



**Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System**

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A division of the State Appellate Defender Office

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## **MAACS Seeks Interns/Externs for Summer 2026**

The Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS), the Private Counsel Division of the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO), seeks law students committed to public service, racial equity, and social justice for internship and externship opportunities during the Summer of 2026.

MAACS is responsible for the recruitment, training, and oversight of private attorneys who accept court appointed appeals from the state's circuit courts. MAACS roster attorneys handle thousands of appellate assignments across the state each year, including direct appeals, motions for relief from judgment, and juvenile lifer resentencings.

Working under the supervision of MAACS Roster Support and Performance Manager, Stephanie Farkas, students will work with MAACS roster attorneys on all aspects of appellate representation. Work will include transcript and discovery review, client counseling and investigation of client concerns, document collection, mitigation, legal research, and the drafting of pleadings. Oral advocacy is possible as students may potentially appear in court, consistent with MCR 8.120. Because Michigan has a unique criminal appellate process which allows for factual development on direct appeal, interns have an opportunity to work in both trial and appellate courts, and to attend trial court hearings and Court of Appeals arguments.

Start and end dates are flexible and will be determined by the school's academic calendar and program. We are a hybrid office. SADO has space in both the Lansing and Detroit offices for interns/externs to work in-person. Interns are encouraged to come into the office to form relationships with each other and the rest of the SADO team. There is also the potential for client visits and court attendance throughout Michigan.

Due to limited resources, our internship opportunities are currently unpaid. We encourage applicants to seek funding from their academic institutions or third-party funders.

To apply, please submit a single PDF with a letter of interest, resume, and writing sample, to Ms. Farkas at [sfarkas@sado.org](mailto:sfarkas@sado.org). Please have your subject line read “MAACS Summer Internship Application.” Your cover letter should indicate why you want to be part of the MAACS team and work for our clients. The deadline for applications is **Friday, April 3, 2026**. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis. Please direct all questions to Ms. Farkas.

***SADO is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.*** We recognize people of color are disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system and actively seek to employ staff with backgrounds representative of our clients. We strongly encourage people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ people, and people directly affected by the criminal legal system to apply. A felony conviction does not prohibit employment at SADO.