Albany County Alternate Public Defender (Conflict Defender)

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY:  Thomas N. Dulin, Esq.

1) A brief statement about your office generally (e.g., mission, jurisdiction, size, nature of practice, etc.)

   The Conflict Defender Office is the alternate public defender for the county of Albany. Our mission is to provide quality representation to criminally accused persons or persons in Family Court charged with certain violations of the Family Court Act in the County of Albany who cannot be represented by the Public Defender’s Office due to some legal conflict.

2) A description of the experiences law students are likely to have at your office, including the types of tasks a student may perform.

   The CDO will provide full panoply of experience in the criminal defense of an accused from the arraignment through the investigation, discovery stage, pre-trial hearings, a trial itself and the sentencing if applicable. A student in this division will assist in the client and witness interviews and investigation, the preparation of discovery demands, requests for bills of particulars and omnibus motions. Also, a student would participate in the day to day practice of criminal defense in the local and superior courts of the county. Preparation for a trial is ongoing and upon the identification of specific issues the student would be researching the case law for the preparation of a trial memo and possibly jury instruction requests and post verdict motions.

   In the Family Court division a student would be involved in the initial intakes, the preparation of petitions and or responses, interviews and investigations as well as any trials which occur. Post trial memoranda that need to be submitted would be researched by a participating student and drafted as appropriate.

3) Any special requirements you have for student selection (e.g., writing sample, class standing, experience, third year students only, background check, etc.)

   Writing samples from the students are helpful. We are looking for students with an expressed interest in Family Court matters or criminal law matters.

4) Website for further information

5) Anything else that you think would be helpful or informative.
The student would be working with one or more of the attorneys in the particular division where assigned and should receive a fairly broad view of the types of cases that this office handles for economically challenged clients. Future employment could very well arise for a student after graduation who shows a desire to pursue public service for clients in an overburdened system.