

Matthew Smith
Tonya Scholarship Fund
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Executive Summary

This summer I was fortunate enough to intern for William C. Killian, the U.S. Attorney for Tennessee's eastern district, at the Chattanooga branch office. The eastern district is the largest of Tennessee's three federal districts, and it serves over two million citizens in its fight against crime. I found my experience to be overwhelmingly pleasant, and I forged professional relationships with the Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) and their paralegals. In the office, I was responsible for carrying out routine office work that included file research and document organization. This office work allowed me to interact with the clerk's office and observe how court documents are handled. I also edited investigative discovery and learned how investigations initially transpire. This internship also provided an unprecedented amount of exposure to the United States federal court system, and as a result, I was granted behind-the-scenes access to court hearings, depositions, and proffers. These courtroom experiences were very enlightening, and I enjoyed observing how the attorneys handled themselves in court. I spent my final weeks with federal law enforcement officers as we worked to indict overprescribing pain clinics. This interaction was quite rewarding, and I took the opportunity to ask the officers a variety of questions. In the end, I found my internship to be incredibly enlightening, and I enjoyed exploring the dichotomy between law enforcement and criminal litigation. This exploration will undoubtedly become useful when I decide whether to apply to law school, and I feel confident that the knowledge gained will be indispensable.