



FORDHAM LAW GRADUATE EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM Statement of Goals

Student Name: _____

Semester and Year: _____

Host Institution: _____

Goals for the Externship (identify at least three):

For each goal identified above, list the specific activities or experiences that will help you attain it:



FORDHAM LAW GRADUATE EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Statement of Goals

Placement Supervisor's Comments (optional):

Signature of
Placement Supervisor: _____

Date: _____



FORDHAM LAW GRADUATE EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Statement of Goals: Instructions

In order to get the most out of your externship, you will first need to critically examine and identify your motivations for engaging in this particular learning experience. Creating a Statement of Goals requires that you assess where you are and what you hope to accomplish through your work at the field placement. Collaborating with your Placement Supervisor in developing a Statement of Goals increases the likelihood that your goals are realistic and will be met, and also allows you and your Placement Supervisor to begin to establish an effective working relationship.

The following are some examples of “learning goals” for student externs:

- To acquire or improve particular lawyering skills such as research, writing, or client interviewing
- To acquire knowledge in one or more substantive areas of law
- To learn about certain legal institutions, such as the courts, government agencies, or non-profit organizations
- To learn about the functioning of a compliance department within a corporation
- To develop interpersonal skills in the professional world, through interactions with lawyers, clients, compliance professionals, judges, etc.
- To learn effective work habits, such as time management and organizational skills
- To identify potential career paths

Your own goals might include some that are similar to the above, or you might identify others. Before you can accurately identify your goals, however, you will need to engage in honest self-reflection and an assessment of what you have and have not learned up to this point, as well as your long and short term professional goals. After you have identified at least three goals for your field placement, you will need to set forth the activities, assignments, and observational opportunities that you believe will permit you to achieve each of your goals. If you are uncertain about what is realistic for your particular placement, you should at least make an attempt to list several opportunities that you believe will be available to you and then consult with your Placement Supervisor.

After creating a draft of your Statement of Goals, you will collaborate with your Placement Supervisor to seek feedback as to whether your goals are realistic and if the identified activities, assignments, and opportunities are likely to be available to you. If your Placement Supervisor believes that some of the opportunities you identified will not be presented, you should propose alternative methods for reaching your goals. Your Placement Supervisor must sign off on the final version of your Statement of Goals.

At the mid-way point in the semester, you should review your Statement of Goals. This will provide a “check-in” to help you determine whether you are on track to meet those goals. Similarly, at the end of the semester, you will be asked to review your goals once again, and to consider whether they changed during the course of the externship and/or whether they were met.
