

## Office of State Attorney-First Judicial Circuit of Florida: Certified Legal Intern (CLI) Program

### Facts about the Certified Legal Intern (CLI) Program:

- The purpose of the CLI program is to allow both current law school students and recent graduates an opportunity to practice under the supervision of a licensed Florida attorney of a legal aid organization, public defender's office, state attorney's office, and other governmental agencies.
- 1L, 2L, and 3L law school students are eligible to participate in the **student** CLI program.
- After students graduate from law school, they can participate in the **graduate** CLI program.
- Current law school students and recent law school graduates must apply to the Florida Bar to be eligible to participate in the CLI program.
- It is recommended that students apply to the Florida Bar as soon as possible during their 1L or 2L year if interested in the student CLI certification as the Florida Bar must complete their preliminary character and fitness check for the Florida Board of Bar Examiner's (FBBE) Clearance Letter to be issued. This is a requirement for any CLI certification.
- Student CLI certifications are facilitated through the student or graduates law school.
- Student CLI certifications are available during the spring, summer, and fall semesters.
- The student's law school will need to receive the FBBE Clearance letter (background investigation) to proceed with the student CLI certification. The process to receive this clearance letter does take several months which is why it is important to apply to the Florida Bar as early as possible if you are interested in the CLI program.
- Graduate CLI certifications are facilitated through the governmental employer and one of the requirements is the FBBE clearance letter, as described above. The other requirement for the graduate CLI certification is the dean's letter which certifies that the student has graduated and completed the law school practice program.

### Benefits of Participating in the Certified Legal Intern (CLI) Program:

- Both student and graduate CLI participants can attend court and practice underneath the supervision of an Assistant State Attorney. Participants will gain experience of practicing as an attorney in a courtroom.
- Student CLI externships are unpaid, but credit can be coordinated through your law school.
- Graduate CLI positions are paid, and the starting salary is \$60,000.00 annually with the office.
- If a student applies to the Florida Bar in their 1L or 2L year, there are significant discounts to applying early compared to waiting until after graduation. Please review the Florida Board of Bar Examiners Application Fee Worksheet to compare the fee amounts.