

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Memphis District Office of Counsel Externship Field Placement Description

The Memphis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides flood risk management, navigation, environmental stewardship, other authorized civil works, military programs support, and emergency operations within its area of responsibility. The Memphis District is one of USACE's 45 districts and part of the Mississippi Valley Division. The Division is headquartered in Vicksburg, Mississippi and covers a 25,000 square mile area of the Mississippi River. It serves clients in portions of Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky, including 100 flood control districts, water resource and wildlife agencies from six states, four Port Commissions, the Lower Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, and Congressional Districts and 12 Senators. The Division is also responsible for maintaining and improving 355 miles of the Mississippi River main channel from Cairo, Illinois, to the mouth of the White River. It also maintains more than 640 miles of mainline levees along the Mississippi River and its tributaries, eight inland harbors and 254 miles of navigation channel on the White River in Arkansas.

The USACE Memphis District Office of Counsel is located in the Clifford Davis Federal Building in downtown Memphis. Comprised of seven attorneys and one paralegal, the Office of Counsel provides legal support across the full spectrum of USACE legal operations, including:

- Advice on all areas of administrative law, including investigations, fiscal law, project authorities, ethics, and FOIA;
- Various realty functions, such as real property acquisition, management and disposal, and appraisal processes;
- Federal procurement law, including complex and controversial contract formation and administration issues;
- Environmental review, including activities related to civil works projects and the regulatory program; and, tort and admiralty law;
- Litigation support to the Department of Justice by preparing litigation reports, exhibits, legal analysis, draft pleadings, and throughout all phases of discovery; and
- Labor and employment law advice and reviews proposed disciplinary and adverse actions against civilian employees.

It is anticipated that the assigned extern will have the opportunity to complete assignments in more than one of the USACE Office of Counsel's practice areas.