

# Ward and Smith Welcomes New Faces for 2022 Staff Internship Program

March 17, 2022



**Ward and Smith is thrilled to welcome a new class of interns to the second year of the firm's Staff Internship Program.**

The firm launched its inaugural staff internship program in 2021 to increase the diversity pipeline for professional staff in the legal field. Ward and Smith partners with local high schools and community colleges to provide students with exposure to the many facets of the legal profession and hands-on experience in a law office. From the 2021 internship program, the firm hired three interns for full-time positions.

"Our area schools are a great opportunity to engage diverse students in the cities where our offices exist," remarked Michael Christman, Ward and Smith's Director of Human Resources. "For us, this investment will help ensure that we have qualified staff in the talent pipeline with fresh perspectives on how best to serve clients."

Last year, the internship program was piloted in three of the firm's offices. It has now expanded to all five locations through efforts spearheaded, in part, by Human Resources Coordinator Jessica Denoyer.

"The program has been a great success, and we're fortunate to have schools and educators who are willing to partner with us to help build a better, more diverse workforce," Jessica said.

Ward and Smith partnered with Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington; D.H. Conley High School in Greenville; Pitt Community College near Greenville; Hillside High School in Durham; Durham Tech in Durham; South College in Asheville; Nesbitt Discovery Academy in Asheville; and West Craven High School in New Bern.

"Ward and Smith's internship program is an excellent opportunity for South College," remarked Tressa Hayes, Legal Studies Department Chair and Paralegal Program Director. "We are delighted with our current Asheville student's engagement in challenging practical tasks and real-world professional development activities. This is the ideal capstone experience for graduating paralegal students."

The 2022 Staff Internship program runs through May.

**Meet our 2022 Staff Interns:**

**Asheville Office**

Rebecca Daggerhart  
Office Services Assistant Intern

Sandra Hamel  
Paralegal Intern

**Greenville Office**

Aiman "Vic" Elkassabany  
Paralegal Intern

David Mallinson  
Office Services Assistant Intern

**New Bern Office**

Courtney Holliday  
Paralegal Intern

Bree Slaubaugh  
Office Services Assistant Intern

**Raleigh Office**

Zenobia Salahuddin  
Paralegal Intern

Aniyah Mathews  
Office Services Intern

**Wilmington Office**

Dawnanna Squires  
Paralegal Intern