

BRENNA BIRD
ATTORNEY GENERAL

IAN McCONEGHEY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS TRAINING
COORDINATOR



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

1305 E. WALNUT ST.
DES MOINES, IA 50319
Main: 515-281-5164 • Direct: 515-725-5392
Email: ian.mcconeghey@ag.iowa.gov
www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov

January 9, 2025

The Honorable Susan Christensen
Chief Justice, Iowa Supreme Court
Judicial Building

Mr. W. Charles Smithson
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol

Ms. Meghan Nelson
Chief Clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Annual Report for 2024 for the Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program

Dear Chief Justice Christensen, Secretary Smithson, and Chief Clerk Nelson:

In accordance with Iowa Code section 13.2(1)(l), our office is pleased to submit this report on the operation of the Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program during this past year.

Since 1977, Iowa's law schools, county attorney offices, and the Iowa Attorney General's Office have partnered to provide second- and third-year law students the opportunity to serve as prosecutor interns around the state. Students in the program become involved in all aspects of a county attorney's responsibilities, including courtroom experience. Past interns have litigated simple misdemeanor cases, argued in suppression hearings, tried cases in front of juries, and worked with the county attorneys to research complex legal issues.

To become eligible for the internship, a student must complete either a certification course at the University of Iowa College of Law or pay tuition and receive course credit through Drake University Law School. In either case, the student is under the supervision of a faculty supervisor during his or her summer internship. In addition to training and intern supervision, the in-state law schools provide administration assistance to help match county requests for interns with students interested in the program. Then the respective county governments hire and pay eligible interns who work in the county attorney offices. Summer internships are a major component of the program, but some counties retain interns during parts of the academic year as well.

Each summer, the Iowa Attorney General's Office hosts an intern day in Des Moines. This past year, interns went to the Polk County Sheriff's Office, toured the Polk County Jail and toured the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory.

For this past year, this office again provided a partial reimbursement of summer prosecutor intern wages for counties who submitted applications. This year, five counties qualified for partial reimbursement of intern wages: Linn, Scott, Woodbury, Johnson, and Fayette. Other counties may have participated in the program without seeking reimbursement. It is anticipated that the reimbursement program will continue in the summer of this year. The Iowa Attorney General's asset forfeiture fund administered pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 809A is the source of this reimbursement funding.

Just as it has for more than forty-five years, the Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program pairs students with potential future employers, gives students in-depth legal and courtroom experience, and assures the integrity of the criminal justice system for generations to come. We look forward to its continued successful operation into the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Ian A. McConeghey
Prosecuting Attorney Training Coordinator
Iowa Attorney General's Office

CC: Amy Monaghan, Office of the Iowa Attorney General
Robert Gast, State Court Administrator
Steve Foritano, Drake University
June Tai, University of Iowa College of Law