

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CENTER SACRAMENTO

Fall 2007 Scholar Intern Program: Law and Politics

Home to the Capitol of the seventh largest economy in the world, Sacramento proves an exciting and ideal lab for studying the intersection of law and politics. The State Capitol plays host to the most influential policy, governmental and academic players in the state – and arguably, the country. The University of California Center Sacramento, an all-UC academic center currently in its fourth year of operation, will have a special academic program this Fall semester, focusing on California law and politics.

The Fall 2007 UCCS program in Law and Politics will offer students a rare opportunity to not only gain theoretical knowledge in the areas of law and politics, but to see them in action as well. Students will participate in weekly seminars covering controversies which intersect both law and politics, led by the seminal practitioners and academics in the field (including UC law faculty). At the same time, students will gain experience through a rigorous internship with a legislative or administrative office.

The seminar will unfold in four parts. Students will examine three great debates now underway about renewing democratic governance in California. The seminar will then turn to three areas of intense legal/political conflict and negotiation: environmental protection; immigration and prison reform. The Law/Politics seminar will be led by Drew Liebert, Chief Counsel to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Mary Louise Frampton and Monique Morris – respectively, executive director and senior residential fellow at the Henderson Center for Social Justice at Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley -- will lead the sessions on prison reform. Richard Frank -- formerly Deputy Attorney General of California, and currently executive director of the Center on Environmental Law and Policy at Boalt Hall, will coordinate the environmental sessions.

Students will receive training in policy analysis, and will develop their own legal policy analysis on a topic of their choosing. The academic program emphasizes one-on-one guidance and the development of skills in oral presentation. A small number of UC undergraduates, along with law students from Boalt Hall and King Hall Schools of Law, will be selected for participation. The planned seminar topics are as follows:

Law and Politics in California: Fundamental Perspectives & Current Controversies

1. Three Great Debates: Renewing Democratic Governance in California

- a. Campaign Finance - Money, Voice, and Representation
- b. Redistricting - Creating "Competitive" Elections
- c. Term Limits and Balances of Political Power in the Golden State

2. Law & the Environment: Beyond the Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Environmental Justice

- a. Environmental Justice in California: Defining the Issues in California
- b. Brownfields and Urban Economic Renewal in Lower-Income Communities
- c. Air Quality in California - Crisis in the San Joaquin Valley

3. Prison Reform: Correcting Corrections and Achieving Restorative Justice

- a. Sentencing, Race, and Inequality: The Cunningham Decision and Megan's Law
- b. The Politics of Prison Management: -- The CCPOA, the Prisoners, and the Law
- c. The Federal Receivership / Prison Deal in California
- d. Restorative Justice as a tool for Reducing DMC Incarceration

4. Immigration & the Law: Deporting Our Souls or Importing Our Labor?

- a. Immigration, Guest Workers, and Human Rights: The Core Issues
- b. Education for Children of the Undocumented: Beyond Plyler vs. Doe
- c. National Debate and California Realities in the Immigration Debate

For more information visit the website at <http://uccs.universityofcalifornia.edu> or contact Erika Peters at Erika.Peters@ucop.edu / 916-445-5533.