

World Justice Project Internship Report

During the summer of 2016, I had the opportunity to join the World Justice Project in Washington DC. The fundamental goal of the organization is to promote the rule of law around the world, an aspiration grounded in the belief that with greater adherence to the rule of law everyone benefits. The day-to-day operations of the organization could be divided into two basic areas: first, there is the index team which compiles data on the strength of the rule of law from around the world to compile their Rule of Law Index, which is essentially a detailed report on the rule of law as it varies from country to country. The second area is the engagement team which focuses on the organization's outreach and communication efforts. This takes place in many forms ranging from social media, event coordination, and maintenance of the vast program library of previously funded projects. The engagement team is also responsible for allocating funds to seed-grant programs throughout the world. This involves analyzing applications from all over the world, determining which ones have higher probabilities of success and to what degree they advance the goals of the organization. Once selected, programs receive guidance from the organization and their progress is closely monitored. Both teams, however, are crucial to the functioning of the organization and often work together to maximize the organization's potential on a global scale.

I had the privilege of working with the engagement team and was able to learn a lot about the inner workings of the World Justice Project and the many ways in which rule of law affects so many diverse communities. I was able to work on a variety of interesting tasks and see what rule of law means at a truly grassroots level. One that I found to be particularly fascinating was a

project where I analyzed the number of people affected by different seed-grant programs funded by the World Justice Project. I searched for trends and eventually wrote a report analyzing where certain programs had been effective in achieving their goals. This required sifting through dozens of programmatic reports and learning about the diverse types of work funded by the World Justice Project. Many of the programs focused on different issues but they were all similar in that they promoted the rule of law in some way or another. For example, I was able to see how environmental issues in Alaska affect the rights of indigenous communities or how corruption in India hinders justice gaining access to justice. This project has deepened my understanding of the rule of law and the complex ways in which it affects so many people.

Another stimulating project that I was fortunate to be able to work on was helping to design a resource hub for the World Justice Project's Database. While this project is very much in the brainstorming phase, I did research on different organizations, explored different formats for presenting resources, and then presented my findings to the engagement team. This exercise sharpened my analytical and communication skills in that I began to understand the complexities of presenting large quantities of information to large and diverse audience. The work was very thought-provoking and helped me to embrace the daily challenges the organization faces in reaching its global audience.

I was also able to do other projects like writing program summaries for the online library, attend public events on important rule of law related issues, and even help write text for a photo essay on a project helping to promote gender equality in Brazilian soccer. Whatever I was doing,

I always felt like I was learning something new and was able to contribute something useful to the organization.

I think one of the most meaningful parts of my internship, however, was being able to share my experience with my supervisors during weekly Engagement team meetings. It gave me an opportunity to share what I was learning and receive important feedback on how to progress. My immediate supervisor, Sarah Long, was always very helpful and always gave me much needed guidance as I worked through different projects. Moreover, even though I was just an intern, I always felt like my work was appreciated and that any input I had contributed to the work of the organization.

In many ways this internship was much more than an academic experience. I was also able to grow professionally. Through my work, I learned that I very much enjoy researching and problem-solving. While at times difficult, the challenge of analyzing complex social, legal, and advocacy programs and extrapolating different trends was very rewarding and gave me a strong sense of accomplishment. I was glad that I was able to take vast quantities, of at times, seemingly unrelated data and provide analysis that will benefit the World Justice Project in the future. So, in many ways, this was not purely an academic experience, but one that gave me both personal and professional inspiration.

In summary, my experience at the World Justice Project was very rewarding. I was able to pursue my interests, both academic and personal, and grow professionally. As I prepare to start law school and embark on what I hope will be a public-service career, the lessons that I

have learned through this internship will be invaluable. Overall, it was an incredible experience that shaped how I see the rule of law and the world.