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ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice

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December 23, 2008



The Honorable Marsha K. Ternus
Chief Justice, Iowa Supreme Court
Judicial Building
LOCAL

Mr. Michael Marshall
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
LOCAL

Mr. Mark Brandsgard
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol
LOCAL

Re: Prosecutor Intern Program Annual Report for 2008

Dear Justice Ternus, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Brandsgard:

In accordance with Iowa Code section 13.2(12), I am pleased to submit this report on the operation of the Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program during 2008.

This program, through the provisions of Iowa Supreme Court Rule 31.15, offers second and third year law students the opportunity to serve as prosecutor interns in the offices of Iowa county attorneys. Students in the program become involved in all aspects of a county attorney's responsibility and are provided opportunities for courtroom work. The program provides a learning environment in a work setting.

In order to become eligible for their prosecutor internships, the students complete a certification course at their respective law schools. The course provides an overview of the county attorneys'

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duties, prosecutorial ethics, and trial advocacy. In addition to the supervision provided by the county attorneys, interns are in contact and correspond with the respective law school faculty sponsors during their summer employment.

The interns again this year rated their experiences highly. Many reported gaining confidence in themselves and finding that their interest in seeking employment in the public sector is reinforced. They reported increased skill levels in trial techniques, client counseling, negotiation, research, and evidence.

The program benefits the Iowa justice system in two important ways: (1) It enhances the availability of qualified law graduates to fill prosecution positions around the state by providing practical experience to law students considering careers in prosecution. (2) It provides the participating county attorneys useful assistance in meeting their criminal justice responsibilities.

In addition to the certification training and intern supervision, the in-state law schools provide administration assistance through Associate Dean Linda McGuire at the University of Iowa College of Law and Professor James Adams at the Drake University Law School, who help match county requests for interns with students interested in participating in the program.

For 2008, this office continued to cooperate with the Prosecuting Attorneys Training Coordinator, the Iowa County Attorneys Association, and the two in-state law schools in focusing on ways to enhance the program. During the summer of 2008, a special seminar started in Ankeny with a tour of the DCI and ISME labs and moved to Des Moines for a discussion with a Supreme Court Justice, an observation of a Supreme Court oral argument and a discussion of prosecutor intern experiences and issues.

The respective county governments hire and pay the interns who work in the county attorney offices, assisting with the prosecution of criminal cases and other responsibilities of those offices. Summer internships are the major component of the program -- twenty-eight this year -- but a few counties retain interns during parts of the academic year as well.

During 2008, this office again provided a partial reimbursement of summer prosecutor intern wages for counties that began new programs or increased rates of compensation. The goals of the reimbursement program included increasing the numbers and enhancing the quality of prosecutor intern candidates. Nine county attorneys qualified for partial reimbursement of intern wages: Black Hawk, Clarke, Henry, Johnson, Linn, Mahaska, Muscatine, Scott, and Story. It is anticipated that the reimbursement program will continue in the summer of 2009, with funding provided by the Attorney General's asset forfeiture fund administered pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 809A.

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The Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program successfully increased the ability of the county attorneys throughout our state to fulfill their responsibilities. The Iowa Prosecutor Intern Program makes important contributions to our criminal justice system.

Sincerely,



THOMAS H. MILLER
Deputy Attorney General

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