



Legal Liftoff 2025



opportunity

Legal Liftoff is a mentorship program held over Spring Break to provide students with a mentor who provides insight into real world practice and discussion of a wide variety of topics.

Students develop professional skills and positive early practice protocols to utilize as they begin their legal journeys.

Pictured, left to right: Joe Baron (County and Prosecuting Attorney, UWCOL '86), Jennifer Solis (1L), DeNece Dayz (Deputy County Prosecuting Attorney) SuperDave (Witness and Victims Unit) Kathy Spencer (Legal Secretary) and Jeanie (Deputy County Prosecuting Attorney)

Student: Jennifer Solis, 1L Employer: Crook County Attorney's Office

My overall impression of the Legal Liftoff program in Crook County was extremely positive. Shadowing County Attorney Joe Baron and his team gave me a valuable glimpse into the work of public service attorneys in a rural setting.

I appreciated how welcoming and open the office was, and I was able to observe a wide variety of legal proceedings and interactions, including juvenile court, criminal hearings, and other court appearances.

The experience gave me a deeper understanding of how the law functions on the ground in smaller communities, where attorneys often wear multiple hats and have a more direct connection to the people they serve.



Student: Alecx Christensen, 1L Employer: District Court for the Third Judicial District of Wyoming

The week was incredible. The opportunity to watch various lawyers and the court in a professional setting instead of an academic one was a very influential experience. My supervisor was wonderful and answered every question I had, which is impressive considering how many questions I asked. Judge Kaste repeatedly sat me down to discuss what I was seeing in court and explain how everything functioned.

As a result of the program, I have a much keener interest in rural law and especially the practice of criminal and family law. I got to meet almost every lawyer in Uinta County and was impressed at how warm and welcoming they were. Someday, I would love to practice law in Uinta County thanks to the experience I had. I cannot overstate how positive an experience this was and would recommend the program to everyone.



"I'm so glad I was able to participate! Even though I was only at the DA's office for three half-days, I was able to sit in on a variety of hearings and meetings and get some insight into what some of the parts of pre-trial work actually look like.

I also really appreciate the fact that I was able to chat with a good number of attorneys in the office and get their perspectives, both on the work itself and their personal philosophies on law in general. I'm impressed at the amount I was able to see in a relatively short span of time, and I truly appreciate how welcoming and accommodating everyone was despite their busy schedules."

~Alana Lanigan, 1L, partnered with the 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office



Pictured, left to right: Chris Lym, Jennifer Moio, Alexander Christensen (1L), Hunter Peterson, Judge James Kaste (UWCOL '98)

Employer Feedback

We enjoy having students through the program! We invited them both to apply to our summer internship program.

Overall, a very good experience for the student and our office. It was nice to see someone that excited about the practice of law. This program will make recruiting easier since the student has seen what we do.

Very positive. Second time participating and definitely not the last.

Great idea for students to get to know attorneys and to get a glimpse of actual law practice.



Student: Barret Barker, 1L

Employer: U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming, Judge Rankin Chambers

The program was very helpful and allowed me to get a taste of what clerking is like. I was also able to get first-hand experience on how a case is decided and the work needed to weigh each side to come to the final conclusion.

Pictured left to right: Barret Barker (1L) and Jack Martin (UWCOL '24). Martin is a Clerk for Judge Rankin.

Student: MaryAlice Buslett, 1L

Employer: Takkion

MaryAlice spent time at Takkion in Casper, WY and is "...so grateful for Mr. Wulf's mentorship and could not have asked for a better individual to learn from. I had so much fun getting a taste of the in house life, as well as an introduction to wind energy!"

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The program was amazing! I had so much fun and it was a great experience. I liked the fact that it was only a 10-hour commitment (although I did much more) because that made it pretty stress free. The entire process was pretty easy!

-MaryAlice Buslett, 1L



Pictured left to right: Phillip Wulf (In-House Counsel, UWCOL '14) and MaryAlice Buslett

Students: Sarah Smith, 1L and Gabriel Ewing, 2L
Employer: District Attorney's Office, 8th Judicial District, Colorado



The students were able to observe a hearing and docket, help a prosecutor come up with offers and screen some cases, watch a Fort Collins Police cadet training, and jump in to do some direct and cross-examinations. What a great experience!

thank you

We are deeply grateful to the supervising mentors and applaud the students who took advantage of this program! See you next year!

Kristin Lanouette, MS, LPC, NCC
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