

STUDENT PRACTICE CERTIFICATION INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

(Quotes from the NC State Bar's Rules Governing Practical Training of Law Students—Sect. .0200)

What is it? Formerly known as the 3L Practice Rule, this program, which is governed by the NC State Bar, allows law students the opportunity to gain practical experience into the practice of law during their education. This packet addresses certification for students in externships (where students receive academic credit) or internships (no academic credit received) who are working in a law firm, governmental entity, or organization and will “(i) provide legal advice or services in matters governed by North Carolina law to eligible persons or government agencies outside the organization, entity, agency, or law firm or (ii) appear before any North Carolina tribunal or agency on behalf of an eligible person or a government agency.” (Rule .0208(a))

Who is an “eligible person” under the Rules? “Persons who are unable financially to pay for legal advice or services as determined by a standard established by a judge of the General Court of Justice, a legal services organization, government entity, or a clinical legal education program. [It] may include minors who are not financially independent; students enrolled in secondary and higher education schools who are not financially independent; non-profit organizations serving low-income communities; and other organizations financially unable to pay for legal advice or services.” (Rule .0202(b))

NOTE: If you work in a **private law firm**, you cannot provide legal representation to the firm's regular book of business. By completing the certification process, both students and supervising attorneys acknowledge an understanding and commitment to these restrictions.

Who can be certified? Law students providing direct representation before courts or administrative agencies. Students must be in “good standing” (not on academic probation).

Special note about graduating 3Ls: If you are interested in being a certified intern after graduation, then, **prior** to graduation, you must secure your placement and complete the certification process.

How long does the certification last? The earlier of 18 months or until the results of the first bar exam following graduation (if you pass the bar, then the time extends to your swearing in and admittance).

What is the Campbell Law Process? To streamline the process, the following forms must be completed and sent **directly** to nfonville@campbell.edu not the State Bar. *Clinic students should follow their professor's instructions.*

If you plan to enroll in an Externship:

1. Student Certification (by student)
2. Field Placement Site Supervisor Certification (by supervisor)

If you plan to enroll in an Internship:

1. Student Certification (by student)
2. Field Placement Site Supervisor Certification (by employer)
3. Student Practice Certification Internship Memorandum of Understanding (signed by both)

All forms are located on the Law Career Services Blackboard page (Information tab → Student Practice Certification folder). Once Director Niya Fonville Swint receives your documents, the Office of the Registrar will complete the Law School Certification and submit your packet to the NC State Bar for final approval.

Anything else I need to know?

While Campbell Law does not “approve” certification requests, we assist in the process. Both supervising attorneys and students are expected to have read the NC State Bar's Rules Governing Practical Training of Law Students. If you have questions, please contact Director Swint via email or at (919) 865-4697.