

Summer Internship Report 2017

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Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

This summer I was able to complete various tasks around the office. For example, my internship supervisor asked me to write Informations, Indictments, Prosecution Memorandums, and various portions of Plea Agreements. I was also able to do some legal research in order to understand different judgments of particular cases, and I completed various projects to continue the everyday functioning of the office such as filing and compiling discovery. I also got the opportunity to attend court multiple times a week and sit in on meetings with the FBI and TBI.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

This internship provided me with many opportunities to accomplish tasks that helped improve my professional skills overall. Being able to complete legal writing and research has exposed me to the specific kind of legal skills that I will need in law school and later in my law career. Furthermore, I was able to attend court regularly and witness the proper everyday proceedings of the courtroom. Court exposure allowed me to observe the many specific technical procedures that I will use in future externships such as courtroom behavior, attire, and overall speech.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

One aspect of this internship that I found particularly challenging was being asked to write legal documents for the first time. Although I was slightly intimidated at first, I was able to complete the tasks asked of me and write these documents with confidence. The education that I have received at Sewanee has helped improve my writing skills tremendously, and has given me a degree of certainty in my ability to write. Over the summer, I wrote multiple things for different Assistant U.S. Attorneys,

including complicated indictments, that I would not have been able to do without my writing experience from Sewanee.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

Pursuing a career in law is highly reliant on one's ability to work with other people. Prosecutors, in particular, are required to work with law enforcement officials (local police, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency), defendants, defense attorneys, judges, and more. In order to efficiently complete any task, you have to rely on other individuals. During my internship, I relied on the expertise of others in order to complete many of my responsibilities. Specifically, on many occasions, I was working with two other interns, both of whom are in law school, in order to efficiently complete the multi-step process of indicting an individual. I realized that being able to work as a team is necessary when working in an office like this.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

This internship only solidified my plans to attend law school after I graduate from Sewanee in May. It was such an incredible opportunity filled with learning and everyday experience that could only be obtained through an internship like this. Furthermore, this summer has encouraged me to seriously consider being a prosecutor.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

Being a prosecutor (or an intern for prosecutors), as I mentioned before, requires communication with a variety of individuals. I spent a majority of this summer working on criminal cases and was lucky enough to go to court and witness a lot of these cases in action. Many of the defendants in the majority of the cases have come from very different backgrounds than myself, and one of the most shocking aspects of this was the difference in education. Most of the defendants that I encountered did not complete even half of high school putting them in a much different position than myself and most of my colleagues. Although I was not able to communicate directly with the defendants in court, I was incredibly moved by this fact, and it has inspired me to attempt to work with these individuals to the best of my ability in the future.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

All I can really say is thank you! This summer was truly an incredible experience that has furthered my interest in being a lawyer. It has been the best summer that I have had while being in college, and it was a great opportunity to work with the Department of Justice. It was incredibly helpful to receive funding as the government does not pay their interns, and I am truly thankful.