



OFFICE OF THE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

TODD SPITZER, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Orange County District Attorney's Office has twenty separate prosecutorial units which utilize interns.

The following is a brief description of each unit.

The intern responsibilities, duties, and assignments will vary based on the needs of each individualized unit, but will typically involve review of criminal case files and police reports, review and memorialization of various types of discovery, exhibit organization, attending and observing court proceedings, legal research, and various tasks associated with assisting a deputy district attorney in preparation of trials, hearings, and motions.

1. CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER

700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Central Justice Center serves the cities of Santa Ana, Tustin, Orange, and unincorporated areas of central Orange County. Prosecutors within the Branch Court Operations at CJC file and conduct preliminary hearings for felonies that are not assigned to vertical units. They also file, process, and conduct jury trials on misdemeanor cases throughout covered jurisdictions.

2. CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Consumer Protection Unit focuses on false advertising and unfair business practices affecting Orange County citizens. Attorneys specializing in consumer protection prosecute a variety of unfair business practice violations against individuals and corporations. Recent prosecutions include illegal towing, auto repair fraud, fraudulent labeling, short weight products, and adulterated nutritional supplements. Depending on the facts, attorneys prosecute criminally or civilly under Business and Professions Code sections 17200 and 17500. Agencies with whom consumer protection attorneys work include the California Department of Weights and Measures, the California Department of Health, the California Department of Motor Vehicles, the California Department of Corporations, the Federal Trade Commission, the California Bureau of Auto Repair, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Orange County District Attorney's Office Environmental Protection Unit is a specialized unit made up of prosecutors and support staff trained to handle complex environmental enforcement cases that affect the citizens of Orange County and throughout the State of California. Attorneys

specializing in environmental protection prosecute a wide variety of cases against both individuals and corporations. Depending on the facts of each case, attorneys prosecute these environmental offenses as criminal prosecutions and/or civil enforcement actions. Examples of some of the types of cases that the Environmental Protection Unit prosecutes include, but are not limited to: disposal of hazardous waste, air pollution, hazardous waste control act violations, water pollution, animal cruelty, hazardous materials management violations, medical waste, Fish and Wildlife violations, OSHA violations, and natural resources degradation.

3. CONVICTION INTEGRITY UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The OCDA is dedicated to ensuring that the pursuit of justice is executed with the highest level of integrity and that the innocent are protected before, during and after trial. The Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) of the OCDA is responsible for investigating claims of factual innocence presented by defendants who were convicted of crimes in Orange County. While other units of the OCDA review claims of legal error in conviction, the CIU is dedicated to performing a post-conviction review of qualifying claims to determine if new evidence demonstrates that an innocent person has been wrongfully convicted and to take appropriate action to correct any wrongful conviction. In addition to its case review function, the CIU is also responsible for identifying and promoting best practices in criminal investigation and prosecution through policy.

4. FAMILY PROTECTION UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Family Protection Unit vertically prosecutes felony domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and child abduction cases. Prosecutors assigned to the unit handle cases throughout the county.

5. FELONY PANEL UNIT

700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Felony Panel is a trial unit that handles general felony cases after the preliminary hearing stage. Felony Panel DDA's are responsible for trying a wide variety of cases such as drug sales, commercial and residential burglaries, robberies, kidnapping, carjacking and attempted murder. Interns will assist DDAs with trial preparation and are encouraged to watch in court proceedings whenever feasible.

6. GANG/TARGET UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Gang/T.A.R.G.E.T Unit is comprised of deputy district attorneys that vertically prosecute violent crimes committed by participants of criminal street gangs throughout Orange County. These cases involve charges including murder, attempted murder, assault with a firearm, carjacking, robbery, drug sales, and gun possession.

7. HARBOR JUSTICE CENTER

4601 Jamboree Road
Newport Beach, CA 92660

The Harbor Justice Center covers the cities in south Orange County and unincorporated areas of the central county served by the Orange County Sheriff's Department. They receive and process felony cases, handling the case through the preliminary hearing. In addition, they file, process, and conduct jury trials on misdemeanor cases from those jurisdictions.

8. THE HUMAN EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING (HEAT) UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The HEAT Unit vertically prosecutes cases in which a defendant exploits another person for sex or labor. The victims of trafficking include both adults as well as minors. Crimes prosecuted by this unit are primarily charged under Proposition 35 (an anti-trafficking law), human trafficking, pimping and pandering laws, as well as a variety of other crimes. The unit also works with law enforcement around the country on the state and federal level.

9. HOMICIDE UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Homicide Unit prosecutes all non-gang related homicides or manslaughter cases in Orange County. In general, homicide cases are among the most sensitive and lengthy of all prosecutions, especially in cases where the death penalty is sought.

10. INSURANCE FRAUD

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Insurance Fraud Unit prosecutes various white collar crimes involving insurance. Some examples are: 1) provider fraud involving doctors and lawyers billing for services not rendered, and unlawful kickback schemes; 2) premium fraud where employers under report their payroll to insurance companies to reduce cost of their insurance; 3) auto fraud involving collisions and stolen vehicle reports to collect insurance proceeds; 4) applicant fraud which involves employees feigning injuries or misrepresenting their employment to gain benefits; 5) public works fraud

involving employees on a public works job failing to receive prevailing wages through various forms of fraud or theft; and 6) healthcare fraud involving rehabilitation centers preying on vulnerable people trying to rebuild their lives. Many of these cases involve large monetary losses proven by documentary evidence.

11. JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

341 The City Drive South
Orange, CA 92868

The Juvenile Justice Center files and prosecutes all juvenile cases in Orange County, both misdemeanors and felonies not assigned to other specialized vertical units. This accounts for a wide range of charges with special considerations that only exist in Juvenile Court since all proceedings and records are confidential and the focus of the juvenile justice system is on rehabilitation rather than punishment. As such, as a part of being assigned to the Juvenile Justice Center candidates have an opportunity to work with other county agencies that may be involved on a minor's case such as Probation, Social Services Agency, Health Care Agency, and the Department of Education. Juvenile prosecution is not just focused on the charges filed, but on the minor as a whole person and deputy district attorneys are involved in decisions that impact a minor's home life, mental health, educational needs, and placement. To address issues that specifically impact juveniles, there are specialized collaborative courtrooms that are focused on issues arising from being trafficked, drug abuse, involvement in the dependency system, school safety, and those teetering on the edge of adult prosecutions.

12. MAJOR FRAUD

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Major Fraud Unit vertically prosecutes complex non-violent economic crime cases with substantial economic losses. Our cases involve a broad range of criminal fraud; e.g. elder fraud, major frauds with losses in excess of \$100,000, investment fraud, embezzlement, cyber/computer crimes, cryptocurrency scams, and theft by false pretenses. Because of the special expertise required, the unit's legal staff handles all its own motions, including Penal Code 995 motions, bail motions, asset freeze motions, motions to suppress, etc.

13. NORTH JUSTICE CENTER

1275 North Berkeley Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92631

Branch Court Operations is responsible for three legal functions within the Office: (1) filing and prosecution of all misdemeanor cases, (2) filing and prosecution of all juvenile cases and (3) filing and conducting preliminary hearings for all felonies not assigned to vertical units. The North Justice Center is located in the City of Fullerton. NJC serves the eight cities and unincorporated areas within northern Orange County.

14. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY & TRAINING

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 920703

The Professional Responsibility & Training Unit is responsible for the continuing education of all legal division personnel of the District Attorney's Office as well as providing continuing education opportunities for law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Through training seminars, classes, and written and video publications, the unit provides personnel with instruction and information across all subject matters related to criminal investigation, prosecution, and the general practice of law.

Interns in this unit typically assist with the organizing training materials for OCDA hosted trainings, assist in administration of trainings conducted both in the office and by our Traffic Safety Resource Prosecution team, help with organization and creation of training records, and attend trainings provided to OCDA prosecutors.

15. MENTAL HEALTH AND RECIDIVISM REDUCTION UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Mental Health and Recidivism Reduction Unit is responsible for prosecuting selected cases impacted by some of the most pressing issues in society, such as mental illness, homelessness, addiction, and trauma stemming from military service. This unit also has a research component, as it both studies existing programs, such as collaborative courts, and proposes new ones based on data and best practices. The goal is to help build a system that balances opportunity and accountability with programs that address some of the root causes of crime while staying committed to public safety.

Interns assigned to Mental Health/RRU will have the opportunity to assist the attorneys, paralegals, and clerical with all unit assignments. Duties may include both clerical-type projects and non-legal research projects.

16. SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Sexual Assault Unit is dedicated to the prosecution of felony sex crimes, including child molestation and violent sex crimes against adults and children. The bulk of the work involves intensive trial work. The deputy district attorneys in the unit complete an average of 70 trials a year, with most resulting in life sentences. They work closely with sexual assault victims and victim advocates. They prosecute cases throughout the county and, therefore, work with all law enforcement agencies as well as the United States Attorney and FBI when the charges involve child pornography.

17. WEST JUSTICE CENTER

8141 13th Street
Westminster, CA 92683

Branch Court Operations is responsible for three legal functions within the Office: (1) filing and prosecution of all misdemeanor cases, (2) filing and prosecution of all juvenile cases and (3) filing and conducting preliminary hearings for all felonies not assigned to vertical units. The West Justice Center is located in the City of Westminster. WJC serves the eight cities and unincorporated areas within western Orange County.

18. WRITS & APPEALS

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

The Writs & Appeals Unit occupies a central position within the District Attorney's Office working collaboratively with every one of the office's 19 other prosecutorial units. This unit is responsible for representing the District Attorney's Office in all writ proceedings and appellate matters before the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, the District Court of Appeal, the California Supreme Court, and the federal courts, on prosecutions arising from throughout the office. The unit is also responsible for handling a litany of motions in the Superior Court from various units including motions to suppress evidence, dismiss prosecutions, change venue, disclose confidential informants, demurrers, recusals, and other matters. In addition to the unit's litigation work, the attorneys of the Appellate section also act as specialized legal advisors to the office's prosecutors by offering guidance on various legal issues that arise in diverse prosecutions.

19. GANG INJUNCTION UNIT

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Gang Injunction Unit focuses on the use of civil law to abate the nuisances caused by criminal street gangs. Gangs and gang members terrorize, threaten, intimidate, and instill fear in the people and places the gangs inhabit and frequent. Through the use of civil injunction laws, the Gang Injunction Unit works to decrease and minimize the effects of the gangs by limiting their ability to congregate, commit nuisance activities, and lessen the quality of life in very specific areas called "Safety Zones".

20. POST-CONVICTION AND SPECIAL LITIGATION

300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Post Conviction & Special Handling Unit (PCSLU) handles a wide variety of complex litigation tasks, primarily involving post-conviction matters. The most significant project PCSLU has been handling involves hundreds of petitions from convicted murderers seeking to have their murder convictions vacated/dismissed. These petitions are a result of the retroactive impact of the Legislature's passage of SB 1437 (Penal Code Section 1172.6), which prohibited certain legal theories from being used to prosecute murder. PCSLU reviews the files and transcripts of these murder convictions and then prepares a response analyzing whether we

will concede or litigate the defendant's SB 1437 petition, and the factual and legal basis supporting the OCDA's position and will then litigate the SB 1437 petition in court through the prima facie hearing. PCSLU also manages our parole program and analyzes the retroactive impact on thousands of cases impacted by other recent legislation that provide for resentencing or other potential relief.

Interns in this unit will typically conduct research, monitor court proceedings, prepare internal memos, assist with review of cases and related office data and information.