“The program was the most rewarding educational experience I had in law school. The ability to work hands-on with professionals who specialize in the field was invaluable! The experience allowed me to bring together many subjects I had studied and develop a more thorough understanding of their interworkings in the judicial process.”
~ Bill Hickman, Class of 2011

“I’m currently working as an Assistant Public Defender in Macon County and words cannot express how much I absolutely love it. Since my semester away with the Missouri Public Defender’s office, I have not pictured myself doing anything else. One of the reasons that I got hired on here is because the Public Defender was so impressed with the practical experience that I received during my time spent at the Missouri Public Defender’s office. What prepared me for this job more than any other law school experience was my time in the semester away program.”
~ Chris Amero, Class of 2012

“The program provides a unique opportunity to work actively in the criminal justice system on either the defense or prosecution side. On the defense side, students will have the opportunity to interview defendants, conduct research, write memoranda and pleadings, argue motions, and appear in court. On the prosecution side, students will have the opportunity to do research, argue motions, and prosecute traffic and misdemeanor cases on a regular basis.”
~ Professor William A Schroeder

Application & Enrollment Process
- This program is for entering third-year law students
- Memorandum outlining interest and qualifications, and preferred location site and rationale
- Résumé
- Release of transcript from Registrar
- Enrollment in Crim Pro I and Crim Pro Seminar
- Approval and placement

For More Information:
Professor William A. Schroeder
wschroe@siu.edu
618.453.8747

www.law.siu.edu
The SIU School of Law’s Criminal Law Practice Semester-in-Practice offers third-year law students a unique, hands-on opportunity to learn about criminal law, while living and working in Illinois or Missouri during the fall semester of their final year of law school.

Residence in Chicago, Illinois or Jackson, Missouri allows students to work in locations under the guidance and supervision of experienced criminal law attorneys while still earning up to a full semester (12-18 hours) of academic credit. Chicago is approximately six hours north of the law school campus in Carbondale. Jackson, Missouri is approximately one hour 15 minutes southwest of the law school campus.

Externship in Criminal Law Practice
Students will work under the supervision of a licensed Illinois or Missouri attorney focused on criminal law for three, eight-hour days per week. Students will be placed with an externship site based on their interest and experience, and on the entity’s needs and availability.

SITE TYPES INCLUDE:
- Missouri Public Defender Office in either Cape Girardeau, Missouri or St. Louis County, Missouri
- The Cape Girardeau Missouri County Prosecutor’s Office
- The Cook County Illinois State’s Attorney’s Office at the Daley Center or possibly other sites in the Chicago, Illinois area
- The Cook County Public Defender’s Office

Student Requirements:
All students in the program must have obtained their 711 license (Illinois or Rule 13 license in Missouri) and completed 54 hours of law credit and be in good academic standing.

Orientation. Students will attend a mandatory orientation session at the beginning, or just before the beginning of the semester.

Journaling. Students will be required to keep a daily journal of their activities. The journal will be submitted electronically to Professor Schroeder.

Roundtable Discussions. Student round-table discussions will take place regularly during the semester. Most of these will be online.

Final Report. A written student summary of, and reflection on, the externship will be submitted to Professor Schroeder.

Professional & Academic Evaluation
Site supervisors will submit performance evaluations to the students and to Professor William Schroeder. He will review the supervisor evaluations with students and will assess students’ learning and performance during the semester. Grading will be on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.