



# Baden-Württemberg

OBERLANDESGERICHT KARLSRUHE · OBERLANDESGERICHT STUTTGART

## **Description of the German Legal Clerkship ("Rechtsreferendariat")**

The German Legal Clerkship ("Rechtsreferendariat") is a 24 months practical-oriented legal training in all different legal domains: Civil law, criminal law, administrative law and training with an attorney. The Legal Clerkship is open to all law school graduates holding the degree of the First State Exam ("Erste juristische Prüfung") or a foreign law equivalent. The legal trainees are state-employees and supervised by the Higher Regional Courts ("Oberlandesgerichte") in the different Länder ("Bundesländer"). The Länder determine the course and structure of the Legal Clerkship autonomously. In Baden-Württemberg, the structure is as follows: 5 months training with a civil court judge ("Zivilstation"), 3,5 months training with a criminal court judge or a public prosecutor ("Strafstation"), 4,5 months training with an attorney ("Rechtsanwaltsstation 1"), 3,5 months training in the public administration ("Verwaltungsstation"), 4,5 months training with an attorney ("Rechtsanwaltsstation 2") and 3 months training in a chosen domain ("Wahlstation"). In all different sections of the Legal Clerkship, the legal trainees take part in mandatory introductory courses and tutorials. Further, they are assigned to a direct supervisor who instructs them with work relating to the relevant section of the Legal Clerkship. At the end of the Legal Clerkship, the legal trainees pass the Second State Exam ("Zweite juristische Staatsprüfung") divided into a written and an oral part. The written exams take place before the last three months in a chosen domain. The oral exam concludes the Legal Clerkship after the "Wahlstation".