Research Assistant Requirements and Activity Description

Professor Greg R. Vetter

I. INTRODUCTION

I am interested in having individuals assist with various projects in intellectual property and computer law, including:

- Copyright and computer law topics related to software and licensing, particularly open-source software
- Other issues and current developments in international intellectual property
- Patent law issues

The availability of research assistantships for my projects varies from time to time. However, even if I do not currently have any openings, I am always interested in meeting persons interested in these areas and holding their resumes on file for future spots. If you want to inquire as to whether there are current openings, please email me, or, if you like, submit an application as outlined below and I will let you know the status of openings upon receipt of your materials.

II. CREDIT HOURS

The number of research credit hours obtainable by working with me is negotiable.

Per the Law Center's Student Handbook, one credit hour of research equates to sixty hours of actual time spent researching. I will require timesheets to account for the time.

III. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Choosing a candidate as a research assistant is admittedly a somewhat subjective evaluation. The goal in evaluating candidates is to gauge the fit between the candidates and the project requirements. I imagine that most candidates would make wonderful research assistants and that I would enjoy working with them. However, in order to select a candidate, the following factors are important to me:

- The ability to pay attention to detail and do a quality job with both work that is fun and with work that is "drudge" – to me, most legal work is a varying mix of both
- A "can-do" attitude and the ability to work through setbacks, twists, turns and blind alleys in a project
- The attitude and ability to "self-learn"
- The ability to organize and prioritize materials and one's own work
- General research skills
- Legal research and writing skills
- "Bluebooking" skills
- Personal manner, disposition, and interpersonal communication skills
- Availability, that is, the number of research credit hours that the candidate's schedule allows

- Continuity, that is, whether the candidate is interested in research credit for the immediate semester as well as future semesters.

IV. APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit to me, in confidence, either via email or by leaving the documents with my secretary, the items set forth below. The contact information for my secretary is at http://www.law.uh.edu/faculty/gvetter.

- A letter of interest.
- A resume. Please ensure that the resume provides your Law Center GPA and estimated class rank as well as that same information for any undergraduate and/or graduate degrees.
- Please highlight in your resume any prior experience that is directly or indirectly connected with intellectual property, technology generally, information technology and/or computing, or international commerce.
- Indicate generally the number of credits you could offer in a given semester.
- Include in your letter a one-paragraph (one hundred words or less) description, authored by you, telling me how you define legal scholarship and its purpose.

I will seriously consider each application and determine which candidates I would like to meet for an interview. The interview would occur somewhere in the Law Center at a mutually convenient time. I would expect it to take thirty to forty-five minutes. From the applications and interviews I will extend research assistantships to the candidate whose application is the best fit with the criteria discussed herein. I may interview candidates even if a position is not currently open, in part to have the opportunity to meet the candidate, and also to better understand the possible fit for future projects.

I will keep a rolling file of candidate applications. The Law Center policies for directed research limit the number of credits available to a student, contributing to the inevitable turnover in the assignment. Thus, please also indicate in your application materials whether, in the event your candidacy does not result in an immediate assignment, you would like me to retain your materials for future searches.

V. TIMING

In essence, I keep a "rolling" application process for research assistantships. If you have any questions about the process, please email me.

VI. CLOSING

I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to read this document to evaluate whether to submit an application for a research assistantship with me. Even if you decide not to apply, I hope you consider opportunities with the other faculty here at the Law Center. Working with a faculty member can be a great experience for both the professor and the researcher. And it provides the opportunity to contribute to works voicing the debate on some of the most important legal and societal issues of our time.