“For our students, there is little that we teach in law school that doesn’t come into play in some aspect of dealing with local government, either in the representation of local government or assisting private individuals in their dealings with local government.”

— Professor Phillip M. Sparkes, Director

The Local Government Law Center is designed to promote public understanding of issues involving local government by working with professional and community organizations.

If students are interested in local government, they will have the opportunity to extern with state and local government agencies in an area in which they might like to practice and will be given academic credit for the externship. Students will benefit from the classroom component, which includes instruction in state and local government law, legislative issues, ethics, and current legal issues.

Students can also participate in an internship, providing services directly to local governments. These services include researching and drafting answers to legal questions posed by local government officials, developing and drafting model ordinances for cities and counties, and researching and writing short legal articles for the center’s newsletter or technical information series.
“My internship with the Local Government Law Center was an invaluable supplement to my legal education at NKU Chase. It placed me in direct communication with community leaders, afforded me a chance to effect real change in the region, and broadened my understanding of how governments really work.”

— John Causey, ’08 graduate, Louisville, KY

Externships Through The Local Government Law Center (LGLC)
In addition to county and city governments and federal and state agencies, LGLC students have been placed with the following:

- Area Development Districts
- Children's Law Center
- City Attorneys' Offices
- County Attorneys' Offices
- Kentucky Department for Local Government
- State Agencies
- State Legislatures
- State Courts
- National Labor Relations Board
- Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation

Government Courses (Electives)

Administrative Law
Constitutional Law Seminar
Environmental Law
Federal Courts
International Law
IRS Legal Counsel Externship
Local Government Law Center Internship
School Law
State Constitutional Law
State & Local Government Law
State & Local Taxation

PHILLIP M. SPARKES, Director
Assistant Professor of Law
J.D., DePaul University College of Law
LL.M., International and Comparative Law, University of Notre Dame Law School
B.S., Chemistry, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
sparkesp@nku.edu