

Testimonials

"The resources this program has given me will be the foundation I will build my future career on."
Roman Kaludi, Albany High School, 2016

"Through this experience, I feel one step closer to my goals in life. That's a great feeling."
Amalia Dickson, Dublin High School, 2013

"This was the best thing that ever happened to me."
Israel Vasquez, Berkeley High School, 2017

"The seminars were very informative and engaging and the internship gave me a glimpse into what my future would look like."
Lorenzo Sanchez, Castro Valley High School, 2015

Awards and Achievements



DAJA was granted the 2013 Achievement Award in the category of Children and Youth by the National Association of Counties



DAJA received the Merit Award in the 2013 California State Association of Counties Challenge Award Competition

How to Apply

Applications for the Academy are available at each high school or can be downloaded at:
www.alcoda.org.

For more information contact:
Teresa Drenick: (510) 272-6280
Niki Martinez: (510) 272-6997
Email: DAJA@alcoda.org

All applicants must attend public high schools in and be residents of Alameda County.

Partners



This Workforce Investment & Opportunity Act Title I financially assisted program is an Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

The District Attorney's Justice Academy

DAJA



Office of the District Attorney,
Alameda County

Nancy E. O'Malley, District Attorney

Mission

The Alameda County District Attorney's Justice Academy provides a learning and working experience for public high school students interested in pursuing the study of social justice, law, and the justice system.

Overview

The District Attorney's Justice Academy (DAJA) is a six month learning and working experience for juniors and seniors ages 16 and up. The Academy is offered to students in the following public school districts:

Tri-Valley: Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School Districts

Eden area: Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo Unified School Districts

North County: Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emery, Oakland, Piedmont Unified School Districts

During the Academy's seminars, legal experts present engaging and thought-provoking lectures that allow the students to question, interact, and problem-solve. When summer vacation begins, each student is placed in a paid internship with a local government agency, non-profit organization, office of an elected official, law enforcement agency, or a law office. At the conclusion of the program, the students present a persuasive oral argument with a partner on a seminar topic. This novel Academy teaches teens about the many facets of the justice system while encouraging critical thought and civic engagement.

Learning

Throughout the spring semester, students meet twice monthly for interactive seminars and are asked at each seminar to contemplate how a problem might be solved or a law improved upon. Underscoring the importance of persuasive discourse, the seminars encourage questions, answers, and discussion. Previous speakers and topics have included:

"Role of the Alameda County District Attorney and an In-Depth Explanation of the Legislative Process" Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley

"Science and the Law" Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Office of General Counsel

"Overview of the Judicial System and the Role of a Judge" Alameda County Superior Court Judges

"An Introduction to Immigration Law" Senior Staff Attorneys from Legal Services for Children

Working

The Academy allows students to work in a professional setting. The work experience provides the students with the opportunity to understand how they can positively impact their communities through the lens of the justice system. This Academy seeks to challenge each student to think critically and creatively about the laws governing our society, conflicts facing the community, and solutions to inequities. Previous worksites have included:

- Alameda County District Attorney's Office
- Alameda County Supervisors' Offices
- Offices of State Assemblymembers
- Local Police Departments
- Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Social Justice
- Offices of Federal Congressional Members
- Private Law Offices
- Local City Departments
- Local Elected Officials' Offices
- Superior Court Judges

