EXAMPLE OF LAW OBJECTIVES

I am interning with the Office of the Sixth Judicial District Public Defenders Office where I am receiving first hand experience of what it is like to be an attorney, paralegal, social worker, and investigator. There are several objectives I want to work on throughout the semester in my internship that would benefit my future career path. The following is a list of skills, knowledge, and personal development that I plan on obtaining during my internship.

SKILLS:

Writing
- How to write efficiently and effectively in a short time period.
- Learning to take notes using a shorthand method.
- The proper manner in which to send professional memos
- Improve my general writing skills.

Listening
- Listen to what others have to say; do not be anxious to interrupt.
- Listen to the answers attorneys give me concerning their careers.
- Learn to pick up on cues that a person is not being honest with me.

Empathy
- Develop empathy towards others, even if it is hard to picture or understand an issue through their eyes.
- Look for good qualities in others, and really see their life conditions.

Communication
- Learn to communicate effectively with a diverse group of people, and adapt myself to fit their style.

Leadership
- Become an active member in the office, contributing to the work that needs to be accomplished.
- Take the initiative to ask others if they need help, and take advantage of every opportunity to get involved.
- Take charge of work assigned to me, figure out what needs to be done without Step-by-step instructions.
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help if I cannot figure something out.

Legal research
- Learn the basics of legal research, its usefulness, and shortcuts of obtaining information in a relatively short amount of time.
- Learn what legal research is like in law school, and how to prepare for it.

Interviewing Techniques
- Gathering information from individuals such as the defendants, witnesses, victims, etc.
- Learn how to spot cues that people are being honest or are not being honest.
- How to get people to tell me what I need from them.

Debate Skills
- Learn how to make sound, strong arguments.
- Think fast on my feet with a rebuttal to an argument.

Logical Reasoning/Analytical Thought
- Develop these skills further; change my thought process to see an issue from a different angle than before.
- Use these skills effectively on the upcoming LSAT test.

Sense of Humor
- Learn to develop a sense of humor in the workplace, especially in dealing with different types of people and cases.

Stress Management
- Ways to effectively cope with the stress associated with this line of work, and the different techniques the people within the office employ to help them.
KNOWLEDGE:

• Understand the legal system
• Gain full knowledge of the criminal justice system and how each section relates to the other. Example: lawyers, probation officers, police, etc.
• Learn how the court systems work for adults and juveniles.
• Learn new legal terms, and how to use them properly.
• Learn what law school is like
• How to get into Law School, what they are looking for, how much studying they do, how to make it through.
• Learn what different types of lawyers do, and get their perspectives on their job.

SELF-AWARENESS:

• Learn what I want to do with my future - Law enforcement, law school, or other career?
• Discover my real interests and passions when figuring out my real interest in the criminal justice system.
• Learn how I fit in with lawyers or other careers within the criminal justice system.
• Discover my strengths and weaknesses; areas I excel in and ones I need improvements in.
• Learn to use my professional face while working, leaving my personal face at home.
• Learn to think like the clients do to better understand their reason for committing crimes, but do not get too deep in their minds that I cannot get them out of my head.
• Know then I need help with a situation when I am in over my head, and do not be afraid to ask questions on information I am not clear on.