

ABOUT US

With 500+ attorneys across 40+ practice areas and 20+ North American offices, Dickinson Wright is a full-service law firm with an unparalleled reputation of client service and legal strategy. Our clients range from Fortune 500 companies to small and emerging businesses to governmental entities, nonprofits and individuals. Dickinson Wright's sophisticated client portfolio and collegial, supportive firm environment provide an ideal platform upon which to build a successful and lasting practice.

"The Dickinson Wright summer experience introduced me to personal and professional friendships that have spanned forty-plus years, and also introduced me to the breadth of what our lawyers undertake every day – counselling, advocacy, strategic thinking, community building, policy change, public service . . . and the list goes on."

William T. Burgess
Member and Chairman of the Firm
DW Summer Class of 1982



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DICKINSON  WRIGHT

SUMMER ASSOCIATE PROGRAM



@dickinsonwright



The DW Difference

Each summer, Dickinson Wright hosts Summer Associates across our 20+ offices. Our program is designed to give law students a real glimpse into what a legal career at Dickinson Wright will look like. Summer Associates spend ten weeks working on complex, high-quality client matters alongside Dickinson Wright attorneys. In addition to working on substantive written assignments, Summer Associates are provided opportunities to observe our lawyers in standup legal proceedings and participate in a host of social events to network with as many of our lawyers as possible. At the end of ten weeks, our Summer Associates have a clear idea of who we are, what we do, and how we do it.

How Are Assignments Distributed?

Summer Associates perform real client work spanning Dickinson Wright's 40+ practice areas—no busy work, hypothetical fact patterns or administrative projects here. Our Assignment Coordinators identify meaningful assignments from across the Firm and carefully curate each Summer Associate's workload, both in volume and scope. Summer Associates can expect a broad base of assignments with the opportunity to work in practice areas where they may have a particular interest. Our program encourages students to maintain an open mind about the practice areas they would like to try or even build for themselves. One of the many benefits of spending the summer with a firm like DW is the opportunity to try it all.



The breadth of my summer experience was amazing. I assisted in corporate, family, and high-level litigation matters. I worked for attorneys in multiple DW offices in a variety of practice groups. My assignment team members were intentional about ensuring that I experienced a wide range of practice areas, and they succeeded!

Aaron V. Burrell
Member and Chairperson of the
Diversity Committee
DW Summer Class of 2009



I saw significant growth in my legal skills from the beginning to the end of the Summer Associate Program. The firm's commitment to providing personalized feedback on every assignment helped me identify areas for improvement and clearly track my progress.

Claire Hickman
Associate
DW Summer Class of 2024

Will I Have A Mentor?

All Summer Associates are assigned a Junior and Senior Mentor. Junior Mentors serve as the Summer Associate's primary resource, reviewing assignments, providing feedback, and ensuring the Summer Associate is integrating into the office. The Senior Mentor provides bigger-picture career advice and guidance. The mentors, along with the robust summer social program, help expand the Summer Associate's network within the Firm.



Will I Receive Feedback?

Every assignment receives an evaluation directly from the assigning attorney. In addition, halfway through the program, each Summer Associate receives a formal review of all of their completed assignments to date so they can understand where they are performing well and where they should focus their efforts for the remainder of the summer. The Firm hires only as many Summer Associates as we expect to need in our Associate class the following year. As a result, Summer Associates are not in competition with one another. We expect to extend full-time offers to all Summer Associates who meet our performance expectations. This allows Summer Associates to focus on demonstrating their legal skills instead of competing with their classmates. Indeed, it fosters and creates a supportive network among our Summer Associate classes that serves our attorneys throughout their careers.

