessions, with the professor on a regular basis.

**Registration Limitations**

Only students registered for the fall semester will be admitted to the spring semester, so all students must apply for the fall semester. Non-graduating students may apply for the Fall 2026 externship selection process. **Applications are due Friday, April 24, 2026, at 5:00 pm.** Please see the 2026-27 application linked below for more information on the selection process.

Students who will be paid corporate law clerks at law firms or companies (including students who have previously participated in the program) in 2026-27 do not need to fill out the application but instead should contact the professor to determine whether they are eligible to register to receive academic credit.

**Relationship of IP and Corporate Technology Externships**

Students interested in IP law should apply to the IP Externship. Students interested in corporate transactions should apply to the Corporate Technology Externship. See below for additional explanation of the types of projects in each externship. Students may apply to both externships, but if selected, will only be offered placement in one of the externships.

**Course Component**

In addition to your work at a local law firm or company, there is a course component for two three-hour “bootcamp” sessions in the fall semester. Students participating in the externships must attend both class sessions, either for IP or Corporate (but not both), depending on the nature of their externship. The IP Externship will meet Friday, August 21 and Friday, August 28 (11:30 am – 2:30 pm) and the Corporate Tech Externship will meet Saturday, August 22, and Saturday, August 29 (11:30 am – 2:30 pm).

### **Law Firms vs. Companies**

In the past, all externships were with law firms. Recently, we have added a small number of companies to the program. On the application below, please check the appropriate boxes (law firm and/or companies) depending on your interest. Checking more boxes will increase your chances of securing an externship. (Please note that other than this question on the application, wherever “law firm” or “firm” appears in this document, it also refers to companies participating in the program.)

### **Hours, Credit and Pay**

Generally, the course is offered for 1-6 units of credit based on the number of hours you work (50 hours per credit; total hours must be decided in advance by the end of the drop/add period). If you are offered a position with your law firm, they usually request that you work 150 hours (3 credits) during the semester, unless both the firm and student agree upon a different number of hours and the professors approve it. Generally, we will only approve fewer than 3 units or more than 4 units in the fall semester in exceptional circumstances. In the spring semester, we will generally approve anywhere from 1-4 units, but more than 4 units again only in exceptional circumstances. A few participating firms and companies offer the option of receiving pay in addition to receiving credit. Note that only a handful of companies and firms offer paid positions, so if you want to maximize your chances of being admitted to the externships, please do not check “paid only positions.”

### **One-Semester Commitment**

**Students must participate in the fall semester.** If a student’s supervising firm requests that he or she continue in the spring, students need not do so. Students may elect to continue in the spring semester at their discretion if their supervising firm requests it. However, students may not begin in the spring semester. Additionally, the externship program is not available in the summer semester.

### **On-Site Commitment**

Students must make available one full day or two half days (during ordinary business hours) to work at the supervising firm’s offices, though note that some firms are entirely “virtual,” with no meeting requirements. Unfortunately, we cannot control whether you are selected for an in-person or virtual externship. For some firms, students may have the option to work at the law firm’s offices three evenings per week (from approximately 4:30-7:00 pm, or earlier in the day as the student is available). The total weekly time work commitment is typically 10 hours per week during the semester for a total of 150 hours, though as noted above, some firms will allow fewer hours (e.g., 50 or 100 hours during the semester) if the student desires, and some firms will allow more hours (e.g., 200 or 250 hours) if the student desires, and the professors approve the arrangement. This commitment is in addition to the approximately 12 hours of in-class time at the beginning of the semester.

## **IP & Business/Corporate Concentration**

Students in the IP Externship for course credit may count up to 3 units towards the IP concentration and students in the TEC Externship for course credit may count up to the 3 units to the Business/Corporate concentration (but no more).

### **Application Process**

Any LLM, rising second-year, rising third-year, or part-time/evening student who will have completed Criminal Law, Contracts, Torts, Property, and Civil Procedure by the end of this academic year is eligible to apply for the externships. If you are interested, please submit your application (below), a current resume, and a copy of your current transcript to Karin Spidel by e-mail (hard copies will not be accepted) at [kspidel@sandiego.edu](mailto:kspidel@sandiego.edu) no later than Friday, April 24, 2026, at 5 pm PST.

If you submit an application, then you agree to register if you are selected, barring extenuating circumstances. We will make all attempts to notify you by Friday, June 12, if you are selected to participate, though in prior years, our selection process has sometimes extended past the deadline we provide to firms. Additionally, in order to qualify for the course, you may need to complete face-to-face interviews with one or more supervising firms—either on campus or at the firms.

Please do not attempt to register for the course until you are selected. We suggest registering for another course in its place, which you can drop in the event you are selected for the externships.

### **Other Important Information**

*Restriction on Work for Other Law Firms, Externships, etc.*

Students who are employed during the semester by an outside law firm or corporate counsel office not for academic credit, regardless of whether it is a paid or unpaid position, as well as students performing a judicial externship, are not eligible to participate in the program. Students participating in clinics on-campus, agency or other government externships, or corporate counsel externships through programs at USD may participate in the IP or TEC externships, provided all conflicts-of-interest are cleared with their supervising law firm prior to accepting an offer from the firm, and the professors approve of the arrangement. If you have any questions regarding these restrictions, please contact Professor Sichelman at [tsichelman@sandiego.edu](mailto:tsichelman@sandiego.edu).

*Time Commitment*

In addition to the time spent at the law firm each week, students must also be available during the rest of the week to answer e-mails and phone calls from the supervising law firm or clients on a timely basis.

*No Expectation of a Permanent Position*

The externship is not intended to lead to a permanent or summer associate offer from the student's supervising law firm. Students should have no expectation that they will receive an offer for a summer position or permanent job at the supervising law firm. Of course, firms may decide to make such an offer wholly on their own accord, and approximately one-third of participating students have received such offers in prior years.

### *For Credit vs. Paid Positions*

If you are performing your work for academic credit, typically, the firm or company will usually not compensate you for your work. In some cases, firms and companies do compensate students and you may also earn credit. Moreover, some law firms and companies may compensate you for hours worked beyond the minimum required for credit in the course if the firm or company offers (and you choose to work) additional hours.

### *Supervision*

Students will be assigned to work with lawyers at one supervising firm or company in the San Diego area. Students will be externs at the firm or company and subject to the firm's or company's rules and procedures, including confidentiality restrictions. Each student's firm or company will provide direct supervision during the semester. However, students will meet with the USD professors periodically throughout each semester, who will be available to answer general questions.

### *Types of Work*

Students will be assigned a variety of projects based on their previous and current coursework and educational background.

Projects for the IP Externship will include patent prosecution (e.g., drafting patent disclosures, work on patent office actions, work on provisional and utility patent applications, and litigation), patent litigation (e.g., complaints, answers, discovery responses, Markman briefs, summary judgment briefs, trial memos); trademarks (e.g., searches, office actions, appeals, agreements and litigation), copyrights (e.g., analysis, filing, responses to refusals, etc.), and trade secrets (e.g. non-disclosure agreements, employment aspects of IP, litigation, etc.).

Projects for the Corporate Tech Externship will include corporate (e.g., preparation of due diligence materials, drafting of financing agreements, securities filings, etc.), intellectual property (license agreements, non-disclosure agreements, and related documents), employment (drafting of employment agreements), and drafting of general contracts. Nearly all work will be of a transactional nature, though from time-to-time, students may assist on a litigation project.

### *Grading*

The course will be graded pass/fail (no high pass or low pass) for those students who are not hired purely on a paid basis. Students who attend all class sessions and complete the minimum hours of work during the semester (50 hours per unit, units must be determined by drop/add deadline) will receive a passing grade, provided, however, that students who regularly miss deadlines for the completion of projects during the semester may receive a failing grade.

If you have any questions about the course or application, please contact Professor Ted Sichelman at [tsichelman@sandiego.edu](mailto:tsichelman@sandiego.edu).



<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other IP (please list)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Corporate (please list)	

(7) Please put an "X" for the law school courses you have taken or are currently taking. Please put a checkmark for those law school courses you plan to take in Fall 2025 (assuming you were selected to participate for the externship).

<input type="checkbox"/> Corporations/Corporate Law (basic course)	<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Patent Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporations/Corporate Law (basic course)	<input type="checkbox"/> Patent Law Policy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trademark Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Valuation (of Business)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trademark Strategy Skills
<input type="checkbox"/> High-Tech Startups	<input type="checkbox"/> Copyright Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance and Accounting for Lawyers	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Secret Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Securities Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> IP & Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Securities Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Intl IP Seminar
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> IP Theory Seminar
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Business Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> IP Strategies
<input type="checkbox"/> UCC: Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Patent Prosecution
<input type="checkbox"/> UCC: Secured Transactions	<input type="checkbox"/> Patent Litigation I
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Patent Litigation II
<input type="checkbox"/> ERISA & Employee Benefit Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Biotech Patents
<input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy	<input type="checkbox"/> Tech Transfers
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Reorganization	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Torts
<input type="checkbox"/> International Contracts/Contracting Across Borders	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Innovation & Legal Policy
	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications Law

<input type="checkbox"/> International Business Transactions	<input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> International Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Cyberspace Law
<input type="checkbox"/> International Negotiation	<input type="checkbox"/> IP & Business
<input type="checkbox"/> International Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Other IP (Please List)
<input type="checkbox"/> Negotiation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax I	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax II	
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Corporate Tax Problems	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications Law	
<input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other corporate or tax (please list)	

(8) Will you be available at least one full business day or two half business days per week to work at the location of the supervising law firm, company and/or client site, if required? (Note, some firms are entirely virtual, but we cannot control if you are selected by a firm with a physical office.)

YES NO (please circle or bold)

(9) If you answered "No" to 8, please answer the following question: Will you be available at least three evenings per week (from approximately 4:30-7:00 pm) to work at the location of the supervising law firm, company and/or client site, if required?

YES NO (please circle or bold)

(10) If you are accepted into the program, will you be working for any other law firm (paid or non-paid), corporate legal department, be enrolled in any USD externships or clinics, or have you applied for a judicial externship during the Fall 2026 semester?

YES

NO

(please circle or bold)

If so, please describe the nature of the position, including types of work, and whether it will be paid or not:

If you are interested, please submit your application (below), a current resume, and a copy of your current transcript to Kairn Spidel **by e-mail** (hard copies will not be accepted) at [kspidel@sandiego.edu](mailto:kspidel@sandiego.edu) **no later than Friday, April 24, 2026, at 5 pm PST.**

If you submit an application, then you agree to register if you are selected, barring extenuating circumstances. We will make all attempts to notify you by Friday, June 12, if you are selected to participate, though in prior years, our selection process has sometimes extended past the deadline we provide to firms. However, you may hear from us and/or supervising firms before then to schedule interviews.

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