

A few of the most popular Criminal Psychology placements available through The Philadelphia Center:

Defender Association; Assistant Social Worker: The Defender Association of Philadelphia is an independent, non-profit corporation that was created in 1934 by a group of Philadelphia lawyers who were dedicated to the ideal of high quality legal services for indigent criminal defendants. That ideal continues today, as some two hundred and fifteen full time assistant defenders represent clients in adult and juvenile state and federal trial and appellate courts and at civil and criminal mental health hearings as well as state and county violation of probation/parole hearings. Association attorneys also serve as the Child Advocate in neglect and dependency court. The Defender Association of Philadelphia represents approximately seventy percent of all persons arrested in Philadelphia. Full-time assistant defenders rotate their assignments by representing clients in the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, at preliminary arraignments and misdemeanor bench trials. Defender Association attorneys also appear in the Court of Common Pleas at preliminary hearings, miscellaneous motions court, juvenile delinquency hearings, and felony bench or jury. Juvenile Social Services Unit represents juveniles in delinquency and certification cases. Assistant Social Worker observes and assists social workers in court hearings and in preparing for dispositional hearings.

Defender Association; Homicide Mitigation Assistant: The Homicide Unit receives one out of every five homicides in the city of Philadelphia. As a Mitigation Assistant, a student learns how the criminal justice system intersects with a variety of other social service fields, develops skills to work in a team environment, develops a better understanding of the Criminal Justice system specifically in Pennsylvania, and is introduced to a number of interactions with clients and their families when emotions are often running high. Mitigation Assistant works with a Homicide Mitigation Specialist, who is an integral part of the defense team, in capital and non-capital cases. Mitigation Assistant aides the Mitigation Specialist in a variety of different duties which includes building a trusting relationship with clients and their families, investigating multi-generational background, and gathering documents relating to clients and their families. Additional duties include aiding attorneys with identifying and preparing expert witnesses and aiding in developing biopsychosocial history reports for non-capital cases. Mitigation Assistant also observes preliminary hearings, pre-trial conferences, jury and bench trial, and sentencing.

District Attorney - Family Violence/Sexual Assault: Legal Intern: The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for the City and County of Philadelphia. By and through her Assistant District Attorneys, Lynne Abraham fights crime by prosecuting criminals and fighting for the rights of victims. The District Attorney's office is responsible for the prosecution of over 70,000 criminal cases yearly and oversees a professional staff of 300 assistant district attorneys and 275 support staff. The Family Violence & Sexual assault unit prosecutes cases involving sexual assault, felony domestic violence, and physical and sexual abuse of children. Prosecutors in this unit receive specialized training in trial advocacy and all areas of family violence, child abuse, and sexual assault to maximize the effectiveness of prosecution and give a strong voice to victims of crime. The attorneys, detectives, and victim/witness coordinators in the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Unit work together in a multidisciplinary approach and collaborate with other government agencies and victim advocacy organizations to share

information, provide education, and provide support to victims and their families. Legal Intern in this unit works with attorney to determine case strategy, call witnesses, help prepare cases, and attend trials.

Families of Murder Victims; Victim Advocate: Families of Murder Victims (FMV) is a program of the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia, a non-profit organization that strives to address the cycle of violence within families -- from prevention to treatment. FMV provides information, advocacy, and emotional support to the families and friends of homicide victims. FMV works with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Philadelphia Police Department/Homicide Detectives. Much of FMV's funding comes from the DA's Office through the Pennsylvania Coalition on Crime and Delinquency and through other programs established by the federal Victims of Crime Act. Victim Advocate Intern is a key member of the FMV team, assisting families and friends (co-victims) of homicide navigate the judicial system and work through the grieving process. Student will become familiar with issues regarding "Traumatic Grief" and use this knowledge to validate client feelings and perceptions. Students accompany co-victims to court and provide victim services/advocacy; provide information to help co-victims navigate the criminal justice process, including information about counseling and financial resources available to them; provide informal counseling in person at court or via phone; assess client needs and make referrals; assist clients with Crime Victim Compensation (CVC) applications; document all client contact; help with administrative tasks as assigned. Candidates should be committed to social justice, able to work with others from diverse cultures and backgrounds, possess strong communication skills, able to work in high-activity environment and multitask. Opportunity to learn workings of criminal justice system through a legal outreach component.

Women Against Abuse; Municipal Court Project Intern: Women Against Abuse (WAA) is the largest and most comprehensive domestic violence program in Pennsylvania, serving some 15,000 survivors of domestic violence and their children each year. In more than 20 years of service, WAA has helped more than 140,000 people find the path to a violence-free life. As the only organization in Philadelphia whose sole purpose is to assist victims of domestic violence, WAA operates three sites: the only shelter in Philadelphia exclusive for battered women and their children; the nation's first legal center for domestic violence victims; and the region's first transitional housing program for abused families. Each of these sites is linked to a 24-hour hotline through which all programs can be accessed. A variety of services are offered through each site. WAA Municipal Court Program assists victims of domestic violence in criminal court, when an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) is prosecuting the case. Municipal Court Intern counsels the victims in court, discusses options with them, and acts as liaisons between the victim and the ADA.

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