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**Executive Summary: An Internship with the Honorable Judge Cate at the Family Court of
Charleston, South Carolina**

Representing one corner of the aptly named “four corners of law” on Broad Street in the heart of downtown, the Charleston County courthouse became my home for the summer of 2012. I began my journey into the world of Charleston family law towards the end of May and worked alongside the Honorable Judge Cate for the duration of the summer. From the first day onward I came face-to-face with the South Carolina judicial system and developed a working knowledge of legal procedure as it relates to the inner workings of Family Court in Charleston.

My primary tasks as an intern for Judge Cate were to learn the rules of the court proceedings, take notes, ask questions, and have discussions regarding the hearings that were held. On a daily basis I conversed with Judge Cate, the court reporters, courtroom clerks, deputies, and attorneys in order to enhance my understanding of the law, both as it pertains to South Carolina Family Court and in a more general sense. The cases that I most commonly observed in the courtroom involved marital disputes, divorce, adoption, the abuse and neglect of children, child support, custody disputes, and name changes. I not only observed hearings on these cases, but delved deep into many of their files and analyzed the briefs and affidavits composed by the parties in order to garner a better understanding of the origins and histories of court cases.

Through this internship, my knowledge about law and legal procedure has increased tenfold. My enthusiasm about a career as an attorney has been enhanced, and my drive to reach that goal has been amplified. Currently, I am preparing to apply to law school, and this internship certainly gave me the confidence and focus necessary to achieve my goals.