

Dorsey's Minneapolis Summer Associate Program

DORSEY'S MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN BUILDING A SUMMER PROGRAM THAT COMBINES REALISTIC WORK EXPERIENCE, ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES THAT HIGHLIGHT THE BEST OF THE TWIN CITIES.

Rotation System

Not sure what practice area is right for you? No problem! After in-depth orientation and training, Dorsey summer associates rotate through three practice areas of their choosing, allowing them to get first-hand experience in different departments and work closely with attorneys from a variety of practice groups.

In addition to gaining hands-on work experience, our summer associates attend client meetings, depositions, closings, and court appearances. Summer associates may rotate through the following practice areas: Benefits & Compensation; Corporate; Finance & Restructuring; Health Transactions and Regulations; Labor & Employment; Patent; Public Finance; Real Estate; Regulatory Affairs; Tax, Trusts & Estates; Trademark; and Trial.





Former Vice President Walter Mondale speaks to Summer Associates.

Feedback

At Dorsey we value the growth and development of our summer associates and recognize the importance of feedback throughout the process. We have a formal evaluation process in place to ensure summer associates receive timely and helpful feedback on each project they complete. Summer associates meet formally with Recruiting Committee members in the middle and at the end of the summer to discuss their work product and progress as a whole. We also encourage summer associates to meet informally with assigning attorneys and mentors throughout the course of the summer program to receive direct feedback and to discuss projects in depth.

Writing Workshops

Throughout the course of our summer program, Dorsey summer associates attend in-house writing workshops to strengthen writing techniques, discuss different types of writing formats such as emailing a client and drafting a legal brief, and apply their writing skills to practical scenarios. Each summer associate also receives detailed, one-on-one feedback from a designated “writing coach” who reviews their first writing project. Additional writing support is available throughout the summer.

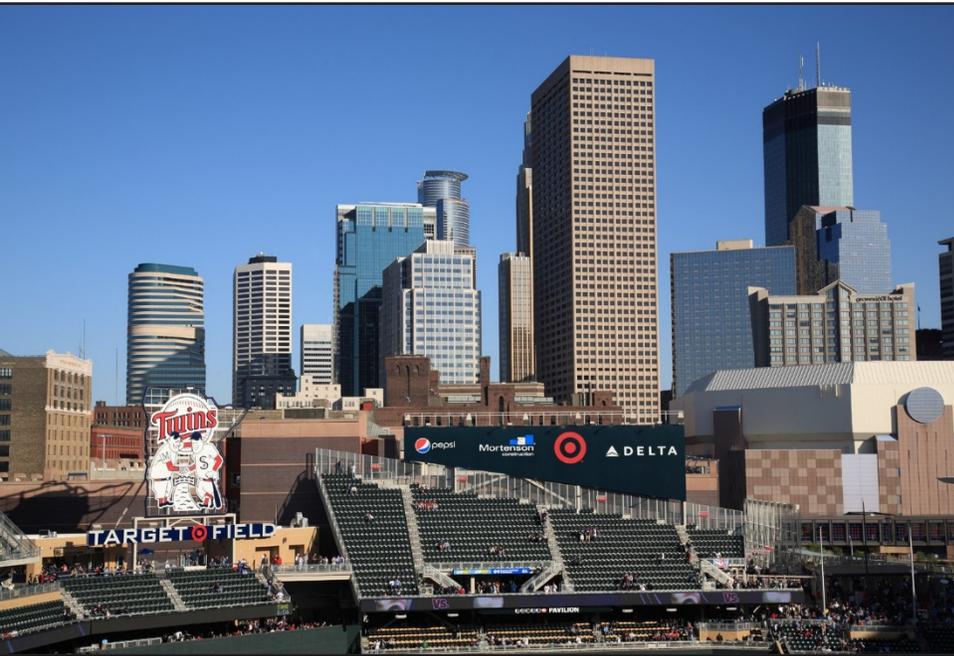
Pro Bono and Community Service

As part of Dorsey’s commitment to pro bono work and our community, our summer associates have the opportunity to work on a variety of pro bono cases of their choosing. In fact, 100% of Dorsey’s 2020 summer associates worked on challenging and inspiring pro bono projects! Examples of pro bono work performed by summer associates include: representing low income persons in housing court, representing individuals seeking orders for protection in cases of domestic abuse, attending legal clinics, and assisting with political asylum matters. Many summer associates also partner with attorneys and staff in Dorsey’s annual Habitat for Humanity project.

“As a summer associate at Dorsey, I worked on interesting and challenging projects. Dorsey’s rotation system allows summer associates to explore different areas of law and different types of projects, so I was able to both pursue work related to my existing interests and gain experience in new areas of law. Throughout my rotations, I researched interesting legal questions. I also drafted a variety of documents, including a complaint, a supply agreement and corporate formation documents. Additionally, I worked on meaningful pro bono projects that provided a variety of experiences, from drafting wills to incorporating a nonprofit organization. Each project gave me the opportunity to work with the exceptional attorneys at Dorsey, who provided valuable guidance and feedback. My assigned mentors also provided support and guidance during the summer associate program, and they continue to do so now that I am an Associate. Overall, my experiences as a Dorsey summer associate provided a great foundation for the start of my legal career.

- Dale Williams, Associate





Dorsey U

Dorsey U is our Firm's in-house professional development service which provides over 600 hours of programming on a variety of topics during the year. We strongly encourage our summer associates to attend training seminars during the summer to enhance their professional development. Examples of Dorsey U sessions that our summer associates attend are Hot Topics in Employment and Benefits Law, Addressing Antitrust Risk in M&A Transactions, the Art of a Closing Argument, and How Appellate Courts Do Their Work.

Fun!

Whether our summer program is in-person or virtual we host many social activities that allow our summer associates to form lasting relationships with their associate and partner mentors, the Recruiting Committee, other Dorsey attorneys, and fellow summer associates. Examples of summer program events include a paint night, a cooking class, an escape room, an evening boat cruise on the Mississippi river, an afternoon baseball game with the Minnesota Twins, and enjoying time with former Vice President Walter Mondale.



During my summer experience, I analyzed complex areas of law and provide recommendations to partners on how to use that analysis to revise documents. I saw how the partners incorporated my summer work to provide our clients with important legal protections. This is just one example of how Dorsey truly seeks to provide summer associates with meaningful work. Throughout the summer, Dorsey's rotation system and project coordinators enable summer associates to dive into a variety of substantive areas. I spent my time working on multi-million dollar buyouts, writing client-facing articles on novel cases, and helping pro bono clients form their companies. But, a summer at Dorsey is not just work. The firm provides opportunities for mentorship, camaraderie, and personal growth. For me, joining the LGBTQ Affinity Group was a particularly important part of my summer as it allowed me to see that Dorsey wants us to bring who we are to work. At the end of my summer, I couldn't wait to come back!

- Andrew Benson, Associate