

## Journal Requirement

### Journal Instructions

A reflective journal is part of the requirements for your externship placement. Note that your journal is different and apart from your daily log which simply records in a couple of sentences you activities and corresponding time.

Your journal entries, on the other hand, are reflective narratives and consist of two separate but related parts: (1) a directed journal topic and (2) a reflective journal component.

The directed journal topic will be assigned each week and disseminated via email and posted on Blackboard. These topics are designed to encourage reflection beyond what a student may otherwise reflect and write about. Some may overlap to an extent with the second more general journal discussion, for example the first week's directed journal topic is "Initial observations." You will likely cover such in the non-directed journal part. Other directed topics may be more non-obvious, for example "Balancing personal life and professional life."

The second part of your weekly journal entries consists of a more general reflection of your placement experience. For example, what did you work on? What did you find interesting, surprising, good or bad? Are there things you would change, improve upon, both in terms of your performance as well as the system as a whole? Your journal is confidential in that only I read your entries.

Use the "Journal" feature available through our Blackboard course site to both compose and submit your journal entries. Once you log onto the Blackboard site for the externship course, Law 636, go to the "Journal" feature and then click on your name specific journal folder. Compose your journal while on line. Once done, click the "submit" button and you are done. I read your journal entries and posts comments to your journal entries. You can read and reply to these comments once you sit down and compose your next journal entry.

Please submit at a minimum one entry per week. There is no minimum page length. I rely upon your good faith and professionalism in this regard.

You may, if you so choose, and sometimes you will want to do so, submit multiple journal entries in one week. Some students submit daily entries, or submit weekly on a regular schedule with occasional additional ones if an experience at the placement warrants such. Regardless, the minimum required journal submission is one per week.

The goal is for you to reflect on your work and experiences on a regular basis, and for me to be able to read about such as it happens, or happened. As such, please get in the habit of submitting contemporaneous weekly journal entries.

Note that most students in their end-of-placement evaluation comment that, although maybe somewhat hesitant at the beginning of the course, they, ended up truly being a valuable, and ultimately enjoyable, part of their experience. If you give this a chance, and truly compose reflective, contemporaneous journal entries, I sincerely believe you too will come to like and enjoy this requirement.