



JUDGE LORENZO MÁRQUEZ APPELLATE EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

A spring externship program through the Colorado Supreme Court and the Colorado Court of Appeals

Jose Deciderio Lorenzo Marquez was born in Las Mesitas, Colorado in 1941. He graduated cum laude from St John's University in Minnesota with a degree in philosophy while studying to be a priest. He later left that study and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. While stationed in Austin, Texas, he earned his law degree at the University of Texas Law School. After graduation, he served as an assistant staff judge advocate at Bergstrom AFB. In 1972, upon concluding his military service, Lorenzo moved with his wife and two daughters to Grand Junction, Colorado, where he joined Colorado Rural Legal Services. He later served as Regional Assistant Attorney General, and in 1978 he started private practice with Prakken & Marquez. In 1984, Lorenzo was appointed the first Latino district court judge in Grand Junction, and in 1988, he became the first Latino judge on the Colorado Court of Appeals, where he served until his retirement in 2008. In 2001, he earned his LL.M. degree from the University of Virginia. Lorenzo has always been deeply involved in his community and has worked to foster diversity in the legal profession through his service with the Colorado Bar Association, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Minoru Yasui Inn of Court. Lorenzo has mentored countless students and young lawyers. He started the court of appeals externship program to inspire students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, to consider post-graduation clerkships and possible careers on the bench.

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The Colorado Supreme Court and Colorado Court of Appeals seek applications from 2L, 3L, and 4L law students from the University of Colorado and University of Denver law schools to serve as Lorenzo Márquez Scholars. The Scholars are assigned to a Supreme Court Justice or Court of Appeals Judge, whom the Scholars assist with research and drafting during the spring semester. Participants in the program can improve their writing and legal analysis skills by working closely

with the justice or judge and law clerks, experience the appellate process from the inside, and gain a mentorship opportunity with the justice or judge.

Although the Scholars are not paid, they may apply to their law schools for academic credit. Most Scholars receive two or three course credits.

Candidates for the externship apply through their law school in the fall. Interested students can obtain further information regarding applications through the school's intern/externship coordinator's office. Although there are no specific eligibility requirements, the program encourages members of our community to apply who have been historically underrepresented in the legal profession because of their race, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socio-economic status, national origin, or other factors, as well as those who are first generation students.

The program honors Judge Lorenzo Márquez, who founded the Colorado Appellate Courts Diversity Externship Program. Judge Márquez was the first Latino judge on the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the Lorenzo Márquez appellate externship program:

Can I pick the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals?

You can request to work with either the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals.

What hours can I work?

The courthouse is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The hours worked will be based on how many credits you are requesting from your law school. You can then work out a schedule with the justice or judge for whom you are externing. We have established a remote work option during the pandemic.

Do I need to be a great writer to apply?

You will be working with the justice or judge and his or her staff on a variety of writing projects. Interest in legal writing is preferred, but there is no expectation of a particular skill level coming into the externship. The program is designed to help you develop as a legal writer.

What are the benefits of this type of externship?

An externship on the Colorado Court of Appeals or Colorado Supreme Court offers an opportunity to improve your legal writing in an intellectually stimulating environment, as well as to experience a community of law clerks and judges who will serve as colleagues, mentors, and advisors as you pursue your career in the law. Externships can also lead to law clerk positions after graduation.