

Internship Testimonials

"The Behind the Scenes View"

"My internship experience here has provided me with valuable exposure to the day-to-day workings of a public defender's office. Specifically, in shadowing attorneys at court, I have seen how they interact with their clients, witnesses, prosecutors, family members of clients, and court personnel. Watching what happens at court before a case is called and after the parties have left the courtroom, the "behind-the-scenes" view, is much more valuable than simply sitting and hearing what transpires before a judge. The internship has further allowed me to hone my legal research and writing skills by fulfilling writing assignments given to me by attorneys. I have also been able to develop my client interviewing and courtroom skills as I have recently begun to handle juvenile detention hearings. Finally, simply chatting with the attorneys in the office gives me insight into what a career as a public defender would be like."

- Shina Collins, Portsmouth Public Defender Office Intern