



THOMAS J. MILLER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

## Department of Justice

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
HOOVER STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
1305 E. WALNUT  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319  
PHONE (515) 281-6898  
KELLI.HUSER2@IOWA.GOV

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Mark S. Cady  
Chief Justice, Iowa Supreme Court  
Judicial Building  
LOCAL

W. Charles Smithson  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
LOCAL

Ms. Carmine Boal  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol  
LOCAL

Re: Annual Report for 2017 for the Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program

Dear Chief Justice Cady, Secretary Smithson, and Chief Clerk Boal:

In accordance with Iowa Code section 13.2(1)(m), our office is pleased to submit this report on the operation of the Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program during 2017.

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. This summer, one Scott County intern was first chair in a serious misdemeanor jury trial. Other interns litigated simple

misdeemeanor cases, argued in suppression hearings, 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 as a part of the internship, the Iowa Attorney General's Office hosts a day-long seminar in Des Moines. This year, the interns spoke with young prosecutors from the United States Attorney's Office, the Mahaska County Attorney's Office, and the Iowa Attorney General's Office about the different avenues of public service available post-graduation. Several members of Iowa's judiciary shared their time with the interns as well, including Judge Christopher McDonald of the Iowa Court of Appeals, Judges Robert Hanson and James D. Birkenholz of the Polk County District Court, and Magistrate Beth Tigges of the Polk County District Court. The seminar concluded with tours of the Polk County Jail and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory.

For 2017, this office again provided a partial reimbursement of summer prosecutor intern wages for counties who submitted applications. This year, seven counties qualified for partial reimbursement of intern wages: Tama, Scott, Johnson, Dickinson, Cedar, Linn, and Story. It is anticipated that the reimbursement program will continue in the summer of 2018, with funding provided by the Iowa Attorney General's asset forfeiture fund administered pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 809A.

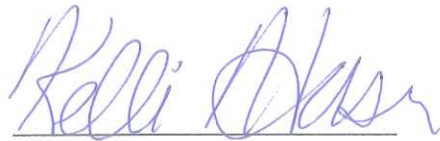
Just as it has over the forty years, the Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program makes important contributions to the criminal justice system. As one intern expressed, "I'm glad Iowa has this type of program in place to allow students the opportunity to practice." We look forward to its continued successful operation into the future.

Sincerely,



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Eric Tabor  
Chief Deputy Attorney General



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Kelli Huser  
Assistant Attorney General

CC: Todd Nuccio, State Court Administrator  
Sydney Kronkow, Judicial Branch Legislative Liaison