This summer I had the honor and privilege of interning for the World Justice Project. The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world. WJP provides information to governments and citizens to assist them in assessing where improvements can be made; convenes leaders from diverse sectors with the ability to make meaningful change; and stimulates these leaders to incubate practical programs that will strengthen adherence to the rule of law in their communities. WJP’s approach is not based on providing technical assistance or external recommendations for action. Rather, WJP focuses on developing a multi-stakeholder platform which may aide the process of rule of law reform locally. As an aspiring public servant, I seek to advocate for international human rights and social justice through groups such as the World Justice Project.

As an intern, I brought the skills I gained as a political science major and a former international research fellow at Sewanee; The University of the South. I have been trained by Sewanee’s faculty in writing analysis and conducting research. While interning for the World Justice Project, I assisted with conducting research and synthesizing data. Additionally, I used my writing and organizational skills to update the WJP database.

Specifically I worked with Nancy Ward, the engagement director, on the rule of law in Vietnam. I reached out to sectors of society that are not normally involved in these conversations and encouraged a collaborative and sustained action in the near future to discuss the rule of law. Additionally, along with other interns, I worked on a new virtual network resource. This project is building out a network “resources” page on the WJP website that ordinary citizens searching the web can utilize to find local and regional organizations working on rule of law issues. For Vietnam, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Mexico, I helped compiled a highly-curated list of organizations that are practical experts on civil justice and human rights.

I feel especially grateful to be given the opportunity to work with the World Justice Project under special circumstances. Because my summer schedule consisted of transitioning constantly from Washington, D.C. to the University of California, Berkeley and back to Atlanta, Ga, I was assigned to working online. Although, it was a bit difficult working outside of the office and on-
the-road, my engagement director managed the situation well via online communication. Throughout my internship, Nancy Ward managed to be empathetic, open-minded, and enthusiastic while being efficient and consistent at the same time. She listened attentively, gave clear direction, and was responsive to my concerns and questions. Without a doubt, my engagement director, Nancy Ward, was an excellent supervisor and a wonderful individual.

My commitment to help the World Justice Project promote the rule of law stems personally from my upbringing in Vietnam and my experiences of working with the underserved communities in the US. I hope that my contribution to WJP, especially on Vietnam, will be valuable and applicable to its future projects. As a first generation immigrant from Vietnam raised in a rural and isolated village, I understand that it is difficult to reach out to locals and facilitate the rule of law. Through my work with WJP, I am positive that technology and global integration can help civil societies bridge the gap in inequity and help reduce corruption. As I continue on my professional, academic journey, and spiritual journey, I will keep the spirit of the World Justice Project in my heart and mind to promulgate a world of peace and justice.