

INTERN SUCCESS STORY



JULIO MENDOZA-QUIROZ

Law school helped me master legal theory. At the Comptroller's office, I put it in practice.

My internship at the Comptroller's office pushed me to look beyond the traditional notion of what it means to be an attorney and helped me understand the day-to-day practice of law. It showed me that attorneys are problem solvers, and it gave me an opportunity to hone my own problem-solving skills to help taxpayers across the state.

That's what it means to be an attorney for the people.

During my internship in the Tax Policy Division, I helped determine agency policy and write administrative rules. I attended hearings and court proceedings at the State Office of Administrative Hearings, district court, the Texas Supreme Court and the Senate Finance Committee. I analyzed federal legislation and learned about nuances in the federal law-making process. Who knew that working in state and local tax would involve interacting directly with folks in Washington, D.C.?

My supervising attorneys treated me with respect and welcomed me into the Comptroller family. They trusted me with important assignments and encouraged me in the face of obstacles.

Internships at the Comptroller's office offer many benefits for law students. You will participate in public service. You will learn about practicing the law at a level that affects the entire state. You will expand your understanding of what a career as an attorney involves. You will be given an opportunity to make the internship your own, and you will experience a true work-life balance. I'm confident your internship will be rewarding.

Today I'm a full-time employee at the Comptroller's office.

I chose to work at the Comptroller's office straight out of law school because of my internship experience. I like the challenging environment – particularly addressing novel legal questions and finding solutions to problems taxpayers face. At the same time, the projects I work on promote an independence that is both fun and liberating.

Today, I'm a tax analyst in the Tax Policy Division. I interact with people both within and outside the agency as I work to master state and local tax law. It reminds me a lot of law school – working through a statute and having to re-read it before gaining a thorough understanding. I'm constantly learning.

I primarily handle taxpayer inquiries about sales and use tax. This involves legal research and writing and participating in meetings with Comptroller staff and taxpayers. I also draft administrative rules, which provides a great sense of accomplishment. I participated in my first legislative session this year, reviewing bills and meeting with legislative staff and industry representatives. I also review administrative hearing decisions to determine whether they are consistent with Comptroller policy.

My job as a tax analyst offers a wide variety of duties that have fostered my growth as a government attorney. It's rewarding to solve problems and help Texas taxpayers.

I'm proud to serve the people of Texas.



Julio Mendoza-Quiroz