REFLECTIONS ON MY SUMMER WORKING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR 2012
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Reflections:

Gershon Akerman  
New York Center for Law and Justice  

Working this past summer for the New York Center for Law and Justice, a non-profit legal aid organization for deaf individuals, was a unique and eye-opening experience. Over ten weeks, I had the opportunity to assist members of the deaf with various legal issues with which they were struggling. In addition to not having any funds, deaf clients cannot speak English, and communicate with others through sign language interpreters. Working with the deaf community, I came to appreciate how difficult it can be for them to deal with simple issues, which hearing people do not think twice about: talking to landlords about rent issues, responding to letters from the government, and many similar tasks. Without the help from the New York Center for Law and Justice, these individuals would be left helpless.

While working there, I also came to appreciate the great service done by attorneys working at private firms who partner with non-profit legal aid organization in offering their pro bono services. Many of the issues that came up at the Law Center required lawyers who specialize in particular areas of law. In that
respect, the Law Center, on its own, would not be able to help those people. The large network of private firms that devote time to assisting the Law Center with these specialized legal problems enable those individuals to get the legal help that they need.

**Stephanie Ates (Funded with the generous support of the Women’s Bar Association)**

**Women’s Prison Association- Law Project**

My summer at the Women’s Prison Association was an amazing experience. It is, without a doubt, the best ten weeks I have had since I began law school two years ago. This internship gave me the opportunity to work with women who have had any contact with the criminal justice system. The focus of the law project is non-criminal legal issues so I was able to research and assist on various family and civil legal matters. This under-served population the Women’s Prison Association, and most importantly, my supervising attorney, Ellen Rosenberg, helped to reaffirm my commitment to public interest law. They reminded me why I came to law school in the first place and for this I am so very grateful.

**Nicholas Bonham (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**

**California Appellate Project**

My summer internship at CAP was the best work experience I have ever had. The staff attorneys there are extremely grateful for the extra help and make sure to provide their interns with substantive and meaningful work. I got to write several claims that will eventually go before a judge when the habeas petitions are filed. I also visited some of my clients on California’s death row – an extremely valuable and eye-opening experience that solidified my desire to pursue a career in criminal defense.

**Shmuel Bushwick**

**Bet Tzedek Legal Services**

I spent my summer interning at Bet Tzedek Legal Services. Throughout the school year, Bet Tzedek operates a very active legal clinic assisting the elderly and disabled of New York City with a large variety of legal issues. I gained some exposure to these issues, but I spent the majority of my summer working on the early stages of a class-action.

My non-class action activities included working on a Social Security appeal in federal court, preparing a client’s Power of Attorney documentation, assisting in an appeal from a decision to reduce Medicaid benefits, and executing a client’s will. The sum of these experiences enhanced my client-interaction skills, something I had not previously had the opportunity to hone.

I found that working on the class action suit to be the most thrilling aspect of my summer internship. Because of its size, this suit involved attorneys from Bet Tzedek as well as two other organizations. This taught me a lot about the daily interactions of attorneys beyond the confines of the office. I also assisted in the preparation of numerous court documents, including declarations and memoranda of law. What I appreciated most was that the attorneys invited me along to the numerous hearings we had before the federal district judge. I found sitting at Plaintiffs’ table thrilling! Working in the trenches of a large scale suit representing some of the most needy people in New York City not only provided me with real legal experiences I would have been hard pressed to find elsewhere, but it was emotionally rewarding to defend the legal rights of those who would otherwise not be able to stand up for themselves.

**Ross Clements**

**WNEN New York Public Media (Legal Department)**

My experience interning at WNET New York Public Media has been great. I learned a substantial amount about entertainment law, intellectual property law and the legal issues in which a tax-exempt organization deals with, on a daily basis. Moreover, I thoroughly enjoyed the work atmosphere, supervising attorneys, colleagues, and the assignments. It was really nice to work in an office environment that was so welcoming and inviting. I worked on a wide variety of projects from contract
drafting, to legal research on a variety of issues. The attorney supervisors were very accessible and gave in-depth and helpful feedback on all assignments. One of my favorite parts of the summer was being given the opportunity to sit in on a crucial IP litigation case (in the SDNY) that WNET was a party in, which was both a great learning experience and an intellectually stimulating case to watch unfold. Overall, interning at WNET provided me an intellectually stimulated and enjoyable summer.

David Collado  
International Advertising Association  
My internship with IAA this summer was awesome. I researched a wide variety of topics including FTC consumer protection law, New York nonprofit law, and various legal aspects of advertising and trademarks. The feedback, guidance and mentorship was invaluable and will stick with me throughout my legal career, wherever I end up.

Michelle Connelly  
Harvard University Press, Department of Intellectual Property and Subsidiary Rights  
I was very interested in the field of intellectual property and media law, with a focus on publishing, when I began my 1L summer job search. An alumna of Cardozo who is currently working in this field suggested that I apply to intellectual property and contracts departments of various publishing houses, so I could gain some beginner’s experience in the field. The Intellectual Property Department of the Harvard University Press offered me an internship where I could do just that. The Press was launching a new online service, partnered with another company, through which they could offer their books in electronic format or in electronic chapter format. They needed someone to go through massive amounts of book files and book contracts to determine whether the Press did indeed have those rights. What made this project so interesting and time-consuming was that most of these book contracts didn’t even allow for electronic publishing rights in the first place, given that e-books are a relatively recent technology. This tension made this project extremely interesting and informative for someone hoping to gain insight into the legal issues facing the publishing world today. I definitely wish that I had more time with this internship, because I feel like I only scratched the surface of these issues with my work this summer. This was an extremely valuable experience for anyone interested in media law, particularly with a focus on publishing.

Andrew daMota  
Ohio Justice and Policy Center  
Not only was the work I did meaningful, but it was incredibly exciting. Nearly every day an attorney would come to us with urgent or additional projects that we could help them with. On my third day at work, I worked on a prisoners’ civil rights violation lawsuit, a death penalty sentencing case, criminal record expungements, and a class action lawsuit over health care violations in Ohio Prisons. This kind of responsibility really made me feel that I had value to the organization and also motivated me to do the best job I possibly could. The people I worked with were skilled, compassionate, and friendly. Overall, I had a fantastic time with OJPC and it was a real privilege working with such an incredible organization.

Vanessa Dell  
The Legal Aid Society, Immigration Law Unit  
The attorneys in the Immigration Law Unit at The Legal Aid Society work tirelessly to meet the unending demand for representation. Many come from Legal Aid’s Criminal Practice, which makes working with them a rare opportunity for someone interested in the intersection of immigration and criminal law. The work is varied and depending on the supervisor, an intern will spend much time in immigration court and at jails and detention centers in New York and New Jersey.
Lindsay Edelstein  
**The Legal Aid Society: Civil Practice, Government Benefits Unit**  
My overall experience working in The Legal Aid Society’s Bronx Benefits Unit was wonderful and I would recommend it to any law student hoping to pursue a career in public service – or any student who just wants to see how the study of law can help people. I was lucky enough to intern in the Benefits Unit just as The Legal Aid Society was filing a class action lawsuit against the Human Resources Administration, as well as other Defendants, seeking stays of eviction for Plaintiffs who were unable to apply for the Family Eviction Prevention Supplement because of deficiencies in the HRA-administered application process. I got to see all the moving parts of a class action lawsuit – from the preliminary calls discussing terms of art in the Complaint, to drafting Plaintiff affidavits, to speaking with Plaintiffs whose doors were unlocked and homes restored because of The Legal Aid’s efforts. The Legal Aid attorneys in my department treated me like a future attorney, rather than an intern, and treated my presence as a way to help additional clients, rather than a messenger or coffee-fetcher.

In addition to working on the class action lawsuit, I performed intake with low income litigants, sat in on administrative hearings, visiting the Bronx Housing Courthouse and performed Legal Research.

David Feinstein  
**Service Employees International Union**  
I had a wonderful opportunity at the SEIU to be a part of the labor movement. The lawyers I worked with were brilliant and dedicated, and were willing to give me a lot of responsibility early on. I also had opportunities to interact with partner organizations in ongoing strategic planning for impact litigation, attend hearings at the House of Representatives, attend protests and marches, and meet with luminaries from the labor movement. I felt that the work I was doing had real purity of spirit—our days were spent trying to improve the lives of working men and women all across America.

Mindy Fersel  
**Legal Services NYC – Bronx, Family Law Unit**  
I really enjoyed the hands-on experience that I got at Legal Services NYC- Bronx. From the first day, I was invited to interview clients, and developed relationships with a few who essentially became “my clients” as I helped them in the process of attaining citizenship by applying for U-Visa Nonimmigrant Status or for Visa adjustments. This one-on-one time spent with clients infused the work I did for them with much more meaning that I even imagined it would. I enjoyed helping clients solve problems stemming from their legal issues and learned a lot about the immigration process for victims of domestic violence in the process. I also learned a lot about matrimonial issues by observing many different types of court proceedings and drafting closing papers, as well as doing legal and information research in order to protect clients’ assets. I was also asked to draft a fair hearing petition for a former foster care mother who was appealing an administrative decision by ACS and prepared her to represent herself pro-se. These are just some examples of the exciting work in which I was privileged to take part this summer thanks to the stipend.

Rebecca Fox  
**Better Future Project**  
While at Better Future Project in Cambridge, Massachusetts, I had a tremendous opportunity to work in an intimate public policy setting. Among other things, I was lucky enough to spend the summer practicing varied communication and education techniques aimed to motivate the public to engage in civic action. It was liberating to get out of the classroom (and traditional legal setting) and interact with public service professionals and Massachusetts residents about the most important issue of our time: climate change and the need to build a better future for all free from the tremendous harms of fossil fuels.
**Rona Gershon (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, Domestic Violence Program

Last summer, I worked at Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, in the Domestic Violence Program. I worked primarily with undocumented immigrants who had been victims of domestic violence. I chose this internship initially because I knew I was interested in Family Law and Immigration Law, and this seemed like the perfect intersection of the two. I would recommend this choice to anyone with similar interests. Throughout the internship, our main goal was to obtain visas for undocumented victims thorough VAWA (Violence Against Women Act). The application process involved meeting with the client on multiple occasions, writing her affidavit about her experience of abuse, her family history with the abuser, her immigration story, collecting evidence regarding the abuse, writing cover letters on her behalf citing to the evidence, and writing to the local Police or District Attorney’s office for help with the case. I spoke Spanish daily to clients, and would not recommend this particular internship to those with no working knowledge of the language. The environment was comfortable, and I was able to challenge myself without being afraid of making mistakes. We worked closely with in-house social workers to give our clients the best possible service. I had a wonderful experience overall, and gained valuable writing and interviewing skills that I will use in future positions.

**Rachel Gerson (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
Urban Justice Center, Mental Health Project

My summer internship at the Mental Health Project at the Urban Justice Center gave me valuable experience and insight into the world of mental health law. I was able to assist attorneys in various types of cases, such as terminations and recoupments of Public Assistance and discharge planning from psychiatric hospitals. I also researched various legal problems that MHP clients came to us with. For example, I researched whether or not a landlord has to pay for the carpets to be removed when it is medically necessary for a tenant with asthma. I also completed a memo on what reasonable accommodations a prisoner with mental illness can ask for at his parole hearing. I was able to visit this prisoner upstate on an attorney visit to discuss which accommodations could help him have an equal opportunity to parole as prisoners without mental illnesses. My internship included a good mix of direct client work and research. My supervisors were responsive to my requests for certain types of work and provided excellent feedback. I recommend interning at MHP for anyone who is interested in mental health law, public benefits work, or prison reform.

**Chase Goldstein (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

This Summer I worked for Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A in Williamsburg. I served in their Group Housing Unit, meaning that I represented groups of tenants within a single building. I also represented individuals in matters that related to a building’s case.

Working for BKA required that I take part in every aspect of the litigation process. I had hands-on interactions with clients, I conducted extensive research, I wrote documents for New York City Housing Court and for my supervisor, and I even appeared in court. The breadth of responsibilities was the most educational aspect of this internship. I was able to see all the aspects that go into building a successful case.

In addition to learning a lot about the litigation process, my experience at BKA showed me a lot about corporate structure. Legal Services New York, the umbrella organization that administers BKA as well as a number of other New York City legal services departments, tried to centralize and consolidate offices this summer, including BKA. It was a sad but very educational experience to take part in BKA’s recourse of action and help them plan their disassociation from LSNY.
Michal Gross  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*  
Sanctuary for Families, Anti-trafficking Initiative  
This summer, I worked at Sanctuary for Families in their Anti-trafficking Initiative. The internship really allowed me to be a part of a great organization that does amazing work with victims of domestic violence and trafficking. A 6-day orientation, followed by weekly brown-bag lunches and visits to outer-borough domestic violence shelters and Family Justice Centers, gave us an overview of the organization and an understanding of Sanctuary’s various departments and their specific work. Each intern was assigned a specific supervisor before the summer began.

My summer internship was not a standard 1st year legal internship. Most of the Anti-Trafficking department at Sanctuary focuses on immigration remedies for victims of trafficking. Because of recent legislation allowing for vacatur of prostitution-related charges from trafficking victims’ criminal records, I worked on vacating criminal records. In addition, I worked on a section of a Know Your Rights and Resource manual for victims of trafficking. I coordinated the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Outreach Project, researching and reaching out to new partners and funding sources for a program aimed at preventing vulnerable youth from falling victim to traffickers. I also compiled the materials necessary for a research project on state-by-state trafficking law, including instructions and resources for pro-bono associates conducting the research.

Regine Gustave  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*  
Connect, Inc.  
Working at Connect, Inc. this summer was a great learning experience. I learned about the realities of criminal and family court and how it can be difficult for lower-income people to navigate the court systems. I also had the opportunity to work closely with domestic violence victims and aid them in completing U-Visa and VAWA applications in order to gain legal immigration status and better their lives. I came away from this internship with a greater desire to work in the public sector and work with domestic violence victims.

Melissa Heller  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*  
HeadCount  
I had a wonderful time serving as a legal intern for HeadCount Inc., a company that registers voters at concerts and festivals. At HeadCount, I conducted legal research on voting laws, particularly with respect to Voter ID law. One of the biggest projects I worked on over the summer was compiling research as to which states require all voters to present ID when voting at the polls, and what types of ID are accepted. I also looked at whether states accept student IDs – something that other voter registration agencies have not done. Ultimately, I turned this information into an easily digestible chart and informational booklet, which was distributed to volunteers at concerts across the country.

Emily Hoffman  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*  
New York Legal Assistance Group, General Legal Services Unit, Housing Project  
This internship gave me great exposure to working in the fields of housing and social services from a legal perspective. Before law school, I had gained some experience in these areas as a social worker, but being able to apply what I learned in my 1L classes gave me a new take on the work. I was able to see both the power that lawyers can have in helping people attain or maintain housing or government benefits, as well as the bureaucracies that must be navigated and the procedures that must be followed in order to do so. I wrote court motions like Orders to Show Cause and Stipulations of Settlement, negotiated with landlords’ attorneys in the courtroom, and also spent a lot of time waiting in line for documents at the courthouse and sitting with my clients waiting for their cases to be called. This internship also reinforced how connected housing is to government programs like Public Assistance and Food Stamps, and how important it is for these programs to remain strong in order for low/no- income people to continue to remain in their housing. It was a great education in legal procedure, as well as a
reminder of why I want to pursue public interest law.

**Rachel Jacobs (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
**Manhattan Legal Services**

Interning with the Housing Unit at Manhattan Legal Services was a wonderful experience. The intern coordinators did a wonderful job of making everyone feel welcome on the first day, and everyone in the office I worked with was very friendly and helpful. My supervisors provided me with a very diverse set of experiences that really allowed me to build my skill set. However, my favorite part of the internship was working with clients. They were all so grateful even to have someone to listen to their story, and I left the office every day feeling like I made a difference.

**Stephanie Jean-Philippe (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
**Lutheran Social Services of New York – Immigration and Refugee Program**

My internship within the Immigration and Refugee Program of Lutheran Social Services of New York was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The position demanded that I use all of the skills I learned in school and put them to practice. While on the job I researched important legal questions, wrote briefs, filed asylum applications, submitted documents to the Immigration Courts, helped draft affidavits, and participated in a Community Legal Outreach Project. My favorite assignment was when I had to research if a failed Stokes Interview to lift the conditions of a Green Card equated to marriage fraud and forever barred an immigrant from seeking future immigration benefits. I also loved when I worked at a weekly free legal clinic in Brooklyn providing outreach to the Haitian community of New York. At the clinic I helped Haitian families file citizenship applications, family and marriage based immigrant visa petitions, adjustment of status applications, apply for work permits, and start asylum applications.

I truly loved LSSNY because as soon as I walked through the door, I hit the ground running. The interns were not babied. We were given work and it had to get done. We were responsible for the immigration claims of these clients and there was no margin for error. This pressure and level of responsibility really makes you step up and get your work done right. My writing skills improved and my overall “lawyering” capabilities benefitted. It was also great having nurturing and encouraging supervisors and co-workers. The environment really made me feel like I could do the work and I could do it well. I truly loved working at LSSNY.

**Joanna Kahan (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
**Urban Justice Center, Peter Cicchino Youth Project**

This past Summer I worked at the Peter Cicchino Youth Project (“PCYP”) of the Urban Justice Center. PCYP’s main focus is working with homeless and street-involved LGBTQQ youth, and I was initially inclined to take this particular internship because of this unique client population. As someone who spent my entire life growing up in a very different New York City than that which PCYP’s clients live in, I this internship opportunity as one to work with a group of individuals with whom I had no prior experience working with, and therefore as a real learning and growing experience. I had very few expectations going into the Summer, which I think was part of what made the experience so rewarding for me. I struggled regularly to work with and connect with clients who have experiences vastly different than my own, and because of that, I learned an enormous amount about working directly with clients whom I might not always be able to relate to initially. I believe that this will be an invaluable skill in my future career as a public interest lawyer.

**Robert Keeler**
**Public Patent Foundation**

This summer, I interned at the Public Patent Foundation (PUBPAT), an organization dedicated to representing the public interest in freedom from unjustified patents. My assignments included reviewing, drafting, and editing briefs for submittal to court, and researching the legislative history of the Leahy-
Smith America Invents Act. However, most of my time was spent collecting information on cases involving the Abbreviated New Drug Act. Overall, my assignments showed me the entire range of the patent litigation process, from pre-litigation work to appeals at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. As such, working with PUBPAT this summer allowed me to gain valuable experience, and has reaffirmed my goal of practicing patent law.

Ali Kunen  
92nd Street Y, Legal Department  
I had an amazing experience working in the legal department at the 92nd Street Y. This was my first experience working in-house and I would recommend any law student to apply for an internship at this organization. Working in house provided me with the opportunity to gain exposure to many different areas of law, including, contracts, art law, employment law, ADA compliance, and real estate law. Moreover, my supervising attorney was always available and open to answering any questions I had. This internship was an invaluable experience and certainly advanced my interest in working in house in the future.

Adam Lange  
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A - Group Housing Representation Unit  
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A is an excellent community-based legal services organization serving communities in North Brooklyn. I spent the summer working in their Williamsburg Office for the Group Tenant Representation Unit. My time was split between legal work in Kings County Housing Court and community organizing work in the actual buildings that we represented. I learned a great deal about the law, and even more about housing issues which have plagued Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and the surrounding neighborhoods for years. My education working with our partnering community organizations, getting to know the tenants directly, and getting to know how community politics operate generally was just as valuable to me as my experiences in Housing Court and drafting legal research and writing. Interns were placed in teams of two or three students who took direct responsibility for a half-dozen or two properties throughout the summer. For anyone who wants to gain valuable community-based legal experience, especially in Housing Court and in the communities of North Brooklyn, I cannot image a better opportunity.

Hanchun Lin (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)  
South Brooklyn Legal Services, HIV Unit  
This past summer, I interned at South Brooklyn Legal Services, HIV Unit, also known as the Comprehensive Rights Unit, which provided a range of legal services to low-income, HIV-positive individuals. I was able to participate in a variety of legal issues which affect low-income individuals. I handled cases concerning housing law, disability benefits, welfare benefits, and discrimination. I drafted legal documents for filing in housing court, including an order to show cause to vacate stipulation of settlement and stay eviction, notice of appearance and amended answer, and a motion for summary judgment. I also had the opportunity to argue a fair hearing case where the government sought to reduce a client’s welfare benefits. I reviewed medical documents and drafted a letter to administrative law judge in support of restoration of client’s disability benefits.

Matthew Longobardi (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)  
National Center for Access to Justice (at Cardozo Law School)  
Working at the National Center for Access to Justice opened my eyes to many access to justice issues to which I was not aware. I had the opportunity to get really immersed in issues of state court policy regarding language access issues, and was amazed to realize the huge discrepancies around the country with whether non-English speaking litigants have fair access to the courts. Additionally I had a great opportunity to think critically about access to justice issues, such as whether it is a contradiction to have mandatory pro bono in light of NY’s recently adopted rule requiring pro bono for admission to the bar.
Wherever my career takes me I will always have a deep appreciation of the many issues that affect the access to justice community, and I believe that is an important perspective for any lawyer to have.

**Miriam Manber**  
*Barnard College, Office of the General Counsel*
This summer, I went back to college. I spent ten weeks working for the General Counsel’s office at Barnard College, where I earned my undergraduate degree. It was a really unique experience to get to be back on campus, but this time from the point of view of the administration, working hard behind the scenes to make the college the wonderful place I remember. While at first it was hard to adjust to the shift in perspective, I had a fabulous summer. As is the nature of a general counsel’s office, I worked on something different almost every day, depending on whatever issues arose. It was really fulfilling to know exactly how the work I was doing would affect the daily lives of students and faculty. The experience really helped me to grow as a researcher and writer, and also to appreciate how much work went into making my own undergraduate experience so wonderful.

**Anna Maslyanskaya**  
*African Refugee Development Center (ARDC); Asylum Application Assistance*
My summer at the African Refugee Development Center as a legal advocate was a great learning experience. I worked directly with clients assisting them through the difficult process of applying for refugee status. Through this process I gained an understanding of relevant international law, the UN refugee convention and Israeli law, which applied the international law. I was also able to develop my interview as well as research skills in preparing asylum seekers cases. After interviewing clients, I would research the validity of their claim and write application letters to the Ministry of Interior on their behalf requesting refugee status and then assist them throughout the rest of the Refugee Status Determination process. The work that I did was also not only educational but also rewarding. Being an advocate on the behalf of asylum seekers and assisting them in obtaining refugee status I knew that I was helping people who were in very difficult situations. Not only did I receive hands on experience but also I was able to participate in trainings given by the UNHCR and HIAS and learn the general international law and how it should be applied. Working directly with asylum seekers, hearing their stories and assisting them in the difficult process of seeking refugee status served as incredible 1L summer.

**Maegan McAdam (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**  
*South Brooklyn Legal Services- Family Law and Domestic Violence Unit*
This past summer I interned at South Brooklyn Legal Services in the Family Law Unit. I worked with domestic violence victims on divorce, custody, and support issues. This has by far been the most meaningful experience of my life. Although the cases I worked on were emotionally challenging, nothing is more satisfying than helping someone during the most difficult point of their life—especially when they have nowhere else to turn. Not only did I learn so much about the law through researching, drafting documents, and observing in court, I also learned how to discuss very sensitive issues with clients through intakes and interviews.

Before beginning this internship, I had an interest in family law and thought it might be a field I would be interested in working in. After this internship I am sure this is the right path for me. However, this opportunity allowed me to see how many different directions I can go in. For example, I had an opportunity to work with an attorney for the child which is an area I am particularly interested in. I also had the chance to do some immigration work and was surprised at how much I enjoyed it. I could not have asked for a better 1L summer experience. My supervisor gave me so much feedback and allowed me to do so much. I really got a good sense of whether this was something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life.
Catherine McKinney  
**New York Peace Institute, Brooklyn Mediation Center, Criminal Court Mediation**  
My internship experience at the New York Peace Institute was fantastic. I worked at the Brooklyn Mediation Center, in the Brooklyn Criminal Mediation program, where I had the opportunity to work directly with ADAs, defense attorneys, clients, and mediators. I was able to learn a lot about mediation, and was encouraged to participate in training and educational events. As someone who wants to work in public service this was also a very satisfying position because I was able to work directly with clients to help them with their cases in criminal court. I was also able to learn a lot about the criminal court process in Brooklyn, and the ADAs there were great about answering my questions. Overall I had a great time, worked with great people, and learned a lot about how criminal misdemeanor cases are handled in Brooklyn.

Alexandra Fiona McSpedon (Funded with the generous support of David Rudenstine)  
**Sylvia Rivera Law Project, Direct Services Team**  
As an intern at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, I was given my own clients to handle (with staff attorneys nearby for advice, expertise, and assistance, of course). In addition to being assigned clients by attorneys, I would perform intake interviews and if, at the meeting, the attorneys, the other interns, and I decided to take the case or advise and refer a person with whom I had done an intake, it would be my job to notify them that they were on the wait list (or not) and perform whatever preliminary action was to be done while the person was on the wait list (e.g. FOIA requests, criminal history requests). Many of my cases were name changes for trans or gender non-conforming people who are in poverty or people of color. However, the bulk of my cases involved clients' immigration status in a multitude of issues, from filling out applications for benefits from USCIS, to FOIA requests to determine clients' immigration status for the purposes of other legal services the client sought, and all the way to providing advice and support to clients in their dealings with public defenders in criminal cases to make sure the issues raised by their immigration status are addressed.

While the work (and especially the responsibility of having my own clients) was admittedly frightening in the beginning, I was deeply thankful for the experience I obtained with the issues facing extremely marginalized people in the legal and administrative systems of the US and the state of New York. More than this, having done work that made an actual and observable impact on clients' lives was an invaluable experience, one which I won't ever forget.

Lindsay Melworm  
**NY Peace Institute, Kings County Small Claims Court Diversion Program**  
Overall, I had an extremely positive experience working at the New York Peace Institute. The staff at the New York Peace Institute was warm and welcoming, creating an environment that I was excited to go to everyday. The nature of my role enabled me to take on a lot of responsibility while tailoring my internship towards my interests. Besides my work helping divert cases from the Small Claims court’s docket to mediations at the center, I was also exposed to many facets of mediation in general. I regularly observed mediations, including a wide range of disputes from familial to landlord/tenant to consumer/merchant. I also had the opportunity to observe the Small Claims court proceedings weekly, in addition to learning the inner-workings of the New York Peace Institute’s center. From a networking perspective, the experience was unparalleled for someone interested in mediation and ADR. Throughout the course of the summer I met, interacted with, and observed several different professionals in the field, as well as attended various mediation conferences and trainings. Now, as a participant in Cardozo’s Mediation Clinic, I am happy to have had the experience and am thrilled to be able to continue working with the New York Peace Institute throughout the year.
Lindsey Mielziner *(Funded with the generous support of the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy)*

**The Center for Reproductive Right- U.S. Legal Program**

My internship at the Center for Reproductive Rights was an educational and invigorating experience. Working at the Center gave me a true “behind the scenes” look at the decisions and thought process that goes into filing major lawsuits against states that try to restrict access to abortion. Our department meetings on strategy offered me some of the greatest learning experiences during my summer. Everyone that works at the Center was extremely bright and motivated. The passion that they brought to their jobs was inspiring and reassured my interest in pursuing a career in the field.

During my internship the Center filed two cases- one in Mississippi and one in Arizona. These suits are an attempt to repeal recently enacted “TRAP laws” and a 20-week ban on abortions. These cases received significant press and offered me an opportunity to see the work that goes into the filings of suits and how procedure plays out in the federal court system. Furthermore, I got to see the role the communications and development departments play in these case which I found really interesting. Most of my work concerned researching various issues in states where the Center had cases or performing background research on laws for clients, usually doctors or clinic owners. I also had the opportunity to research a couple of human rights issues pertaining to the U.S., which I have a personal interest in and enjoyed greatly.

Overall I had a great summer at the Center and found the organization to be an exciting place to work.

Elsa Mitsoglou

**Legal Outreach**

My internship experience was great. I got to work with very smart, capable people and learn a lot about the way a non-profit organization works. Since this was a teaching internship more than anything, I got a taste of what it would be like teaching law, which is very useful for anyone thinking about being a law professor or anyone thinking about teaching in general. More importantly, I got to see real change because of the job I was doing: during the 5 weeks of the program, the kids transformed from neglected, shy, unambitious to high achieving, hopeful, and well spoken. When I saw them successfully and beautifully conducting cross examinations, making hearsay objections, and acting out their memorized closing statement during the mock trial, I knew the program was successful and that I was a big part of it. And this basically means that these kids who all belong to different minority groups now actually stand a chance at succeeding and entering professions where minorities are notoriously underrepresented. We have promised to stay in touch and I really cannot wait to hear what that they achieve.

Sharon Montazeri

**Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN)**

As someone who has limited personal experience with military life, I was unsure of what to expect prior to interning with SWAN but nonetheless excited to do civil rights work. I felt immediately welcomed by the friendly and knowledgeable staff. In addition, I am fortunate to have had such a comprehensive experience in that I worked on matters ranging from governmental policy to litigation strategy to client inquiries. Furthermore, it was interesting to learn about military tribunals because the military justice system is quite different from the civilian adjudication system and not traditionally taught in law school. Overall, it was a pleasure to work and learn at SWAN and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend my 1L summer advocating for victims of military sexual trauma and gender discrimination.

Scott Novakowski *(Funded with the generous support of the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy)*

**NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Criminal Justice Project**

The first thing you see upon entering the lobby of LDF’s office are the pictures on the wall of former LDF Director-Counsels and civil rights icons such as Thurgood Marshall, Jack Greenberg, and John Payton. I
began each day of my internship by walking past these pictures and being reminded of the enormity of LDF’s contributions to the civil rights and what a tremendous opportunity it was for me to be interning at an organization that has been the home of so many legendary attorneys. Perhaps one of my favorite aspects of interning at LDF was this sense of being a part, albeit a small one, of such a storied organization. In that respect, it was a truly inspiring experience.

I was placed with the Criminal Justice Project and spent most of my time working on death penalty cases and a challenge to a sentence of life without parole imposed on a juvenile. Most of my projects took the form of memos to my supervising attorneys. The work was a good mixture of researching and answering discreet questions of law, developing facts for use in briefs and motions, and formulating new and innovative strategies and theories to advance the interests of our clients. It was a tremendous and rewarding learning experience, so far unparalleled in my law school career. The work was challenging and the attorneys hold the interns to very high standards. Staff at every level were highly supportive and always willing to answer questions, whether on assignments or career stuff in general. Overall, an amazing experience that I would highly recommend to other students interested in civil rights and racial justice issues.

**Adedamola Omisore**  
**Environmental Working Group (Natural Resources Division)**

I had an amazing experience working at the Environmental Working Group. I am very glad to have worked in the Natural Resources Division since this is an area of law I am very interested in. I was able to develop the foundation that I need to pursue a career in this field of law. In addition, my supervisor and the entire staff made EWG a very comfortable environment to work in with the frequent intern lunches and the general camaraderie between the staff and interns.

**Jackie Pearce**  
*(Funded with the generous support of the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy)*

ACLU Voting Rights Project – Atlanta, GA

My internship with the ACLU Voting Rights Project took place during a wave of unprecedented voter suppression efforts occurring throughout the country. Because of the VRP’s national reach and small core staff, I was able to partake directly in litigation efforts to combat discriminatory voter ID laws, in election battleground states such as Wisconsin.

In addition to working on extremely timely matters, I was exposed to a variety of issues within the area of election law, such as ballot access, discrimination at the polls and felon disfranchisement. One of the most rewarding parts of my summer was writing an ultimately successful motion for summary judgment, challenging Virginia’s prohibition on out-of-state petition circulators. I was extremely lucky to have supervisors who not only guided me through first-time experiences like the SJ motion, but who allowed me to work on subject matters I find compelling. After expressing an interest in felon disfranchisement, I was immediately asked to analyze a particular state’s law, and weigh the potential for ACLU action under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

For a student who intends to devote her career to civil rights and anti-discrimination law, an internship with the ACLU VRP was an ideal summer experience.

**Danielle Petrillo**  
*(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*

Immigration Justice Clinic

Overall, I had a great experience at the Immigration Justice Clinic at Cardozo. The Clinic works hard to provide indigent immigrants facing deportation the representation they deserve. I was given a lot of responsibility and I valued the work very much. Meeting with the clients one on one was one of my favorite parts of the internship. It is rewarding to see how the work at the Clinic affects so many people in
tremendous ways. I gained invaluable hands on experience working with several different types of immigration cases. I even had the opportunity to attend a hearing in immigration court. Most importantly, I did a lot of research and writing, skills that are extremely important in becoming a lawyer. I know I will use the skills I learned this summer in my future employment.

Matthew Reisman
Equal Justice Alliance
The Equal Justice Alliance gives interns the opportunity to engage in legal research, memo and academic writing, outreach and lobbying on behalf of animal activism. All work is done from home, and interns participate in daily conference calls. The Equal Justice Alliance is devoted to the repeal of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, a federal criminal statute that has been used to prosecute activists. As such, emphasis is placed on studying the AETA in detail and becoming acquainted with the legal challenges facing activists. Odette Wilkens, the Executive Director of the EJA, is extremely accessible and takes a strong interest in the interns’ work. I would recommend this internship to anyone who is interested in civil rights, free speech, or animal rights issues.

James Renteria
(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York
Immigration & Refugee Services
My summer internship experience was wonderful. I was able to work with a group of smart lawyers who are truly dedicated to advancing immigrant rights. And I do mean work. Though I of course drafted research memos and letters, I also wrote and filed briefs and appeared before Immigration Judges in hearings. The support I received from my supervisors allowed me to tackle all of this, secure in the knowledge that if I ever had a question the answer would be a short walk down the hall away. The client interaction was also heartening – rarely does one get to see the law have a direct and positive impact on someone’s life. Winning a grant of asylum for a refugee or keeping a family together when one member was threatened with deportation is an amazing, humbling experience.

Ashwat Rishi
(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)
Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic, Cardozo School of Law
I had a great experience working at the Immigration Justice Clinic. The internship over the summer differs from the Clinic offered during the academic year in that there are very few court hearings over the summer. As a result, while every student is assigned a case over the academic year, I had the opportunity to work on four different cases over the summer. I also had the opportunity to conduct research projects for the faculty members on a range of issues and participate in a few meetings with advocacy groups in the City area working on various immigrant rights issues. The Clinic had an open-door policy, so I received feedback on every single one of my projects, and there were plenty of opportunities to seek advice and guidance along the way.

Cynthia Rivera
(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)
The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice, Education Advocacy Project
Over the course of this past summer, I was able to work with clients involved in the family court system on their family court cases, whether child protective or juvenile delinquency, and their educational needs. On the family court side, I was able to appear on the record of a trial, observe other trials, brainstorm on direct and cross examination questions and participate in conferences in front of court attorneys. For the educational piece I was involved in the interviewing of clients, analyzing various evaluations, including, but not limited to, psycho-educational evaluations, psychosocial evaluations and psychiatric evaluations, referring clients for preschool and school age special education services, applying to and attending interviews at non-public schools and therapeutic day treatment programs and preparing for and sitting first chair at a mediation with the Department of Education for one client. I also got a chance to write a template notice of motion, affirmation and affidavit for child protective and delinquency cases to
subpoena school records and a notice of motion and affirmation to have ACS pay for an evaluation when one cannot otherwise be obtained through the Department of Education or independent insurance.

On July 27th I first chaired my first mediation against the Department of Education (DOE). Our ten year old client had a full scale IQ of 56, was on a Kindergarten reading and math level and exhibited severe violent and sexualized behaviors. Due to her dual diagnoses, her educational and emotional needs had been unmet in the public school system for years. Although the student was making minimal academic progress, and had 11 suspensions and well over 100 incident reports during the last school year, the psychologist at her District 75 program refused to consider changing her class recommendation. I reviewed her case, met with her mother and drafted the mediation request after my supervising attorney and I decided such a measure was necessary. On the day of the mediation I clearly and persuasively argued the legal case. I had knowledge of every detail of the record and effectively pointed out every inconsistency in the DOE's record until the DOE representative had no choice but to issue a Nickerson letter entitling our client to a year's tuition at a state approved non public school. The parent was thrilled and so happy with my advocacy that she couldn't believe I was still a student. Her words to my supervising attorney ... "don't let this one go!"

My experience with The Legal Aid Society was phenomenal and I am so happy to have had the opportunity to represent the children and families that I did. I was able to take the skills and knowledge I’ve worked so hard to obtain throughout my two years of law school and make a difference in more than one person’s life this summer. Words cannot describe how amazing that feels.

Sarah Rosenthal (Funded with the generous support of the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy)
New York Civil Liberties Union, Advocacy Department
I spent the summer working at the New York Civil Liberties Union and learned a great deal about the work NYCLU does protecting New Yorkers’ rights. Working in the advocacy department, I learned about nontraditional lawyering and about how to create long term campaigns to work for change in particular areas. I also got to learn about impact litigation and how the NYCLU uses its unique position to help advance the rights of New Yorkers through legislative campaigns and publicity. I was able to do substantive work to assist in advocacy campaigns and litigation and to learn about larger scale social justice work.

Zach Ross
Volunteers of Legal Service, Unemployment Advocacy Project
Particularly in this troubled economy, Unemployment Insurance ("UI") benefits are a vital lifeline that may be the only thing standing between a claimant and poverty or homelessness. However, as I came to appreciate over my time at VOLS, the process of claiming UI benefits in New York State requires claimants to navigate a confusing and unresponsive bureaucracy. Additionally, unscrupulous employers often seek to take advantage of less sophisticated employees in order to cut costs. Unfortunately, this system leaves many claimants without the benefits they deserve and with no one to turn to for support. VOLS allowed me to work directly with these claimants, conducting initial intake through their Unemployment Hotline, and representing them at UI hearings before an ALJ at the Department of Labor. Additionally I was able to gain experience with legal research and writing through a variety of short and long term projects, including drafting an appellate brief for the UI Appeal Board.

I had a great experience this summer working for the VOLS Unemployment Advocacy Project. The small size of the program allowed me to build close relationships with everyone in the organization. More importantly, VOLS gave me the opportunity to make a lasting positive impact on the lives of people in need, while practicing a range of legal skills in a real world setting. The work was rewarding and I could not have asked for a better supervisor and staff to spend my summer with.
Priam Saywack  
**Red Hook Community Justice Center (Judge's Chambers)**  
Working at the Red Hook Community Justice Center was interesting because of the unusual nature of the court. It handles criminal, family court, and housing court matters and focusses on treatment and rehabilitation rather than mere retributive justice. I was able to gain experience with three types of law rather than one, which will prove useful. Additionally, the court has its roots firmly planted in the community. Inhabitants would would frequently walk up to the judge on the street and begin chatting. Judge Alex Calabrese is incredibly personable and easygoing; my summer was pleasant.

Poonam Sethi *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*  
**NJ Institute of Social Justice**  
The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice is a great place to work. The Institute is a think tank that works toward advancing expanding access to economic opportunity for low-income and minority residents of Newark and other urban areas in the state; promoting local, regional and state government that is effective, equitable and accountable to the concerns of urban residents and their communities; ensuring the civil rights and other basic entitlements of minorities and low-income individuals in the state; and highlighting the interdependence between urban and suburban areas as a means to produce more effective and sustainable public policies. As an intern, I worked alongside other legal interns as well as public policy, social work and undergraduate interns.

My work focused on mandatory drug courts, juvenile waiver, and ban the box. However, a lot of my work was statutory analysis. The assignments given to us were necessary to advance the goals of the Institute and often, each intern was given a different part of the project. I learned a lot. The staff was also extremely helpful in trying to help the interns network and make useful contacts for our future careers.

Jessica Setless  
**The Legal Aid Society, Immigration Law Unit**  
I had a wonderful experience working in The Legal Aid Society’s Immigration Law Unit. I knew even prior to law school that I wanted to be a part of this organization, and I am thankful that Cardozo helped to make my goal a reality.

While at Legal Aid, I learned a lot. My supervisor was an outstanding mentor who took the time to share her wealth of knowledge and to help me improve my legal skills. I got to work on a variety of compelling cases, and to perform an interesting array of tasks. I enjoyed working with talented, dedicated professionals, and I also enjoyed meeting with our clients. I hope that my efforts will prove beneficial to these individuals and families who all just want a chance to succeed in this country.

Eric Slepak  
**Center for Independence of the Disabled New York (CIDNY)**  
The story of my summer internship begins in the same place many of my stories begin: happy hour. About two weeks into the summer, I met up with a couple classmates for drinks one night. Naturally, we were all curious about each other’s first legal internships.

“Well, I get to work in a government office,” said one, “but they don’t have me doing anything substantive. I spend all day reading briefs for cases that I’ll never contribute to.”

“I’ve been spending all day looking at statutes on forming shell companies. It’s so boring,” confessed the other. “How’s your summer going?”

I gave pause. How could I tell my dispirited colleagues that in my first two weeks on the job I had lobbied state senators for healthcare legislation, testified before city council on issues regarding special education reform, and was starting an initiative to promote Fair Housing Act compliance in New York City?
I couldn’t. “My summer’s been good so far.”

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CIDNY offers law students a one-of-a-kind internship. You will be exposed to a wide variety of issues: education, healthcare, housing, voter protection, and Americans with Disability Act compliance. While you will get to do typical legal functions like research and memo drafting, you will also get to make a real impact, diving headfirst into the democratic process under the supervision of CIDNY’s dedicated, affable staff. After all the pedantry of 1L year, you will find it incredibly refreshing to engage the law in a way that affects people’s day-to-day lives. And you will have tons of great stories to tell future employers, family, friends, and--when appropriate--your fellow classmates.

Shoshana Smolen
Global Justice Center
My internship experience at the Global Justice Center, an international human rights legal NGO, gave me a unique perspective of what the day to day work in international law looks like. It was a great way for me to utilize my new skills in legal research, writing, editing, and citation while simultaneously exposing me to a brand new subject area and affording me the opportunity to apply my skills to that area. I was able to work closely with all members of the staff and contribute a great deal to all of the main projects that the organization is working on. My work was valuable and incorporated into publications, memos, and letters. I was also able to gain some real practical experience which will help me in future internships and clinical work. In addition to the work I did in the office, I was able to attend UN treaty review sessions, UN body planning meetings and other networking and social events in the international legal community. After my internship I have gained a greater understanding of the life of an international human rights lawyer and feel better equipped to be a meaningful and valuable contributor to any legal office.

Maxwell Sturman
Equal Justice Alliance
Working for the Equal Justice Alliance (EJA) this past summer was truly a great experience. I had the opportunity to research civil liberties/rights issues to as they relate to protecting the constitutional rights of individuals advocating for animals, including efforts to repeal the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Working for the EJA allowed me to strengthen my research and writing skills, while also regularly working on my public speaking. It was an invaluable experience that I would highly recommend to others.

Weiqi Tang
Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
My summer in Hawaii is wonderful, as you can imagine. The weather is perfect and the beach is the best. But this does not explain why I love my internship experience. I love it because of the work I did and the people I met during the internship.

I worked at the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. My summer internship job included three projects covering different areas of law that I never thought I would work on. However, through doing research and talking to people on the issue, I learned about the law as well as its implementation in the society, and came to realize the critical role public policy advocacy work plays. My Immigrant Rights Manual drafting project taught me interesting aspects of immigration law. While studying similar documents from other states and trying to identify local immigration services, I also spotted holes in the state immigration system and things that can be done to improve the system. My public housing project led me to acquire knowledge in the area of public housing and disability rights. My third project, the Homeless Outreach Project, directed us onto the street and talk to people who are homeless. My experience talking to such people not only exposed me to a different side of the world and revealed many problems in the society and the system, but also proved that people too often have
prejudice against these people who experience homelessness not due to their own unwise choice but also because of many other factors such as abuses and family issues. We passed the story of these people and our findings to Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland at the task force held in the State Capitol, hoping to raise awareness and educate the public on the issue. Hawaii is an interesting place to do public policy advocacy work, since it’s isolated from the mainland and it lacks many things we take for granted in our legal system. Many people, such as the staff attorneys and many others I met there, came to the island with the passion to advocate for people’s needs and to make it a better place. Although I’m not sure if I want to do public policy advocacy work as my future career, I am deeply moved by the ideal and dedication of the people working in the area. I know this is the kind of lawyer I want to be.

Patrick Tindana
Immigration Equality
This summer, I was fortunate to work for Immigration Equality, which is a national organization fighting for equality under U.S. immigration law for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and HIV-positive individuals. The organization’s robust policy department pushes for important reform in immigration laws and policies concerning LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants, while the client representation team provides free legal aid and advocacy for LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants and their families. Under the aegis of Immigration Equality’s client representation team and policy department, I became involved in pushing for important reform of immigration laws and policies concerning LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants.

My work as an intern focused primarily on asylum litigation for LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants. Under current U.S. immigration laws, immigrants can apply for asylum if they have suffered or feared persecution in their home countries, because they are perceived to be gay. A critical first step in this job entailed interviewing prospective clients, some of whom were held at detention centers, to listen to their stories for the purpose of deciding the viability of their asylum claims at Immigration Equality’s weekly legal meetings. After Immigration Equality selected the viable cases, I proceeded through the complex process of representing our new clients. This involved gathering evidence, conducting research, filing asylum application forms and drafting personal declarations related to the individual cases.

The hardest part of representing asylum clients was learning about the terrible persecutions that LGBT people faced all around the world. Above all, I marveled at these people’s tenacity. Many of my clients came from religious societies and were told that gay people were less than human. Conservative religion was entrenched into the laws of those countries. This gave people carte blanche to attack or kill anyone that they suspected to be gay. If that failed, the police was also on hand to abuse, rape, arrest and sometimes murder people who were perceived to be gay. These cruelties were all perpetuated in the name of doing God’s work by purging the community of gay people. Because they were perceived to be gay, my clients survived death threats, stabbings, kidnappings and the murders of their various partners. In effect, while these religious societies encouraged my clients to embrace an all loving and merciful God, they were also thought to hate themselves.

My clients tried to pretend to be heterosexual but found themselves unable to sustain that facade. One of them lamented, “Why did God give me these feelings? I have tried for many years to change but I cannot. I am not a bad person. I never stole from anyone. I go to church. Yet, He makes me gay only so that my people can kill me?” Still, a majority of my clients continue to believe in God. They credit God for helping them survive and escape hostile environments. When their own families and laws of their countries abandoned them, it was their beliefs in God that kept them going. Another client remarked, “God is good all the time. He has always been there for me.” Otherwise, how else could she have survived death in her home country and now get a new lease of life in America?
Steven Trembley (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)  
Habeas Corpus Resource Center  
I was thrilled to intern in San Francisco this summer. I found my work at a capital defense organization challenging and rewarding. The attorneys there are genuinely interesting in recruiting the next generation of public interest attorneys, and have offered their help in shaping my career path. I also found living in San Francisco to be a welcome escape from New York. I highly recommend students expand their internship search beyond the tri-state area. My internship was an enriching experience which will serve as the foundation for my career in criminal defense.

Bryana Turner (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)  
The Exoneration Initiative  
My summer internship at The Exoneration Initiative provided a good introduction to innocence project work. As an intern, my job consisted almost entirely of document review and research. However, after demonstrating my work ethic and research skills, my supervisors assigned me more challenging research projects where I was able to write an office memorandum on New York case law. The highlight of my internship was being assigned a research project for one of EXI’s clients who was recently granted a new trial. Finally, while the project was exciting to be part of, my only wish is that I was more consistently assigned stimulating projects.

Tiferet Unterman  
Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Fair Housing Enforcement Program  
Working for the Fair Housing Enforcement Program at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii was an incredible experience. My duties included client intake, advice and counsel to clients about their fair housing issues, advocating for clients to their housing providers, filing complaints with the state civil rights commission, and drafting various legal memorandums for client cases. I assisted in the litigation of three major companion cases that were moving through state court, one of which was settled to compensate the Native Hawaiian family for their eviction and resulting homelessness. I worked on another major federal court case that will decide law on the protection of emotional support animals under fair housing laws. Additionally, I assisted in the training of fair housing testers and educated the community about fair housing laws.

Legal Aid Hawaii was supportive of my internship and made sure that my work enhanced my legal education. I truly felt that my work impacted the community and that I contributed to enforcing civil rights.

Kerry Van Schoyck  
International Advertising Association, Legal Intern  
My experience as a legal intern at the International Advertising Association (IAA) was very rewarding. Through this opportunity, I was able to delve into various advertising and intellectual property law matters. Specifically, I had the opportunity to research and prepare a Federal Trade Commission complaint, and to compile intellectual property and advertising laws from around the world into a global survey of advertising law to be distributed to IAA members. Additionally, I researched unique trademark matters, such as passing off, acquiescence and laches, in preparation for motions and trials. Overall, the experience allowed me to refine my research and legal thinking skills and also furthered my interest in intellectual property and advertising law.

Nicole Waknine  
Legal Service NYC, Brooklyn Branch, Domestic Violence Unit  
Interning for Legal Service NYC- Brooklyn Branch in the Domestic Violence Unit was a great way to spend the summer. Not only did working with Legal Services help sharpen my legal writing and research skills, but I was allowed to independently draft Motions and Orders to Show Cause, as well as assist with
trial preparation and attend numerous court appearances. Besides gaining valuable experience, I always felt good about the work I was doing because I knew I was helping people.

Lauren Webb  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
**Bread for the City Legal Clinic**
I spent my second-year summer with the nonprofit organization, Bread for the City, in Washington, D.C. I conducted intake and provided legal advice to low-income D.C. residents with family, landlord-tenant, and public benefits issues. I developed my interview skills, drafted motions and letters to landlords, and observed client appearances in court and administrative hearings. I performed legal and policy research and fact investigation. In addition, I received valuable training in ethics, de-escalation, and working with clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Overall, I had a great experience with an amazing organization.

Robert T. Woods II  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
**Community Legal Services (Central Office)**
At my summer internship I learned valuable skills that can be translated to any area of practice. This summer experience allowed me to take control over 16 clients, which allowed me to improve my skill set in arbitrations, mediations, negotiations and litigation. With a great supervisor that allowed me to handle problems on my own without micromanaging any aspect of my caseload, I really felt like an associate at a firm and not like a lowly summer intern. The most troubling part of my internship experience will be returning to school away from the practice and back to bookwork.
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC INTEREST WORK
REFLECTIONS:

Anastasia Holoboff
Women’s Legal Centre
My experience at the Women’s Legal Center was both inspiring and fulfilling. Not only was I able to gain an in depth understanding of the South African legal system, but I was also able to work on a number of uniquely South African issues that reflected my own interests and passions. The opportunity challenged my fledgling legal skills, as I was forced to step out of my comfort zone to make creative arguments to support positions that had little to no jurisprudence due to the recent nature the South African constitution. In addition I was able to improve my writing skills considerably by working on important advocacy projects with global significance. The support and tutelage I received from the staff of the Women’s Legal Center was exceptional. The internship affirmed my interest in working on women’s issues and provided invaluable experience that I will refer to for the rest of my legal career.

Michael R Novasky (Funded with the generous support of the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy)
International Bridges to Justice, Rwanda
Working Rwanda was challenging and rewarding. I was lucky enough to work directly within the Rwandan legal system, and thus was dropped into a system conducted largely in French and Kinyarwanda and based on the civil law tradition. In addition to managing normal legal research and writing, I had also to work on the side just to catch up with the laws and languages being used. Fortunately people were very accommodating and I quickly found a role for myself. This included helping attorneys on cases with prisoners who had been in jail awaiting trial for as many as 15 years, working with lawyers to improve their legal skills in English, working with Government officials to discuss and propose innovative plans for providing legal aid, and helping manage the day to day activities of the organization. The reward was being exposed to a broad array of legal issues and meeting many different professionals and clients in a variety of contexts. Understanding and addressing the struggles of different countries in building and maintaining the rule of law has been an incredibly valuable experience that I am proud of.

Arie Peled
Shurat HaDin – Israeli Law Center
My summer at Shurat HaDin was an unparalleled introduction to the world of transnational litigation and its role in the battle against terrorism. Throughout my internship I was introduced to brilliant legal minds working on cutting edge issues of U.S., Israeli, and international law. I was given the opportunity to interact with these attorneys in an organic manner that allowed me to learn a substantial amount about their work and the issues they dealt with.

Shurat HaDin has been an innovator and leader in the effort to use courts around the world as a tool in the fight against terrorism. The greatest asset the organization has is the creativity and dedication of its attorneys and interns. Because the organization is relatively small, and because many of the issues it deals with are novel, an intern at Shurat HaDin can have an outsized impact. I was trusted with substantial projects including interviewing plaintiffs in an ongoing case, writing declarations, and writing a memo on an Israeli law that may open up new avenues of litigation for the organization. This is what made the work so exciting.

Aside from the work itself, the staff made the internship a very positive experience. They were very welcoming and appreciative of the work we did, and it was a pleasure to come to work everyday. The organization also arranged for us to attend fascinating lectures by public officials, national security experts, and lawyers, in addition to a two-day trip to the north of Israel, which was both educational and fun.
I had a fantastic and educational experience at Shurat HaDin, and I would highly recommend the internship to anyone interested in learning more about Israeli national security and terrorism related litigation.

A. Azure Wheeler *(Funded with the generous support of the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation)*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Resettlement Unit, Kampala, Uganda

Working with and assisting refugees in a developing country was a truly wonderful and humbling experience. I not only gained deeper insight into international systems and refugee law, but my perspective on the world was broadened by witnessing firsthand the struggles that some populations are faced with on a daily basis. Being able to help refugees find a better life after being through so much strife made the hard work I have put into my legal education entirely worth it.
CRIMINAL DEFENSE INTERNSHIPS

REFLECTIONS:

Akin Akinjiola *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
Southern Public Defenders Training Center *(Dallas Public Defenders Office)*
Interning with Southern Public Defenders Office was an experience any student interested in criminal defense would enjoy. I was able to accomplish the goals I had created for this summer, every day I was helping someone who really needed it and learning each step of the way. The attorney I was assigned to at the Dallas Public Defenders office set up a schedule for me that allowed me to get a full criminal law experience. I was allowed to conduct initial interviews with clients, assist in voir dire, interview witness and second seat for a felony trial.

Teresa Caturano
Alaska Public Defender Agency, Palmer Office
Working this summer with the Alaska Public Defender Agency provided a great professional opportunity to prune litigation and client counseling skills, as well as, develop my understanding of essential yet somewhat elusive principles of criminal justice, like probable cause, reasonable doubt, and presumption of innocence. I was given the creative freedom and the responsibility to manage my own misdemeanor
caseload, review discovery, negotiate with prosecutors, meet with clients, and represent them at bail hearing, changes of pleas, and trials. Additionally, I collaborated with supportive attorneys on a felony investigative team. The work posed a fascinating variety of legal and social issues, and having Alaska’s natural beauty to explore on the weekends made for a great summer internship!

**Agatha M. Cole (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**

**Federal Defender’s Office for the Western District of North Carolina**

I really enjoyed my summer internship with the Federal Defender’s Office for the Western District of North Carolina! Through my internship, I was able to learn a great deal about federal criminal litigation, hone my research and writing skills, and spend a lot of time observing federal magistrate court. I would highly recommend an internship with the Federal Defender’s office to anyone with an interest in criminal law or federal courts!

**Alexander Coven**

**New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, Essex County Adult Division**

This summer I interned for the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, Essex County Adult Division, located in Newark. I found the internship to be incredibly instructive and rewarding. Interns are assigned to approximately 6 attorneys who provide assignments ranging from basic legal research to drafting motions to interviewing clients or participating in investigation. Additionally, students who have finished their second year of law school are permitted under New Jersey student practice rules to appear on the record before a judge (and there are many opportunities to do so). Students spend one day a week in Central Judicial Processing participating in arraignments, and one day a week in Special Remand Court, a special court designed for cases that have been downgraded by the prosecutor’s office to disorderly persons offenses. Beyond the many opportunities to gain valuable legal experience with supervising attorneys, I was also given an opportunity to participate in a number of seminars, training activities, and a visit to the Essex County jail in Newark. Lastly, since criminal court in Newark is very eventful, interns observe the full spectrum of criminal proceedings as well as many highly publicized and interesting cases.

**Carly McGarr**

**Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender (Felony Trial Division and Homicide Task Force)**

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender. The attorneys that mentored me have a sincere interest in preparing the next generation of public defense lawyers. I was able to participate in every stage of the litigation process, from reviewing discovery and obtaining exculpatory evidence to crafting the closing narrative at trial and preparing mitigation for sentencing hearings. I practiced effective communication with clients regarding their rights and litigation strategy. I learned about sentencing guidelines and how to negotiate for favorable plea bargains. The attorneys I worked for were encouraging and took the time to teach me the wisdom they had obtained through years of practice. I understand that I still have more to learn, but thanks to my summer experience, I am confident in my ability to practice good lawyering in the criminal defense field.

**Aviva Michelman**

**Brooklyn Defender Services**

Interning at Brooklyn Defender Services has been an invaluable experience. During the ten week internship, I interviewed over 10 clients and conducted about eight bail applications in a total of seven arraignments shifts. I drafted facial insufficiency and speedy trial motions, motions to sever counts and complainants in a felony case involving allegations of criminal sexual conduct, and a motion to controvert a search warrant. I successfully obtained a client’s release from jail, despite multiple open prostitution cases, and connected her to services at Urban Justice Center’s Sex Worker Project. I also assisted in trial preparation by drafting and practicing a cross examination of a complaining witness, and by drafting memoranda on evidentiary procedure and preclusion of testimony. I interpreted in Spanish when a client faced an immigration hold and no official interpreter was available. The attorneys at BDS are incredibly
hardworking and motivating. I assisted over 15 attorneys with research, court appearances, arraignments, motion writing, and trial preparation. The attorneys, specifically my two mentors and intern coordinator, were extremely helpful, and organized. They provided me with interesting and challenging assignments as well as detailed feedback. This internship at BDS increased my desire to start working as a public defender as soon as possible!

Kinte Morgan  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
This summer, I worked on far fewer cases than any of my fellow interns, but I was able to work very closely with the legal teams on two cases. I conducted investigations and interviews, and reviewed voluminous documentation in order to prepare an investigatory report to be submitted to the prosecutor and judge. It was a huge undertaking, and I learned a great deal about developing effective strategies for advocating for the best possible outcome for a client. The attorneys, social workers and investigators I worked with were all very helpful and considerate, and I deeply respect the commitment they have to their work and to the Harlem community. Overall, I had nothing but great experiences this summer at NDS, and I wish that the internship was twice as long.

Dakotah Pratt-Hewitt  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
Please write a paragraph (or two) that CPSL WILL publish on the Cardozo website and in other publications describing your overall experience at your internship placement. Keep in mind that this will be available to the public. The information you provide above will be used for internal purposes ONLY.

My experience at Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS) was one of the best that I have had thus far. I went into it passionate about indigent criminal defense and emerged even more dedicated to fighting for the accused. They provided a full week of training and orientation for the interns which gave us a helpful overview of the court system and criminal procedure, as well as opportunities for us to become better acquainted with Harlem and the unique needs of the community. In addition, it allowed me to spend a great deal of time in court observing the process, the challenges, and the people whose lives are affected firsthand. Interns are given a lot of responsibility as well as a lot of time working one on one with an attorney and to see the individual approaches to trial work. Because of the internship, I have a much better grasp on the nature of public defense and an even stronger desire to pursue it.

Carlos G. Quintana  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
Brooklyn Family Defense Project
My experience with BFDP was incredibly exciting and satisfying. I worked with dedicated and passionate professionals in a fast paced work environment, working directly with clients, and participating in virtually every stage of the litigation process. I participated in client interviews, maintained contact with caseworkers, medical professionals, and a number of different court staff regarding cases I was working on. I drafted motions for custody/visitation, orders to show cause asking for emergency hearings and interim relief, written objections to proffered evidence. I appeared at a State Central Registry administrative hearing on behalf of a client. Finally, I had the opportunity to appear in court on the record under the supervision of an attorney and even conducted a cross-examination of a caseworker and argued on behalf of the client. BFDP is a great place to work if you are interested in family law, public defense, and litigation.

Stephen Revis  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division.
I had the pleasure of spending my past summer with the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division. My experience with the Legal Aid Society was terrific. The attorneys and supervisors were all extremely helpful and my legal knowledge of criminal law in New York was augmented substantially. Additionally,
I found this internship to be particularly rewarding due to the client base that the Legal Aid Society represents. If you are interested in working in criminal law or you are curious and want to learn more about it, there is no better place to spend your summer.

**Sade Stephenson (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
**Legal Aid Society, Manhattan Criminal Defense Division**
My internship at the Legal Aid Society’s Criminal Defense Division, Manhattan, provided me with the practical tools to accompany the things we learn in class. Facial insufficiency motions, interviews, and appearing on the record are no longer things that I “think I know” how to do. I do know how to do them, and how to do them well. I am not yet an expert in criminal defense, but I am more comfortable. Also, I was able to interact with clients in a more meaningful way through interviewing them, conversing with them, and advocating on their behalf. That experience was the most satisfying portion of my internship, and further helped me hone something that casebooks cannot. Public service is about people, lives, and families, and what we as lawyers do can make a big difference. Thus, we must find ways to advocate graciously, but ferociously.

**Ashley Viruet (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
**Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office**
As a student interested in pursuing a career in indigent criminal defense, my time at the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office was invaluable. The Office is one of the largest in the country, which lends itself to allowing law students the opportunity to pursue whatever avenue of criminal defense interests them most. My interest was in having direct contact with the clients and observing trials, depositions and any other work I could not personally do. The attorneys I worked with were all willing to give me multiple opportunities to observe their work and trials, and my supervisor trusted me enough to speak with her clients and witnesses daily. The passion with which the attorneys bring to their work was inspiring and only confirmed that working at a Public Defender's Office is what I would like to do upon my graduation.

**Laura Waters (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
**Federal Defenders of New York, Inc., Manhattan Office**
Working at the Federal Defenders of New York, Inc. was an incredibly valuable experience. The attorneys are some of the smartest, hardest-working, most innovative lawyers I’ve had the privilege of working with, and I was exposed to some fascinating proceedings over the course of my ten weeks there. I had the opportunity to work on both trial and appellate level cases, and even sat at counsel’s table for the duration of a federal criminal trial, from voir dire through the reading of the verdict. Needless to say, that taught me volumes about both the basics of federal criminal procedure, as well as how to build a defense for your client, even when the case is particularly challenging on the facts. I was also able to complete several research assignments, further honing both my research and writing skills.

**William Yukstas (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)**
**Camden County Office of the Public Defender – State of New Jersey**
Last summer, I interned in the Camden Region Office of the New Jersey Public Defender. I highly recommend the Camden PD to 2Ls that are interested in criminal defense (both adult and juvenile). For the first half of the summer, I was a assigned to a trial team. Each week, I spent some time in court with the two lawyers – interviewing clients and participating in plea negotiations. Additionally, I wrote motions – to get evidence suppressed and to get an expert witness admitted at trial. One of the attorneys was preparing for trial and needed extra support. As a result, I was able to get involved in trial preparations. For example, we had an issue go up on interlocutory appeal and I wrote a portion of the brief. Also, I was charged with researching other issues we expected to arise at trial. During the second half of the summer, I was supervised by an attorney in the juvenile practice. He was a veteran attorney and a great teacher. He talked through his approach to each case and really took a lot of time to explain
what he was doing and why. With him, I handled a straight-forward juvenile trial and interviewed many clients. Work was also available from other attorneys. I was able to do a couple projects for other attorneys in the office, which was great because it gave me a chance to talk to other people and see their approach. Also, 2Ls are free to do as many bail reduction hearings as they can handle responsibly. It’s good practice for standing up in front of a Judge and representing a client. Overall, the internship was great. The attorneys were willing to give interns a lot of responsibility, but still provide some support and feedback. It was important to push and put yourself out there, but, the office had a supportive atmosphere that made this easy to do.
INNOCENCE PROJECT
Melody Berkovits  
Innocence Project  
I chose to attend Cardozo in large part because of its affiliation with the world renowned Innocence Project (IP). Fortunately, I was accepted into the IP clinic, and have spent the past 10 weeks as a summer intern. On July 19, my client, Sedrick Courtney, was exonerated after serving 15 years for an assault and burglary he did not commit! I have never, in my entire life, felt as privileged as I have this summer working on my three cases. Aside from the recent exoneration, the best part about working at the IP is the exposure it provides to the world of criminal justice reform – in the past two months alone I have met executive directors, attorneys, and founders from an array of non-profit organizations, all working to fix the system from a different angle. Finally, I am extremely grateful for the amount of actual work I am expected to do. Friends at other internships have told me that they spend all day copying and filing papers. At the Innocence Project, I have drafted a motion for Post-conviction DNA testing, and there is this palpable sense, that the work we interns do really matters – the more we get done the closer we are to resolving a case. It has been a wonderful hands-on learning opportunity.

Emily Burgess  
Innocence Project  
This summer, I have had the amazing opportunity to work for The Innocence Project, a non-profit legal organization that works to secure post-conviction DNA testing in cases where such testing has the potential to prove a convicted individual’s actual innocence. I have gained invaluable experience in advocating for my clients in writing and by phone to various individuals, including prosecutors and police departments. I have also honed my legal research and writing skills by drafting legal memoranda and motions. Most importantly, I have gained invaluable experience in working directly with clients, and I feel that I have been able to make meaningful contributions to their cases.

Rebecca Casas  
Innocence Project  
My time at the Innocence Project these past short twelve weeks has been anything but ordinary. Never did I expect to learn so much in such a short amount of time. It was by far the most hands-on legal experience I’ve had to date. I’ve helped draft motions for writs of habeas corpus, written affidavits for our witnesses, contacted countless people about securing evidence, and talked to clients and their families about the status of their cases. When my clients call and tell me how much they appreciate the work I do for them, not only does it add another level to my appreciation for being given this opportunity, but it makes my work feel like it actually matters. I can’t wait for what the next two semesters will bring as I continue to work there during the school year.

Molly Duane  
The Innocence Project  
I had a wonderful experience as a legal intern at the Innocence Project this summer. My position has allowed me to seamlessly combine my interests in law and science to work towards improving the lives of some of the most deserving individuals I have ever met. The Innocence Project is an energizing place to work, as the attorneys truly care about their clients but are also devoted to finding ways to make the criminal justice system more fair and effective in the future. Our clients are also an inspiration because despite their struggles, they persevere with hope, grace, and humility. I am looking forward to continuing my work at the Innocence Project throughout the academic year.
Eric Hassell  
Innocence Project  
My summer at the Innocence Project was extremely positive. I had the opportunity to work with very inspiring people and to participate in a leading program in the fight against injustice in the criminal justice system. I received invaluable hands on experience and I look forward to further involvement with the program throughout the year long clinic.

Daniel Levey  
The Innocence Project  
I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to work at the Innocence Project. I have learned so much about the criminal justice system and forensic sciences. I am constantly inspired by the attorneys, our clients, and the entire staff. The attorneys are very dedicated to educating the interns and consistently make us feel valued here. It is truly a great place to work.

Anna Masliakova  
Innocence Project  
“Vaginal swabs! Vaginal swabs!” I ran through the hallway shouting. This was the greatest job I’d ever had.

One of the brilliant things about working at the Innocence Project is the great blend of intelligence and gallows humor in the office. If you’ve ever wanted to have a strange, out of body experience, try spending your summer talking about and trying to locate swabs of all sorts with the most intelligent people you have ever met. Just try it. The atmosphere at IP is unparalleled – everyone is excited to be there and everyone pitches in to help, and IP is intelligent enough and well-run enough that they ensure that we all feel like we are part of a crew on a ship. When a man was exonerated this summer after serving over two decades in prison for a crime he did not commit, everyone piled into the conference room, sat around the large conference table, and smiled and wept at the blown up SKYPE image of the recently released man, sitting bashfully in a barbeque house. Have you ever encountered a man who has just gotten, in some sense, his life back, and felt the flood of baffling emotions that follows? Just try it.
One of my favorite parts of the summer was speaking to inmates when they would call in: some were kind, some were hilarious, some were crazy and some were calling from New Orleans so I couldn’t understand a word through their reception. But all of them were human beings and reminded me of the vast and complicated unity which really underpins the public service system. Have you ever had a great ten minute conversation with an inmate, where you laughed so hard you cried, sat up, thought “oh my god is it appropriate to laugh with inmates?” and then realized of course it is you dolt? Just try it. You’ll get hooked.

Joseph McBride  
Innocence Project  
Being around a group of likeminded students who have a genuine interest in using a career in law as a tool to help people less fortunate than themselves was the “shot in the arm” that I needed to counteract much of the jadedness related to a career in law that developed after my 1L year. You simply cannot put a price tag on the friends that you make at the Innocence Project!

Moreover, my overall experience during the summer internship portion at the Innocence Project was extremely positive for several other reasons. First, the work environment is laid back and welcoming. Second, astetically, the location is beautiful. Third, the work is captivating and interesting. For instance, there is simply no feeling like digging into your client’s file for the first time and doing your own investigative work! Fourth, you become profoundly aware after speaking to your client for the first time, of the importance of your role in the lives of other people. As a result, you are motivated to work harder and at a higher level of proficiency than you ever have before. And, you do so with a big smile on your
face! Fifth, all of the attorneys, paralegals, and staff from other departments are friendly and very helpful. Lastly, there is something really cool and awesome about seeing Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld walking down the halls!

**Hugo Ruiz de la Torres** *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*
**The Innocence Project**
The summer internship program at the Innocence Project is an amazingly powerful experience. It’s a well-oiled machine that ensures summer interns know the relevant DNA science, causes of wrongful conviction, arc of a case, post-conviction burdens for criminal defendants, and how to present your client’s story. Interacting with clients, negotiating with prosecutors, scrounging for missing evidence, and drafting motions for DNA testing are only a few of the rewarding tasks that will dominate your summer. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone with a complaint about this organization or their experience.

**Laura Schaefer**
**The Innocence Project**
Working at the Innocence Project has been one of the most interesting, challenging, and rewarding law school experiences thus far. Immediately upon starting I was assigned to a case that was close to completion, and was asked to draft a 60-page motion on summary judgment for a habeas petition. Our client has been in prison for over 30 years for a crime he did not commit. Being a part of the team representing him and hopefully securing his exoneration was incredibly fulfilling. My other cases are still in the “evidence search” phase, which involves contacting people all around the country who may have information relevant to our clients’ innocence. Sometimes it feels like searching for a needle in a haystack – but when you get information that could help your client, the feeling is incredible. I would highly recommend working at this organization for anyone at Cardozo, regardless of what your legal interests are.

**Francisco Xavier Torres**
**Innocence Project**
We live in an imperfect society, governed by imperfect peers who try their best but inevitably commit mistakes that are neither surprising nor uncommon. However, the business of the modern penal system and the systematic destruction of decades of our client’s lives based on non-existent evidence, prior prejudice and racism, or even eye witness testimony that has been proven to be wildly inaccurate, has put the pursuit of racking up convictions above the pursuit of justice. Through enhanced DNA testing, the Innocence Project gives hope to those cast into the labyrinth of our prison system convicted without scientific basis or reason, and many times without physical evidence or even with contradicting evidence.

Speaking to our clients opens a doorway into a world which hopefully we will never have to personally overcome. They call us with their worries, problems, but most of all their hopes. It is an honor to be able to help them in their pursuit for justice. Many were not angels before the convictions that brought them to our attention but the level of certainty needed for conviction was more than overcome by reasonable doubt. Today, the signs of innocence are there for us to discover and test, and while they were present during the original trial, ineffectual representation or police departments relying on scientifically unsound evidence zeroed in on our clients and put them behind bars for years. Luckily, there are now prosecutors and police departments who believe that errors have been made and are actively working to correct the mistakes of the past. This program and the guest speakers brought in advocating change to the criminal system have taught me that the current prison infrastructure is at best well intentioned but ineffectual and at worst completely broken in regards to the goals it was meant to achieve. I have learned that in an imperfect world mistakes are to be expected but they can rectified if we are willing to open our minds to new ideas and plans free from notions of Hollywood vengeance and meant to actually improve our society.
Alla Zayenchik  
Innocence Project  
A summer at the Innocence Project is unique because of the numerous orientation and training activities that students engage in, which are not feasible for a shorter-term internship (the Innocence Project is a year-long clinic). During the summer, we received a crash course in DNA evidence. We were taught how to conduct evidence searches, and how to communicate with incarcerated clients. We were given a prison tour of the East Jersey State Prison, which included visits of numerous cell blocks. An entire series of brown bag lunches was planned for us featuring new speakers every week who contributed their unique perspectives on the criminal justice system. We learned about topics ranging from inmate health care to alternatives to incarceration programs to potential immigration consequences and loss of benefits as a result of incarceration.

In addition to the comprehensive training, my favorite aspect of this summer was the hands-on experience. Students working for the Innocence Project are afforded a great deal of responsibility. Over the summer, I drafted several motions for DNA testing, and wrote memos on topics ranging from state habeas corpus (research towards a motion to vacate a conviction), to detailed analysis of particular facts in the case and how that fact pattern affects our argument. Some memos required me to conduct independent legal research on case law and statutes, while others required a detailed combing of the trial transcript, police reports, medical records and other supporting documents. My supervising attorney encouraged us to ask questions, provided helpful feedback, and improved the overall quality of my legal writing and advocacy skills. I highly recommend this internship to anyone with an interest in the criminal justice system.
INTERNSHIPS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

REFLECTIONS:

Khristoph Becker  
**US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section**  
I thoroughly enjoyed my summer at the DOJ and am applying to the Honors Program. Given my pre law school experience investigating police misconduct for the City of New York, my focus this summer was on enforcing the 4th and 14th Amendments, as well as the relevant federal statutes, against police departments nationwide. The atmosphere was very collegial, and the caliber of the attorneys was extremely high. Being exposed to such a smart and friendly group of professionals, who have a passion for upholding civil rights, was exciting and inspirational. I hope to work there in the future.

Alex Blum  
**US Attorney, General Crimes Felony Division**  
This summer, I had the opportunity to intern, along with nearly one hundred other law students at the US Attorney in Washington, DC. It was an extraordinary opportunity to work under highly qualified AUSA’s and gain from their experiences. The internship provided an invaluable look into the criminal justice system and an opportunity to see how the AUSAs make prosecutorial decisions, interact with the courts
and the defense, and prepare for trial. The demanding nature of the work and assignments helped to build and sharpen my legal writing and research skills. I even had the invaluable opportunity to attend trainings in trial advocacy techniques given for incoming AUSAs and given by veteran attorneys at the top of their field.

**Zabrina Chandler**
**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity**
This past summer I worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in their Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. The Office enforces the Fair Housing Act and other laws to protect people from housing discrimination based on certain protected classes. Most of the cases that I worked on involved discrimination based on race, national origin, and disability. I also had the opportunity to participate in a compliance review in Coney Island. We knocked on dozens of doors and spoke to residents about whether the housing authority was providing those with limited English proficiency with language access and whether those with disabilities were getting reasonable accommodations. In addition, my supervisors were very approachable and helpful. They arranged fun activities for the interns such as a walking tour of historic Brooklyn.

The internship opened my eyes to the deplorable conditions that many residents of New York are living in. It was surprising and frustrating to learn that those who are in the position to help those who live in public housing, such as the housing authorities, often do not help them. That’s why HUD is necessary – the oversee state agencies to ensure that federal funding for housing is being spent properly to provide safe and affordable housing. This internship reaffirmed my desire to work for a federal agency after I graduate.

**Alexandra Davison**
**Department of Health and Human Services Office of the General Counsel**
Working for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the General Counsel was a great summer experience. The OGC provided me the opportunity to see the wide range of issues involved in health care law. OGC provides legal advice and litigation support for matters such as appropriations, copyright law, Federal Tort Claims Act (including medical malpractice), the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act, Federal contract law, personnel law, equal employment opportunity, and labor relations. My assignments included legal research, drafting legal briefs and motions, preparing for an administrative appeal case, and negotiating Medicare Secondary Payer Act claims. Additionally, I was able to have great insight into the vast amount of regulations and statutes that control health care law. The work atmosphere at OGC also provided a great learning experience. The Chief Counsel and staff attorneys were always willing to explain concepts and allowed me to become involved in different projects. In a field that is constantly changing, I found the attorneys that work in the OGC extremely knowledgeable and helpful.

**Jessica Marshall**
**United States Attorney’s Office SDNY, Criminal Division**
I was fortunate enough to spend my summer at the U.S. Attorney’s Office SDNY Criminal Division. The attorney’s in that office are incredibly accomplished, ethical, skillful, and wonderful to work for. I was assigned three attorneys in three different divisions of the office. I had the opportunity to work on cases that dealt with terrorism, public corruption, and general crime. This meant I was able to attend court hearings on an almost daily basis, write motions that went to federal judges and defense attorneys, research and write legal memoranda, and prepare witnesses for hearings. The attorneys I worked for provided feedback on all the work I did and were always available to answer questions and provide mentoring. The office also scheduled weekly “Brown Bag Lunches” with the heads of each of the divisions so we could learn about each division. To end the summer, the office even invited the interns to
a discussion with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Kagan. I, of course, would highly recommend this internship to anyone.

Jessica Mayer
Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Regional Counsel
I had a great time working for the VA. The atmosphere was relaxed and my most of the attorneys in the office made themselves easily available for questions and offered helpful feedback on assignments. I also appreciated having the opportunity to gain experience with different types of law, including administrative tort claims as well as labor and employment law. I helped with research and drafted motions and briefs for a varied array of cases, including medical malpractice, personal injury claims, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) discrimination claims, and Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) claims. I also had the opportunity to attend an MSPB hearing, which was very interesting and informative. Overall I had a very positive experience and would recommend the internship to other law students.

Delavar Shlomo Omidfar
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – ADR Unit
I really enjoyed being part of an organization that represent the employees in discrimination suits against their employers, which were many times large corporations. This experience has really made me consider spending at least part of my professional career in Public Service, where I would not only be able to help the unrepresented but given the amount of work it would be a great place to hone my skills, before going into a private practice.

Yale Robinson
Internal Revenue Service, Low Income Taxpayer Clinics Program Office
I worked for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the Program Director of Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs). I prepared two reports for the director concerning (1) the clinics’ websites and (2) an overview of LITC history and operations. I reviewed IRS Publications 3319 and 4134 and suggested appropriate changes. I spent the bulk of my time preparing and reviewing case tables concerning frequently litigated tax disputes. The tables will appear in the 2012 National Taxpayer Advocate’s Annual Report to Congress. One highlight of the summer was meeting Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate, when she visited my supervisor. Another highlight was presenting a speech about LITCs to an audience of almost one hundred tax professionals at a conference in Massachusetts. Reading Tax Court cases and LITC websites was tedious at times, but I learned a lot about tax law and pro bono tax representation in the process of helping the Program Director and the National Taxpayer Advocate.

Yan Slavinskiy
Civil Division, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York (Criminal Forfeiture & Civil Rights)
I strongly recommend an internship with the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York’s Civil Division to any 1L or 2L looking to pursue an experience working for the government. The Civil Division handles both affirmative and defensive work for the United States in the Eastern District and exposes interns to a diverse array of legal fields, federal laws and regulations, and professional development opportunities. An intern is paired with one or two attorneys in the office and collaborates with those attorneys on whatever cases they are working on. This results in interns developing a very thorough understanding of their attorneys’ practice area.

During my internship I worked with attorneys in the Civil Rights Division and in the Criminal Forfeiture Division. My civil rights work consisted in part of accompanying experts and attorneys into the field to evaluate compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) and the Supreme Court’s landmark decision Olmstead v. L.C.
had the unique opportunity to spend a week at a psychiatric hospital assisting experts and attorneys in completing a biannual review of the facility’s compliance with an outstanding consent judgment. I was given the opportunity to evaluate incoming claims brought to the attention of the office for possible ADA violations, to sit in on meetings and settlement conferences regarding current civil rights investigations, and drafted several memos requesting permission from DOJ to conduct investigations pursuant to the previously articulated laws.

My work with the forfeiture division was centered around extensive and detailed legal research and writing. I drafted multiple sections of complex motion to dismiss of a petition for adjudication of third-party interests in a post-forfeiture ancillary proceeding and was given the opportunity to help draft the government’s response to the petitioner’s opposition brief. I researched certain other issues relating to cases being handled by my supervising attorney and drafted multiple letters and memos regarding those issues. As part of my research, I was able to familiarize myself with New York’s Creditor and Debtor law and with the federal statutes governing criminal forfeiture.

Both of my supervising attorneys were genuinely interested in making sure I learn and develop from the internship and contributed significantly to my experience. Interns have brown bag lunches each week with speakers from the office’s various departments and have the unique opportunity to visit the Metropolitan Detention Center – a Federal pre-trial detention center in Brooklyn.

Frank Valdinoto
Internal Revenue Service Office of Chief Counsel (Small Business-Self Employed Division)
My internship at the Internal Revenue Service Office of Chief Counsel (Small Business-Self Employed Division) was an experience that enabled me to enhance my research and analytical abilities. When dealing with fairly complex tax work, it is important to ask questions and learn from those attorneys who have experience in this area of law. The IRS attorneys working alongside me were always willing to provide valuable advice and guidance that helped me complete my tasks. I learned the importance of closely examining all of the legal issues of a case before beginning to write memoranda or file motions. My internship gave me the opportunity to work in a real legal environment and to work on assignments that I may very well encounter when I begin my legal career.

My IRS internship also introduced me to an area of law that is very complex, yet very rewarding. Helping other attorneys work with taxpayers to reach resolutions provided me with insight into the process of justice. It is important to uphold the Internal Revenue Code and also to make sure that the outcome of the case is fair to the taxpayer. I have also learned that tax law is a vast legal area that touches so many areas of life. This internship has certainly strengthened my interest in tax law. Furthermore, my exposure to Tax Court and the pretrial process has sparked my interest in litigation. Ultimately I truly enjoyed and learned from my experience with the Internal Revenue Service this summer and would recommend this internship to anyone interested in learning about tax law.

Andrew Weg
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, International Trade Field Office
This summer I interned with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, International Trade Field Office. This office was a satellite office to an office in D.C. During the summer I had the opportunity to see many different aspects of litigation. I sat in on Depositions, heard oral arguments and trials, and spent much of my time on trial preparation. Because of this great internship, I got the opportunity to work with very talented lawyers who were always willing to help me when I had questions and train me in various litigation areas. I am very grateful for the Public Service Stipend because it allowed me to pick an internship based on opportunity and value to furthering my career without having to worry about the pressures of financing it. Thank you.
**Michael Weinstein**  
**U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Miami Immigration Court**  
Working in an administrative law court is a unique experience, especially from the immigration context. As a 1L, I did not encounter any administrative or immigration law in my courses. Therefore, when I arrived for work, it was a whole new world to me. The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is the branch of the Department of Justice (DOJ) which handles immigration. EOIR is limited to the administrative and judicial aspects of US immigration. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) represents the government in removal proceedings. As an intern clerking for the court, I was responsible for writing memoranda on novel legal issues, and writing the decisions and orders of the court. My professors at Cardozo have always told me to write the same way judges do. Working for the Miami Immigration Court allowed me to put that advice into practice. Since my job also involved looking through opposing counsels’ briefs, I learned what works best when trying to present an argument to a judge. Further, attending proceedings also gave me ample opportunity to observe both good and bad lawyering. From both, I have learned the skills needed to be an effective advocate.

As evidenced by the recent Supreme Court of the United States decision in *U.S. v. Arizona*, immigration law is at the forefront of a changing legal climate. My internship allowed me to see one aspect of immigration, the removal proceeding. In dealing with removal proceedings, I developed a strong grasp of the Immigration and Nationality Act and how to interpret it along with federal regulations. This experience with statutory interpretation has forced me to think about the law in ways that I have yet to experience in the classroom. Understanding what happens in removal proceedings has made me realize just how great of a country the United States is. Everyone in these proceedings is looking to remain in the United States because of the prospects available to them here. Today, more than ever, I appreciate the opportunities I have as an American and the duty all attorneys should take upon themselves to uphold and defend our liberty and Constitution. Our American system was specifically designed for the participation of its citizens in developing and enacting its laws. Leaving this work to others is a disservice not only to oneself, but those aliens I witnessed everyday who fought to keep their dreams of a better life in the United States, alive. It has been an honor to serve my country this summer and I look forward to continue to do so in the coming years.

**Jacob Weisfeld**  
**Department of Homeland Security ICE/OPLA Office of the Chief Counsel**  
DHS/OPLA is a great place to get hands-on experience researching and writing in preparation for cases. Rising 3Ls and later will also be allowed to litigate cases personally in court. The office is a great place to learn more about federal law enforcement, learn about the administrative structure of the federal government, and learn how different executive agencies cooperate.

DHS/OPLA is a great place to work for anyone interested in immigration, national security, smuggling, human trafficking, and human rights in general. The nature of the work will predicate learning a great deal about a wide variety of foreign countries and their law, which is always fascinating.
INTERNSHIPS WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sarah Amin
New York State Department of Labor
I worked with four other interns at the New York State Department of Labor. Because the NYSDOL deals with a wide range of issues, I was able to work on many different projects. Particularly, I worked on deduction law, U-Visa certification research, wage and hour law, and proper notice and service. There was always work to be done, and therefore the interns were exposed to many different aspects of labor and employment law. It was a good insight not only to the world of labor and employment law, but how government agencies work. At the end of the summer, the interns presented their research on a particular topic to various NYSDOL attorneys.

Daisy Beatty
Office of the District Attorney, Kings County - Sex Crimes
I loved my summer intern experience at the Kings County Office of the District Attorney. I sharpened my legal writing and research skills and gained a valuable peek into the life of an Assistant District Attorney. I really liked my criminal law classes at Cardozo so it was particularly exciting to see the criminal process
in action. I can’t speak highly enough for the ADAs I worked with, they were generous with their time and constructive with their feedback and I enjoyed my summer very much.

**Gillian Bland**  
**Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Law Department, Transactional Division**  
The Law Department at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is an instrumental piece to a dynamic puzzle. When most New Yorkers think of the Port Authority, the bus terminal on 42nd street is all that comes to mind; however, the bus terminal is one minor facet of an agency that functions on a 7 billion dollar annual budget. Based on the breadth of the organization, the law department is a critical division that is separated into two main practice areas: litigation and transactional.

Port Authority legal interns are assigned a “floor” and either work primarily on litigation assignments or transactional. I was assigned the transactional floor and drafted legal documents relating to construction contracts, employment and labor relations and tax law. The most exciting project that I completed was assisting with the research and drafting of a complex construction contract for One World Trade center. Because of the instrumental role that I had in drafting the document, I was invited to attend and participate in negotiations with our adversaries.

**Rebecca Blatt**  
**Office of the Manhattan Borough President**  
My overall experience at the Office of the Manhattan Borough President was a great one. I enjoyed working for the City government and being in a municipal office. The office environment was wonderful, and it was great to be surrounded by a network of people all serving the public, and eager to make good public policy. I was able to explore a wide variety of issues that city constituents face, and confront them from a position where I could help them and even influence policy. I gained a lot of insight into the public policy process and learned how a government office runs, with the added benefit of garnering practical legal skills. I worked on a lot of memos and briefs which allowed me to expand my research skills and improve my writing. I got a lot of helpful feedback from my supervisor who was awesome! Jimmy made my summer productive as well as fun. He gave me great work to do, and kept in mind my interests as well as my eagerness to be involved in the happenings of the office as much as I could. I felt like I was actively contributing to the office and at the same time learning a wealth of knowledge, insight and information. I had a great experience.

**Daniel Brill**  
**New York State Attorney General's Office, Litigation Bureau**  
I thoroughly enjoyed working at the AG's office. During my summer, I was exposed to a wide variety of legal issues. I worked on employment discrimination matters, an eminent domain case, a constitutional challenge to a New York educational law, and a § 1983 civil rights action. My responsibilities included writing memos, drafting a motion to dismiss, and accompanying lawyers to court to hear them argue motions.

I strongly recommend working at the AG's office if you are interested in litigation. You will be given many opportunities to work on interesting cases, and have lots of responsibility placed on you. The lawyers at the AG's office are brilliant, and the legal recruitment office puts on a number of good speakers and events.

**Jay Brody**  
**New York State Department of Financial Services, Financial Frauds and Consumer Protection Division (FFCPD)**  
Over the ten weeks of my summer internship I had the opportunity to advance my legal skills through a range of interesting assignments. This included research and drafting of memoranda on legal and
regulatory issues concerning both federal and state laws. The research and writing also covered a host of abusive practices reported by consumer advocacy groups to be widespread throughout New York State. In this light, I also worked to formulate a draft of state regulations for issues relating to my research. Lastly, in another major project I was fortunate to have the opportunity to learn the art of drafting subpoenas which is crucial to financial investigations of any type.

The internship also afforded me the chance to interact first hand with practicing attorneys and benefit from their mentorship. This first-hand experience proved to be invaluable in further developing my legal and writing skills throughout the summer. I would recommend this opportunity to any law student looking for experience in the field of financial frauds and consumer protection.

Thomas Chew  
New York Attorney General’s Office: Labor Bureau  
The Labor Bureau is part of the Social Division at the NY Attorney General’s Office. There is a significant level of contact with indigent New Yorkers seeking assistance from the Bureau as well as proactive legal enforcement taken by the Assistant Attorney Generals. I worked directly with several of the attorneys; this direct interaction led to a good deal of research and memo writing. I also helped analyze discovery documents, draft letters and subpoenas. The best part of the summer were the days I had intake. I fielded phone-calls from New Yorkers here in Brooklyn all the way to Albany. Most callers were employees, but there were a few employers as well.  

I also worked with the Civil Rights Bureau. I took the opportunity to assist with their discrimination-testing program. I wore a hidden microphone and attempted to rent apartments in different areas of the city. This was quite fun and not at all what I was expecting on my first day. Overall it was a positive experience and if you are an intern, you will leave the bureau with a good grounding in the Labor Law or at least the FLSA’s guidelines regulating wage employees and the special powers enjoyed by the Attorney General’s Office.

SukMon Chu  
NYC Administration for Children’s Services  
The internship at ACS in Brooklyn is an amazing learning experience. You get assigned tasks such as case law research, memorandum writing, and motion writing, which allows you to hone the skills you acquired from Legal Writing, but you also get to go before the court and develop litigation skills. Coming into the internship, I had no plans on pursuing a career in litigation; however, I now cannot imagine doing anything else. Your supervisors nurture your budding legal career by assigning challenging projects. My favorite experience was writing direct examination questions, and getting the opportunity to actually question the witness during a trial.

While this internship is a great opportunity to determine if you would like to pursue a career in the public sector (as ACS is a government agency), it is also an opportunity to explore a career in family law, or even more generally, in litigation. You also get the chance to expand your networks. Not only are there many attorneys at ACS (some of whom are Cardozo alums) who are willing to help you out with course selection, career advice, and law school advice, but given the constant interactions with judges, private attorneys who represent parents and children, as well as public interest organizations, such as Legal Aid Society and the Children’s Law Center, it would not be surprising if you can find future opportunities with these individuals and organizations as well.

Marco Conner  
New York City Office of Emergency Management, Legal Department  
My experience interning at the legal department of NYC’s office of Emergency Management was highly positive. The supervision was excellent and I was very impressed by the knowledge, care and detail with
which the legal department performed their work. My supervisor and the other agency attorneys seemed to place significant responsibility with me and trusted in my abilities to complete the different tasks. My daily work consisted of a number of different ongoing tasks, mainly document redactions for public requests through FOIL (New York's Freedom of Information Law), writing legal memos on recent court decisions and other events that could affect the work of OEM, drafting legal letter templates, and updating the legal department's contracts database.

OEM takes very good care of their interns, in part by arranging several events and trips, and also taps into the larger city-wide events for NYC interns. I was allowed to do a variety of tasks, most of them specifically "legal" in nature. The team of attorneys including the Deputy Commissioner of Legal Affairs was very dedicated to ensuring I was given meaningful work, and as such I did only very little clerical or repetitive work. What I found most helpful from the internship was gaining insight into how the different New York City agencies work together, and how they work with community partners ranging from a long list of non-profit organizations, private sector companies, and volunteer individuals. I would recommend the internship to anyone generally interested in how the different NYC agencies work, the coordination between local, state and federal agencies, and in particular anyone specifically interested in emergency/disaster management, government homeland security and related fields.

Allison Cook  
Office of the New York Attorney General - Investor Protection Bureau  
This summer I worked at the New York State Office of the Attorney General in the Investor Protection Bureau. I was staffed on a specific Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS) investigation and worked consistently with several AAGs, the Deputy Bureau Chief and the Deputy AG. Specifically, I read and analyzed depositions taken by the AG or the SEC and digested them into a categorically organized summary. I read complaints filed by other parties in actions similar to the one the AG intends to file and created a matrix which tracked evidence relevant to our cause. I conducted document review on production of emails and other work papers to identify “hot docs”. Additionally, I wrote a memo which painted a picture of an employee witness based on the document review I conducted. Finally, I was second chair to a deposition so was able to assist in the flow of the questioning (by organizing and producing multiple Exhibits). The people I worked with were wonderful, supportive, and provided great feedback. I had a great experience, gained deeper knowledge of a specific sector of financial services, and feel like I have a new team of resources I can turn to with questions or when I need advice moving forward in my legal career.

Benjamin Cooper  
New York State Office of the Attorney General  
The New York State Office of the Attorney General – Investor Protection Bureau is a wonderful place to work. The attorneys and staff are friendly, dedicated, and intelligent. They really take the time to ensure that you’re not only understanding the narrow issues relevant to the task at hand but also grasping the big picture. They offer a series of brown-bag lunches with different speakers from the Office to tell you about their work and any advice that they have for law students. The work itself varies considerably based on the case that you are involved in and the attorneys that you are working with. You might get to go to court, attend depositions, and write sprawling research memos; you also might do nothing but document review for two months. It really depends. However, even if it is just document review, the attorneys imbue a real sense of purpose to what you are doing. That is, because of statewide budget cuts, the office, while the size of a large international firm, is chronically understaffed and truly benefits from your work. All in all, I’m happy with my experience.
Shane Correia (Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)
New York City Department of Probation; General Counsel's Office
The New York City Department of Probation General Counsel’s Office is staffed by skilled, passionate, and kind people. In addition to learning more about our criminal justice system, procedural law, and policy implementation concerns, I had an opportunity to interact on a personal level with individuals who I hope to keep in my life following law school. I learned that the relationships we forge in our professional lives do not need to be built on the posturing forced on us in law school, but can instead develop from a genuinely shared interest among competent and secure people. I felt as a member of a team throughout my internship, and I was lucky to receive excellent direction that will assist me as I grow into my professional life.

Lindsey Datte
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, General Counsel's Office
My summer interning with the General Counsel’s office of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation was a fantastic learning experience and I would recommend it to anyone interested in learning a great deal over the summer. The attorneys made sure that I was assigned real projects (as opposed to “busy work”) and were there every step of the way if I needed any help or questions answered. My responsibilities ranged from writing special event contracts to going to on-site visits for future parks. Great experience!

Sarande Dedushi
The New York State Attorney General's Office, Litigation Bureau
Working at the New York State Attorney General's Office, in the Litigation Bureau, this summer was a rewarding experience. The Litigation Bureau represents the State, its agencies and its officers in state and federal courts. The actions involve different areas of law, which makes the experience both challenging and interesting.

Aside from conducting research and writing internal legal memorandums regarding litigation in both federal and state court, one of my major assignments was drafting an affidavit, including legal points concerning collateral estoppel and res judicata issues, in opposition to a petition in an Article 78 proceeding before the Appellate Division, Second Department seeking to compel the Supreme Court, Nassau County to continue an action and proceed to trial. I also had the opportunity to accompany attorneys in deposition proceedings, court appearances, and trials. For instance, I participated in numerous discussions with clients and attorneys in developing arguments and trial strategies, and I observed court conferences and arguments on motions for a civil rights trial in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. I have gained valuable insight on civil litigation at the New York State Attorney General's Office this summer. The internship program was well organized, and the staff was extremely helpful.

Kyle Epstein
Westchester District Attorney's Office, Rye Branch
My work this summer at the Westchester County District Attorney's Office in New York was an amazing experience, not only because it gave me an opportunity to see how criminal prosecutors perform their duties at the most local level, but also because I had the opportunity to try a criminal matter. Under a student practice order, I was able to perform all of the prosecutor's duties at trial, which included opening statement, direct and cross examination of witnesses, entering evidence, objecting to defense counsel, and closing statements. This opportunity was incredible because it helped me to reaffirm my desire to be a criminal prosecutor, but it also allowed me to experience a true trial.

Besides this amazing opportunity, I was also able to work on a variety of motions that were submitted to the court, and was able to have my name placed in a footnote of these motions. Additionally, the office
set up meetings where the heads of various departments at the office, including Special Prosecutions, Motions and Appeals, and Domestic Violence. These department heads provided valuable insight into their respective areas, and provided an interesting perspective on these areas. My work this summer at the Westchester District Attorney's Office was incredibly valuable, and fun, and I hope to have an opportunity to work with the office as an actual Assistant District Attorney in the future.

**Zachary Feinberg**  
**NYS Attorney General’s Office, Litigation Bureau**

During my summer with the Litigation Bureau, I was assigned to section J with one other intern. Our section handled cases that were brought by inmates alleging, for the most part, constitutional or ADA/Rehab Act violations. There were seven attorneys in our section and during my time at the AG’s office, I worked on projects with all of them. I was allowed to go to an upstate prison to attend a videotaped deposition that was going to be used as testimony, at trial. I was also able to attend a trial, from beginning to end, that another section’s attorney served as council on.

The AG’s office is a great experience for a 1L summer. There is plenty to do in a variety of areas. The AG’s office also conducts a Brown Bag Lunch Series in which attorneys from other bureaus talk about what they are currently working on. Those are a great way to cast a wider net during a summer internship. Overall, I was very happy with my summer experience and would recommend an internship with the AG’s office to any 1L.

**Taylor Gamble**  
**Office of the District Attorney, Kings County, Public Assistance Crimes Unit**

This summer I had the pleasure of serving as an intern in the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office. I have had a strong interest in criminal law for a long time and I was very excited for this opportunity to experience first hand what the job was like day to day for a prosecutor. This internship was very rewarding and exceeded my high expectations. The incredible group of assistant district attorneys in the Public Assistance Crimes Unit were very supportive and I was honored to be trusted with so many important tasks in the office. It was an excellent learning experience and helped to confirm that I am headed down a fulfilling path.

The Brooklyn DA’s Office, in particular, is host to a number of innovative programs and services intended to reduce criminal recidivism and make Brooklyn a safer place. There are several alternative to prison programs intended to educate defendants rather than simply punish them. It is a realistic approach that has successfully decreased criminal activity in many areas of Brooklyn. The office also has many services available to crime victims, such access to social workers and legal services for victims of domestic violence. I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to learn about and learn from the many individuals working in this office.

**Benjamin Gellis**  
**The Office of the New York State Attorney General – Litigation Bureau**

Interning at the Office of the New York State Attorney General was a great experience. I had the opportunity to work on substantive legal issues that will impact the lives of all New Yorkers. I felt as if I was given much greater responsibilities during the internship than I would have had in the private sector, including challenging assignments that I never thought a rising 2L would be given. My highlight of the summer was when I was asked to draft a letter that was later submitted to the Court of Appeals on behalf of the State. I would highly recommend this internship to other Cardozo students.
Shayna Glickfield  
Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office, Felony Division  
Working for the government is a very different feeling than working for a private entity. For one, when working on the prosecution side, I always got the feeling that I was working for what was right. My first day at the office, my original supervisor told me something along the lines of “defense attorneys work to get their clients freed, prosecution works to see that justice is served.” Which sometimes would mean not bringing charges to a case or dismissing the case, because that was the just thing. The other, slightly less enjoyable, part of working for the government is seeing just how bureaucratic an office of this size can be. My first Monday of work, was the last Monday of the original attorney I was assigned to work for. While she had given her notice over a month before, no one had gotten around to telling the internship coordinator. This is just one example of how news traveled around the office, I learned not to take it seriously, which can only be a positive skill to acquire.

The experience and knowledge I gained while working for the State Attorney’s office is unrivaled by any other job I have ever had. I woke up every day excited to go to work, to watch the daily calendar be called- sometimes just to see what insanity may happen in the courtroom- and eager to watch trials, help with research. I have never had such a feeling that I was doing the right thing with my time then when I was at work, because I could see how my efforts would fit into the bigger picture of what was happening in a case, how sometimes offering just a kind word to a victim could turn their day around, or the satisfaction I would get at seeing a case from the beginning through to its conclusion. I learned how to make proper objections in a trial, how to file motions, how to behave in a courtroom, and a lot about the jobs of the other employees who made the courtroom run. I thoroughly enjoyed my internship at the State Attorney’s Office and would recommend it to anyone else who may be interested not just in criminal law but in being any kind of litigating attorney.

Jennifer Goltche  
Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, Crimes Against Children Bureau  
This past summer I was a legal intern for the Kings County District Attorney’s Office within the Crimes Against Children Bureau. The Bureau investigates and prosecutes crimes involving child cruelty, neglect, physical and sexual abuse. The office also works closely with the Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center, the Administration for Children’s Services, the New York Police Department and Victim Services. The internship was very hands on and each legal intern was assigned their own misdemeanor case to prosecute. The process involved bringing in police officers, witnesses and victims and drafting supporting depositions in order to convert the cases into non-hearsay complaints. I prepared discovery by stipulation to turn over to defense counsel and was also able to stand up in court on the record. I conducted legal research pertaining to false confessions, drafted subpoenas and responded to motions filed in the court.

One of my main projects over the course of the summer was listening to phone calls from a Rikers Island inmate to determine if any inculpatory statements were made while the defendant was incarcerated. The calls were part of a larger homicide case that went to trial during the summer which I was able to attend. The interns were always encouraged to go to court dates and attend trials to understand trial techniques and the judicial process first hand. The Brooklyn DA’s Office encourages and offers many types of rehabilitative services to defendants and actively seeks to improve the overall welfare of the borough. I would enthusiastically recommend the job to anybody interested in criminal law and prosecution.

Brachah Goykadosh  
New York City Police Department, Deputy Commissioner Trial’s Department  
Working at NYPD, particularly Police Plaza, was fascinating; particularly because of the media attention the Department has been receiving. We glimpsed into a sequestered universe. We had the opportunity to attend trials, conferences, and mitigations, and, as future lawyers, it was exciting to watch the law come alive and observe the behavior of the litigators. Additionally, the cases were usually quite juicy, much
human drama unfolded. The Commissioner would meet with us on a weekly basis and share lawyering tips and his experience as a district attorney and former criminal court judge. These talks provided practical insight into the legal profession. I am grateful for this peek. We went on trips to the Police Museum went on ride-alongs in police cars, and had the opportunity to shadow attorneys at the Department Advocate’s Office. The environment was hospitable and the staff was friendly and welcoming. The majority of our intern work consisted of writing summaries of evidence based on the trial records. This was an intriguing introduction to evidence, testimony, and the limits and ramifications of witness memory.

**Alexandra Gutman**  
**NYC Administration for Children’s Services**  
My overall experience at the Administration for Children’s Services was wonderful. My work was challenging and rewarding, and I feel as though it has better prepared me for my legal career. The best part about my summer however, was the people. My mentors and supervisors were understanding of my limited experience due to my age, however encouraged me to take on new tasks such as writing summary judgment motions and appearing on the record.

This summer I really had the opportunity to think on my feet. Cases would come in last minute that had to be filed immediately. Although at times it could be stressful, my experience was never boring and I enjoyed going into work every day. I highly recommend this internship to anyone interested in family law, or anyone who is not sure what they want to do but wants to gain experience in a new field.

**Kodey Haddox**  
**Muskingum County Prosecutor’s Office**  
Working in the Muskingum County Prosecutor’s Office was a very rewarding experience. Not only was I given an in-depth look into the life of a small-town prosecutor, I was able to work in a variety of fields—from civil litigation involving unpaid lodging taxes, to child abuse, to aggravated murder. None of this would have been possible without Cardozo’s Public Stipend.

**David A. Hamid**  
**New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Securities**  
I am very pleased with my overall experience at my summer internship with the Bureau of Securities. The attorneys and investigators with whom I worked were all appreciative of the work that the interns performed, and were always willing to help out, clarify, and review assignments with you as needed. The Bureau is also a good environment for anyone interested in securities regulation generally: its smaller size exposes interns to all of the Bureau’s units (Enforcement, Registration, Examination, etc.), providing a well-rounded and hands-on internship experience, and interns are encouraged to take on projects that interest them or are more relevant to their professional ambitions.

**Amanda Hamilton**  
**NYPD Legal Bureau, Civil Section**  
My summer internship in the Civil Section of the NYPD’s Legal Bureau was an ideal learning experience. I worked with several attorneys on a wide range of legal issues, including Freedom of Information Law litigation, employment discrimination claims, contracts, and internal advisement requests. In addition to the work accomplished in the office, I attended training sessions with uniformed officers, several hearings in both administrative and state courts, and police details throughout New York City. Overall, I left the internship with appreciation and respect for the work of the Legal Bureau and the New York City Police Department as a whole.
Sara Hindin
Brooklyn DA -- Domestic Violence Bureau
This summer I worked in the Domestic Violence Bureau of the Kings County District Attorney's Office. I was given an unparalleled opportunity to learn from talented ADA's who taught me the necessary skills to be an effective prosecutor, while at the same time developing the sensitivities required for a career in criminal law. From interviewing victims of domestic violence, to the excellent feedback from my assigned ADA, I was given an array of opportunities to truly see how the KCDA office operates and was given greater insight into the complexities of the criminal justice system. This opportunity has solidified my desire to work in the public sector and pursue a career in criminal law.

Bryan Joggerst (Funded with the generous support of the Heyman Center on Corporate Governance)
New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel. I was able to get my hands on real cases, discuss complicated issues with my managing attorneys, and attend interesting public hearings. I improved my writing, research and communication skills while sharpening my legal mind.

Evan Kass
Taxi and Limo Commission, Prosecution
My summer internship at the Taxi and Limousine Commission was a great experience. Not only was it fun but I learned valuable legal skills that I’m not sure I would have had the opportunity to learn elsewhere. As a result of the high volume of cases that pass through this office, there is always work to do and the Interns are given the same responsibility as the staff attorneys. We get a calendar of consumer cases for the week that can range anywhere from 10-20 per week, as well as handling the administrative summons which are based largely off of business records and hard data. You have sole responsibility for preparing and trying the cases assigned. Learning how to handle Respondents who have their actual livelihood on the line in these cases was so valuable, and I’m sure it will carry over to dealing with people in similarly unfortunate situations in the future.

All of the interns also do a rotation at the Long Island City office which deals solely with administrative summons and appeals. On an average day, I was writing 5-10 appeals to be considered by the Appellate Division. Overall, I loved the experience and I wouldn’t have done it any different.

Scott Kestenbaum
Nassau County District Attorney’s Office, District Court
My experience at the Nassau District Attorney’s Office provided an authentic, hands-on approach to viewing the American legal system. I learned the steps by which an individual is arrested at a crime scene, formally arraigned, given future court dates, and later assisted by an attorney, whether during plea-bargain or trial. This experience illustrated the role that lawyers play in providing justice; defendants, witnesses, and victims each look to attorneys for explanations and guidance. I learned that money plays a significant role in providing access to justice.

Although I was aware that poverty exists on Long Island, I was particularly surprised by the large number of people who could not afford an attorney. I was even more shocked by the number of people who did not comprehend the meaning of the crimes they were charged with, and the details surrounding their cases. While some judges took the time to explain some of these charges, others did not. Additionally, the Legal Aid Society attorneys, often assigned when an individual could not afford a private attorney, always seemed overworked due to the myriad of cases that they were required to handle each day. In contrast, the private attorneys would each come in to assist and devote all of their time and effort to each individual client’s needs. The judges seem to give the private attorneys better treatment, and the District Attorneys seemed more willing to plea bargain with the private attorneys. Without a comprehensive understanding of the legal issues involved in each individual case, I am not sure how an individual could properly correct certain actions that led to the arrest in the first place. A lesson that I have taken from my
summer experience is that there is definitely a gap between the average American and a reasonable understanding of what constitutes the crimes that they have been accused of. I believe it is attorney’s responsibility to try to minimize this gap in order for justice to be adequately served.

This experience provided me with invaluable oratory and writing skills. Because I was given the opportunity to request warrants, make bail applications, and arraign misdemeanor and felony cases on the record, the learned to quickly shake the jitters of being in front of judge, and learn how to act professionally as a litigator. In regards to improving my writing skills, I had the opportunity to write a motion in response to a motion to suppress and motion to dismiss. I also maintained the calendar during arraignments and cases in the different district parts, which helped me to learn the short hand used in court. Finally, I was able to gain exposure to felony cases. In my position as intern for one of the Deputy Bureau Chiefs in the office, I briefed those cases that were reduced from felony to misdemeanor charges so that the various assistant district attorneys would be able to make a more informed decision on a case they may have received the day before it was on in court.

The internship exceeded my expectations. While it started off slow, as time went by and the attorneys trusted me with more difficult and important tasks, I was able to for the first time physically apply the knowledge I acquired throughout my first year of law school. Such hands-on experience makes this internship one I would recommend to any future first-year law students.

Beverly Kramer
Administration for Children’s Services, Family Court Legal Services, Bronx Family Court
ACS is a great office to work at. Their goal is to prepare interns to work there full time, and to that extent, they attempt to give the interns their own caseload, as well as provide as much on the record litigation experience as possible. I was treated as if I was a new attorney in the office and handled my cases just as the new attorneys handled theirs. I learned a lot about Article 10 practice, as well as about the particular challenges involved in representing government agencies. Working here for the summer strengthened my commitment to child welfare work, and I hope to continue working here during the upcoming semester and even full time post-graduation.

David Kusnetz
Westchester District Attorney’s Office – Superior Court Trial Division
Working at the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office is a fantastic 1L summer experience for those interested in government service and/or litigation. Within the DA’s office, I was placed in the Superior Court Trial Division, which only dealt with major cases and homicides. The most significant assignment I received was to second-seat a felony second degree assault trial. The defendant was accused of seriously injuring a police officer during the course of a narcotics arrest. My responsibilities included investigating the scene of the crime to take pictures for the trial and conducting legal research on the myriad of issues that arose during trial. Second-seating a trial gave me an inside view of conducting a criminal trial, burnished my litigation experience, and allowed me to make an actual impact on society. The Westchester DA’s office is easily accessible from NYC (no car necessary) and the reverse-commute on Metro-North is actually far less stressful than trying to navigate crowded subways and buses.

Lauren MacArthur
Norfolk County District Attorney’s Office, Quincy District Court (Massachusetts)
This summer I worked in the District Attorney’s Office at a Massachusetts district court. I was certified to appear on behalf of the Commonwealth and essentially had the duties and responsibilities of an Assistant District Attorney. I represented the Commonwealth on plea bargains, bail issues, motions to dismiss and suppress, and even at trial. I interacted with pro se defendants, police officers, and defense attorneys. This was an unbelievable experience – I was in front of a judge every day, gaining courtroom
experience that many attorneys who have been practicing for years do not have. I would highly recommend

**Lucy Martucci**  
**New York State Attorney General, Brooklyn Regional Office**  
The Brooklyn Regional Office of the New York State Attorney General's Office is an excellent place to work as a law student. There are only two attorneys and two or three law student interns so you get a lot of time with the attorneys, close supervision, and a lot of feedback. The attorneys try to treat the intern program as a junior associate program and spend a lot of time with the interns. The work is varied and interesting. You are constantly handling the mediation of consumer complaints which raise a variety of issues and put you in touch with many different consumers and many different business owners from different industries. You will learn a lot about general business law and executive law. You will be expected to look for patterns in the consumer complaints you are handling. This is where the attorneys find their affirmative litigation cases. Once there is evidence that a business has engaged in a pattern of deceptive business practices, the AG has very broad subpoena and enforcement power. The litigation is exciting and feels important because you are vindicating consumers that you have interviewed and written affidavits for; you know how much money they lost or how poorly they were treated. Some of the legal issues are repetitive in terms of executive law and general business law, however, depending on what type of business the target is engaged in, any variety of federal, state, or city law may apply. This creates a unique and interesting opportunity for writing samples and research assignments.

**Alyson Maugeri**  
**New Jersey Transit**  
This summer, I worked at New Jersey Transit’s Headquarters in the Labor Relations Department. Under the guidance of my supervising attorney, I was fully integrated into the Department. As part of my internship I researched and prepared memoranda on several issues such as seniority preference for jobs, FMLA leave of absence requests, and stealing money from the Carrier. I also reviewed contracts and provided information to railway personnel on issues pertaining to on-site grievances. Frequently, I negotiated settlements for aggrieved employees with ten unions. A majority of my time consisted of writing answers on behalf of the Managers and Director (highest Carrier official) and arguing cases at monthly arbitrations. Overall, I had a wonderful working experience. Thank you donors!

**Sarah McKenzie**  
**Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, Homicide Unit**  
At the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, I learned that I want to be involved in public service. Helping to bring justice to the city’s most vulnerable residents is a job I would be excited to get up for each day. I had such a positive experience at the Prosecutor’s Office that it did not seem like I was going to work at all. I was able to observe every aspect of a criminal trial- from jury selection to sentencing. After taking criminal procedure and evidence, I was able to use the skills I learned in those courses throughout the summer. I highly recommend an internship at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

**Eduardo Meza**  
**New York City Department of Investigations Squad 1 (Uniformed Personnel)**  
Working for the New York City Department of Investigations was a unique experience in that I was able to get a first-hand look at the investigative side of criminal law. Though I did not do as much legal research and writing as I expected, I did find myself interviewing a lot of suspects and going out “on the field.” Most of the research that I conducted involved creating profiles for suspects and finding possible charges to submit to the Assistant District Attorney. The staff at NYC DOI was really friendly and they made sure to take us out “on the field” as much as possible. Also, we went on many field trips, such as Riker’s Island and the New York Environmental Police Headquarters. Though there was some down time where I found myself with very little to do, my overall experience was a positive one.
Jessica Morak  *(Funded with the generous support of the David Berg Foundation)*  
**Kings County District Attorney’s Office, Domestic Violence Bureau**

Working at the Kings County District Attorney’s Office in the Domestic Violence Unit was an incredible experience. Working directly with the victims of domestic violence was not anything like I imagined it would be. My internship showed me first hand that each case must be evaluated on an individual basis, as victims and offenders do not always act like they do in the movies. Additionally, not every person sitting in front of you crying is telling you the truth. In fact, many of them aren’t. The skilled and dedicated ADA’s at the DV Bureau work tirelessly to include the interns in the program, teaching them to be able to tackle assignments that any first-year ADA would be assigned. The internship provided me with ample opportunity to observe and engage in courtroom procedure. Additionally, since each intern is assigned to at least one, if not more ADA’s, individual feedback on writing assignments is readily available. I would highly recommend an internship at the KCDA, specifically in the DV Bureau to any individual wishing to gain a hands on experience with the law and criminal justice system.

Paige Munson  
**New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Office of Legal Affairs**

I had the pleasure of spending my summer after 1L year as a legal intern at New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. The experience reaffirmed my interest in healthcare law. I was able to learn a tremendous amount of information regarding public health law, mental hygiene law, etc. I researched many issues and drafted memoranda, always receiving feedback on all of my assignments. I also had the opportunity to tour the hospital facilities, attend meetings with medical staff, conferences with the board of directors, and sit in on 50-h hearings and court conferences. All of the lawyers always took the time to explain to us what they were working on and to teach us about various issues. I would definitely recommend this internship to anyone with an interest in healthcare law.

Devin W. Ness  
**New York City Council, Legislative Intern, Infrastructure Division**

My summer as a legislative intern in the infrastructure division of the New York City Council provided me the opportunity to do meaningful, substantive work researching complex legal issues, writing legal memoranda, and drafting legislation. On top of that, I sat in on appellate arguments in the Eastern District, met with judges presiding over civil and criminal courts in Brooklyn and Manhattan, took a tour of Rikers Island, and heard high-ranking city officials speak about their roles within city government and the legal issues they their departments regularly face. As a result, I now have a better understanding of the complexity of the legislative process and the legal issues the city government faces on a daily basis.

Christina Ng  
**New York City Police Department; Deputy Commissioner Trials**

As an intern within the Deputy Commissioner Trials ("DCT") division, my fellow interns and I worked under the direct supervision of the division’s four commissioners, who preside in the final trial stage before a decision is made regarding an officer’s case and sent to Police Commissioner Ray Kelly for approval. Within DCT, interns were able to observe not only the entire trial process, but were given the opportunity to shadow Department attorneys and participate in the process of drafting complaints and charges against truant police officers. Working at the NYPD was both enjoyable and educational because I was able to see what I had been learning in class put into action. This internship was a great opportunity for anybody interested in entering the field of criminal law especially because it gives students the chance to observe so many aspects of the legal field at once, including but not limited to administrative law, criminal law, criminal procedure, and the law of evidence.
Matthew Paluch  
NYPD Office of Deputy Commissioner - Trials  

My summer internship at the New York City Police Department was a meaningful and enriching learning experience. I interned at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Trials, who oversees and adjudicates disciplinary matters within the Police Department. My primary duties consisted of reviewing and summarizing trial transcripts, organizing evidence, and composing memoranda for review by the Police Commissioner. I observed case conferences, where officers charged with crime or misconduct would appear before the Deputy Commissioner to make pleas, determine trials dates, or address other administrative matters. This exposed me to the many cases and issues that came before the Department, and I learned how various types of cases are disposed of. If an officer were found guilty of a crime in the criminal system, this would be *prima facie* evidence of his guilt within the Department, thereby rendering an administrative trial unnecessary.

I would also observe disciplinary trials, which are conducted much like trials in criminal court. The material differences between Department trials and criminal trials are that in the Department, hearsay is allowed as evidence and officers are found guilty of misconduct by preponderance of the evidence, rather than beyond a reasonable doubt. Often, I would discuss these cases with the Deputy Commissioners after, and get his/her insight on the strength or weakness of counsels’ arguments, strategy, and organization. Sometimes, the Deputy Commissioners would solicit my opinion on certain aspects of a case, and we would have a discussion on what appropriate punishment, if any, would be.

Elyse Patterson  
New York State Division of Human Rights  

Client conferences, legal memoranda, negotiating settlements, drafting determinations: working at the Division of Human Rights provided an intense, enriching dive into the legal realm. Even more than that, however, interning at the Division taught me the importance of skills learned outside of the classroom:…..

In an increasingly globalizing world, a commitment to diversity ensures greater understanding, thus providing fresher innovation and greater contribution from a workforce. In no setting is the sentiment more apparent than in the sphere of employment. At DHR, where I addressed claims of discrimination in employment, an intern can contribute to the betterment of New York State, by protecting and enforcing New York’s progressive Human Rights Law.

I recommend an internship with the Division of Human Rights to any law student who seeks to combine a technical understanding of the law with a fast-paced education in with while a group of attorneys who sincerely care about your progress.

Nathaniel Peckham  
NYC Civil Service Commission  

While working at the New York City Civil Service Commission, I was exposed to constantly intriguing projects and gained significant experience in working with employment law and civil service law. I had the opportunity to attend Commission hearings (often regarding cases that I had previously analyzed in the office), and be an active part of the Commission’s decision-making about these cases. Over all, I gained invaluable experience and guidance in research, writing, and communication skills, and learned an incredible amount during my time at the Commission. I would highly recommend this internship to anyone, even those without an initial interest in employment law, as the overall experience for me was far beyond anything that I expected.
Loraine Peone  
NYC Human Resource Administration Office of Legal Affairs  
My internship at the Human Resource Administration Office of Legal Affairs was a great experience and confirmed my desire to work for the government. The attorneys at the Agency were very willing to provide feedback on my work and answer any questions that I had. My main duties included drafting letters, conducting case law research and organizing litigation documents. I was also able to attend a Fair Hearing and tour an HRA Job Center in Brooklyn. I was often required to submit documents responsive to subpoenas in several New York Housing Court cases.

Natalie Phillips  
New York Department of Labor – Counsel’s Office  
I spent the summer working as a legal intern at the New York Department of Labor (NYDOL). I dealt with mostly with wage and hour disputes. The most gratifying aspect of the internship was witnessing the Department vindicate the rights of immigrants who were being denied the wages the worked for.

Nick Phillips  
Mental Hygiene Legal Service, First Department  
This summer, I interned at the First Judicial Department of Mental Hygiene Legal Service (MHLS), a New York State agency legislatively assigned to act as counsel and advocate for the mentally disabled. MHLS provides free legal assistance to patients at psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers in New York State and maintains offices in many hospitals throughout the state. In addition to on-site advocacy, which includes representing patients in court hearings on treatment and retention, MHLS serves as counsel for all individuals subject to petitions for court-ordered outpatient psychiatric treatment, represents clients in adult guardianship proceedings, and serves as court-appointed counsel in Article 10 proceedings for the post-prison civil commitment of sex offenders. I worked as a research and writing intern for the appellate branch of MHLS’ main office in New York City, and worked primarily on Article 10 appeals, researching and writing memoranda on a wide variety of topics. I had the opportunity to write a section of a brief submitted to the First Department; I also researched and wrote memoranda pertaining to federal litigation filed by MHLS challenging Article 10 on constitutional grounds, and had the opportunity to observe arguments in front of the Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. I greatly enjoyed my internship and the chance to work with MHLS attorneys, from whom I learned a great deal. I would highly recommend this internship for other students interested in mental health law or in appellate work.

Elise Puzio  
NYC Department of Consumer Affairs-Legal Division  
I had an overall excellent experience interning with the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs. This is a great opportunity for those interested in consumer protection law, debtor/creditor law, and deceptive trade practices. At the DCA, I was an integral part in assisting the legal division in the mission of protecting consumer rights. As a part of the legal team, I researched and drafted legal memoranda discussing deceptive trade practices and consumer fraud. I was able to present my research and findings to general counsel and legal staff, and I received valuable feedback. I was also able to observe administrative hearings at the tribunal and attend weekly trainings with the other staff. Overall, I was an active participant with the division and felt like a valued member of the DCA team.

Gilbert Rein  
Office of the New Jersey Attorney General  
As an intern with the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, Division of Law, Securities Fraud Prosecution section, I gained valuable civil litigation experience. I worked alongside experienced deputy attorneys general and helped prepare cases for trial and other court proceedings. I participated in witness preparation and helped to create demonstrative evidence for use at trial. I researched different evidentiary
issues and then drafted memos in support of the admission of certain pieces of evidence. I also assisted with the drafting of briefs in support of orders to show cause. Interns with the Division of Law gain are given a large degree of responsibility and gain experience with matters which they might not otherwise encounter until after the start of practice.

Vanesa Ridore  
**NYS Office of the Attorney General, Health Care Bureau**  
I really enjoyed my time at the NYS Office of the Attorney General. Working in the Healthcare Bureau exposed me to many aspects of Health and Insurance law. There are always so many cases—from insurance fraud, to General Business law violations—that I never settled into a monotonous routine. The work I did was truly exciting and I was still able to work with clients on a personal level.

Sara Rohani  
**Nassau County District Attorney’s Office- Domestic Violence Misdemeanors Bureau**  
I had a very useful and productive experience at the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office in the Domestic Violence Misdemeanors Bureau. Not only did I get courtroom experience, but I interviewed victims on the phone, worked-up cases, and practiced legal research and writing. I learned about every facet of what it takes to be an assistant district attorney. My favorite part of the job was interacting with the victims and hearing their stories, which allowed me to connect with the cases in a concrete way. This internship reaffirmed my desire to work in public interest and I would highly recommend it to other students.

Eric Rosoff  
**NYS Attorney General’s Office, Litigation Bureau**  
I had a great first-year summer experience as a legal intern with the State of New York Office of the Attorney General. As an intern in the Litigation Bureau, I was staffed in a section primarily tasked with defending state educational entities in a variety of suits in both state and federal courts. My duties were primarily focused on researching legal issues in connection with several ongoing cases and preparing memos to the section's attorneys. Among the topics I researched were City and State Human Rights Law discrimination claims, and various derivative issues stemming from them, including statistical and anecdotal evidentiary standards, applicability of the laws to state entities acting in a licensing capacity, the applicability of the federal Title VII framework to the City and State Laws, and supplemental jurisdiction standards.

Additionally, I reviewed the legislative history of several federal statutes, summarized depositions, researched issue preclusion issues, and observed a federal trial in the Eastern District defended by our office. The lawyers with whom I worked were all dedicated, highly experienced in both public service and private practice and extremely approachable. They were consistently willing to provide background and context on cases, explain the importance of particular legal issues, and talk about the practice of law in general. They strived to integrate the interns into the structure of the office, and provided substantive learning and observation opportunities, including sitting in on conference calls with judges and opposing counsel, observing trials and hearings in federal and state courts, and participating in internal case team meetings and strategy sessions.

Lee Rubin  
**NYC Human Resources Administration, Investigation, Revenue and Enforcement Administration, Division of Liens and Recovery**  
My time with the Supplemental Needs Trust Unit of NYC’s Human Resources Administration was a tremendous experience. Over the course of ten weeks, I found myself immersed in the inner-workings of a busy city agency, handling cases that often concerned millions of dollars. Coming off the heels of my first year of law school, I was pleasantly surprised at how “hands-on” my work was, and the large amount
of discretion that I was awarded. My supervisor allowed me the space to utilize legal reasoning to spot
problems and make the necessary corrections. This freedom rewarded me with a sense of pride in my
work, and a desire to hone my legal education further so I could successfully protect the city’s interests,

Donna Salcedo
New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, Adjudication Division
Working at the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, Adjudication Division was a great summer experience and I would highly recommend it to any Cardozo student looking for a public interest internship. At the DCA I had the opportunity to perform extensive legal research and writing in the areas of consumer protection law and other corporate compliance issues. I was drafted formal decisions, including findings of fact, conclusions of law, penalty recommendations, and appeal determinations. Additionally, I reviewed contracts for compliance with the Rules of the City of New York and Administrative Code, and I evaluated Notices of Hearing and wrote corresponding default decisions and dismissals. I even got to conduct settlement conferences prior to administrative hearings involving allegations of unfair trade practices and contract deficiencies. Most importantly, I had an amazing supervisor and mentor who consistently gave me feedback and advice on a daily basis.

Lisa Schlesinger
New York State Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
Working at the New York State Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit was an invaluable experience. Over the course of my summer internship, I was able to work on complex civil litigation cases and write an Intake Memo summarizing the Complaint and Exhibits of a case that was then disseminated to the national team of attorneys working on the case. I also conducted document review and was able to attend sworn witness testimony hearings, which provided invaluable exposure to the investigate stage of litigation and further led to my interest in pursuing a career in litigation. I feel so fortunate to have worked at the Attorney General and would highly recommend the experience to other Cardozo students.

Michael Sheffy
Kings County District Attorney's Office, Domestic Violence Bureau
I had an amazing experience working in the Domestic Violence Bureau of the Kings County District Attorney's Office. Not only did I learn all of the steps in prosecuting both a misdemeanor and felony criminal case, I gained an immense sense of satisfaction in personally working with victims of domestic violence and helping them to get proper assistance, whether it be legal or practical. The Domestic Violence Bureau is a full service department, and shares an office with the Family Justice Center. The FJC provides practical assistance for any Domestic Violence victim, whether it be counseling, safety assistance, job placement, or immigration assistance. I was able to gain great litigation experience by observing many case hearings and even participating in misdemeanor case hearings myself. Further, I was able to hone my research in writing skills in drafting motions and memos. We had weekly real case review lectures in which we were taught the ins and outs of prosecuting different types of domestic violence cases. The internship program also set up a weekly legal intern lecture, where the heads of the various departments in the bureau would teach us about prosecuting cases within the different bureaus. Additionally, the internship program took us on a variety of tours to the ballistics lab in Queens, family court, Brooklyn Supreme Court, and Red Hook Community court. I would recommend anyone with any sort of interest in Criminal Law and Litigation to pursue an internship at the Brooklyn District Attorney's office.
Alicia Sklan  
**Kings County District Attorney’s Office; Trial Bureau, Orange Zone**  
Working at the Kings County District Attorney’s Office was a great experience. Whether working on a long-term project, such as writing or researching for a brief, or accompanying my supervising ADA’s to Court, I was always busy and gained practical, hands-on, experience. Additionally, summer interns were encouraged to check out the other bureaus and to observe trials, of attorney’s in your assigned bureau as well as in the office. The summer program exposes students to the varied work the office does and the communities where the office is involved. Over the course of the summer, weekly seminars were given by the heads of various bureaus, and summer interns toured the Red Hook Community Justice Center, Family Court, the Family Justice Center, and Ballistics. In addition, all of the staff was extremely welcoming and helpful, and it was a great place to work!

Emily Veale  
**NYC Human Resources Administration, Office of Legal Affairs, Privacy and Compliance Unit (PACU)**  
This summer I worked as an intern for the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) in their Privacy and ADA Compliance Unit (PACU). HRA is a city agency that administers various programs and services that assist low-income and disabled individuals. As an intern I reviewed documents, researched and wrote memos on the ADA and New York Human Rights Law, conducted investigations, and did client intake. HRA was a great place to spend the summer – everyone I worked with was really nice and always available to talk or answer questions. My supervisor let me and the other interns work independently, but was still a great mentor. It was also great to know that, even in a small way, I was helping to improve the lives of New York City citizens. I would definitely recommend that any student interested in social services, disability law, or government apply to HRA.

Shane Wax  
**New York State Office of the Attorney General – Suffolk Regional Office**  
My internship at the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Suffolk Regional Office exceeded my expectations. While most law students interning with the Attorney General worked at the Manhattan Office, I would argue that a regional office provides a better experience. Rather than being placed in a single bureau handling one area of the law, as is the case in the New York City office, working in a smaller office (10 attorneys) with a large workload encompassing a wide range of legal inured to my benefit. I got my hands on a variety of cases, from tort claims to employment discrimination claims to civil rights abuse claims to affirmative litigation concerning labor violations, and was asked to perform substantive work from claim assessment and valuation to drafting motions. I was also involved in significant aspects of litigation, including hearings and trials (at various state and federal courts), depositions, expert interviews, and various discovery matters. While the location of the Suffolk Office is somewhat isolated, the internship provided for an unparalleled learning experience.

Yusuf Yusuf  
**Office of the New York State Attorney General, Investor Protections Bureau**  
I interned in the Investor Protections Bureau (“IPB”) of the Office of the New York State Attorney General during the summer of 2012. I enjoyed the internship and found it to be extremely rewarding and narrowed my focus for the type of law I wish to practice. The IPB is charged with enforcing the New York State securities law, under the Martin Act. My focus this summer related to Residential Mortgage Backed Securities litigation with regards to the financial crisis. I was able to draft deposition questions, prepare various documents for litigation and observe client interviews. The work was challenging but I was given an opportunity to learn on my own and through 1 on 1 attorney feedback. I would highly recommend this internship to any Cardozo student that is interested in securities.
Shannon Zhu  
NYS Office of the Attorney General  
My experience at the litigation bureau was invaluable. Despite my prior commitment to corporate transactional practices, my summer at the New York Attorney General’s office inspired me to pursue a more human side of legal practice. It fully engaged the skills I learned in legal writing while enhancing my written and oral advocacy skills. It was truly a memorable experience that broadened my horizons.
FEDERAL JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

-Madelyn Morris and Judge Rovner, 7th Cir Ct of Appeals
REFLECTIONS:

Becky Abrams
The Honorable Alvin Hellerstein, US District Court, Southern District of New York
My first year of law school was a great experience. But the lessons of the classroom became all the more meaningful when I had the privilege to intern for Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein this summer. In Judge Hellerstein’s courtroom and chambers, I saw the faces and the lives behind the cases that I would otherwise only read in a textbook. I saw contract principles determine billions of dollars of damages in World Trade Center litigation; legal research reveal whether a defendant’s jail sentence will be reduced as a result of the newly amended crack cocaine guidelines; Constitutional principles dictate whether an inmate will prevail in an action regarding an alleged beating by prison guards.

David Bonilla
The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Intern for the Honorable Denis R. Hurley (Central Islip)
Interning for the Honorable Denis R. Hurley of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York (Central Islip) was a great learning experience for me. I got to work hands-on with seasoned law clerks who provided extensive and helpful feedback on all of my work product. These clerks maintained an open-door policy and were always available to answer questions. Further, I was exposed to areas of the law that students normally do not encounter during their 1L year. This exposure helped me choose which classes I wanted to take during my 2L year. Most importantly, the internship provided me with an opportunity to do substantive legal work.

Brittney Borruso
Hon. Judge Sandra Feuerstein, US District Court Eastern District of New York
Interning for a federal judge was an invaluable experience. The environment was relaxed but professional. Working for a judge allows you to experience court and the litigation side of the field while also advancing your research and writing skills. Working for a federal judge is especially exciting due to the nature of the cases. There were a handful of brown bagged lunch talks where judges, federal prosecutors, federal defenders and others discussed their careers and paths, this was informative and helpful in trying to determine what I was and was not interested in pursuing in my future legal career. As for my assignment for the summer, I was required to complete two habeas corpus petition decisions before the end of the internship. The task was both challenging and rewarding. We were provided with templates with which to model our decisions on, but the case was our own. We had to read through the entire record and court documents, complete the research, and determine whether the case met the standard for a granting of habeas. Working on a decision from start to finish gave me a glimpse into what being a lawyer will truly be like. I recommend this internship to everyone even if you are not interested in clerking post law school.

Mark DeAngelis
The Honorable Denis Hurley, US District Court, EDNY
My internship with the Hon. Denis R. Hurley, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York was amazing! The work was stimulating and challenging; it allowed me to develop the research and writing skills I learned in Legal writing. In addition, I was given ample opportunity to watch proceedings in the court house which was extremely valuable. Judge Hurley, in particular, was great! He loved to speak with the interns and he had many great stories. He even held bi-weekly “brown-bag or pizza” lunches with the interns. The rest of his chambers were wonderful as well.
Michael Galen  
The Honorable Cecelia Morris, Chief Judge, US Bankruptcy Court, SDNY  
My internship this summer working for Chief Judge Morris was an outstanding experience. I have learned so much in 10 weeks I can scarcely believe it. Entering this summer with no previous bankruptcy experience, I have now written 17 memos, helped prepare for a bankruptcy CLE that the Judge is organizing, edited drafts of entries for a bankruptcy treatise that the Judge is writing, helped write an opinion for the Judge, and observed court regularly. I now have a firm grasp of the basics of bankruptcy, as well as a newly-formed interest in the subject, and am registered to take Debtors’ and Creditors’ Rights this upcoming semester. In retrospect it seems that the most important function of a first summer internship is to solidify the basics of what has been learned throughout 1L year, and to begin to build the practical skills of lawyering through hands on experience. I cannot think of a better way that I could have spent this summer than working for, observing, and learning from Judge Morris and her clerks.

Amanda Goldstein  
Hon. Margaret Cangilos-Ruiz, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, NDNY, Syracuse  
Over the past summer, I externed with the Honorable Margaret Cangilos-Ruiz of the United States Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of New York. During my externship, I not only learned a lot about bankruptcy law, but also got to see first-hand how the judicial decision making process works. My main responsibilities were to prepare research memoranda and review and summarize pleadings. In addition, I was able to observe hearings on motions and adversary trials. While the Northern District hears mostly consumer bankruptcy cases in the context of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 filings, I was also lucky to get to observe the first day motions of a Chapter 11. Most importantly, both the Judge and her Clerks provided excellent training and were always available to answer any questions and provide feedback on assignments. This experience has made me interested in pursuing bankruptcy law as a long term career.

Liliya Gritsenko  
US Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California  
My externship at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California was a great opportunity to obtain practical experience and significantly reinforced my goals as an attorney. It offered a rare, behind-the-scenes look into the inner workings of a courthouse. I learned firsthand from the judge the keys to effective oral advocacy and specific “dos” and “don’ts” of courtroom behavior that attorneys are often unaware of.

The externship significantly sharpened my research, writing, and most importantly, legal reasoning skills. I was given the responsibility of evaluating motions filed with the court, writing an analysis of relevant case law and statutory authority, and providing recommendations via bench memoranda. One of the most helpful learning tools was the direct feedback on my work product from the judge. My favorite aspect was discussing the outcome of cases with chambers staff during which the judge would provide insight into her rulings. I also attended various courtroom bankruptcy proceedings, observed jury trials in other courtrooms, and heard arguments made in front of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit.

The externship provided numerous “skills training” seminars in conjunction with the Orange County Bar Association. It also exposed me to various pro bono opportunities with the courthouse, such as the Chapter 7 and Reaffirmation Hearings Bankruptcy Clinics. Overall, it was an incredibly valuable experience and I absolutely recommend it to others. When else will you, as a young attorney, have a chance to take a dance class taught by a judge?!
Madelyn Morris  
Chambers of the Hon. Ilana Diamond Rovner, US Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit  
Working for the Hon. Ilana Diamond Rovner of the US Courts of Appeals for the 7th Circuit was an exceptional experience and provided a window into the workings of the federal judiciary. From reading the briefs and discussing a case prior to oral argument, to hearing oral argument before the panel and finally gaining appreciation for the incredible amount of work that goes into a final judgment, I developed a deep appreciation for the thorough, equitable and just nature of the federal judiciary.

It also became clear how pervasive and critical law is in every aspect of life—the importance and necessity of law in ensuring fair systems, conscientious business practices, and codifying important milestones is breathtaking. I had the opportunity to see trials brought by prisoners against the correctional facilities, product liability trials, and oral argument before the Seventh Circuit on critical issues like immigration, unemployment discrimination and land use. Perhaps most moving, I had the unique pleasure of witnessing 126 individuals be sworn in as US citizens and had the pleasure of attending a civil ceremony in chambers.

Most importantly, I worked for a remarkable woman who is an inspiring mentor and role model. Judge Rovner was the first woman ever appointed to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. As a holocaust survivor from Latvia, Judge Rovner has explained that she believed lawyers have an enormous capacity to do good and a strong duty to do so. As she said in a recent Chicago Tribune article “I believe that in our profession are people with the highest moral fabric. They're heroes. They're people who uphold the rights of the downtrodden, the worst among us, because they are living the law.” Judge Rovner’s compassion and brilliance have demonstrated that power and professionalism can be derived from a place of deep empathy, respect and concern for the human condition. She is my hero. It was a pleasure to work with her and her incredibly skilled, gifted and kind clerks this summer. I am indebted to all of them for all they have taught me.

Dani Nolan  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Ohio  
Working for the Honorable Judge C. Kathryn Preston was like taking a course in Bankruptcy with a great professor for two months. She and her clerks were very supportive, helpful, and informative whenever I had a question. They gave me only the most difficult questions to work on—gray areas of the law to which they did not have immediate answers. It was intimidating but challenging and interesting to attempt to help them solve these problems. As a rising 2L, I really enjoyed learning about an area of the law which we had yet to cover in school and while having no prior knowledge of bankruptcy law kept me humble, it also kept me interested. I relished the opportunity to be exposed to an area of law of which I had no prior knowledge; to see it in practice before reading it in theory was a unique experience. It was an eye-opening experience to see the ways in which the law can be utilized as an equalizer with regard to economic disparity.

I also had plenty of chances to see the differences between poor and quality drafting by practicing attorneys, as well as various levels of proficiency with regard to oral advocacy. My fellow intern from the University of Illinois and I witnessed just about every hearing and conference that took place during our time at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio. There we saw what a difference preparation, delivery, and professionalism can make in the courtroom and in chambers.

Chambers were generally quiet and most of the staff ate lunch at their desks or together in the library, but there are lots of great spots to eat in downtown Columbus and just a few minutes north in a neighborhood known as the Short North. The interns of the various Bankruptcy Court judges were mostly local students from either OSU Moritz College of Law or Capital University School of Law, but while I was there Judge Preston also had an intern from the University of Illinois.
Laura Sayler  
**Honorable Esther Salas, District of New Jersey**  
My internship in the District of New Jersey was exceptional. Working in Chambers gave me an invaluable look at the inner workings of the Court and, I believe, is an essential experience for any student interested in pursuing a career in litigation. Both the Judge and clerks in Chambers were clearly dedicated to the internship program and ensured that each day was full of opportunities to observe, write, research, and contribute. I highly recommend that Cardozo students pursue the opportunity to be a judicial intern, and especially recommend Judge Salas’ Chambers for the experience.

Adam Shamah  
**Hon. Sandra J. Feuerstein, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of N.Y.**  
Interning for Judge Feuerstein affirmed my desire to litigate. I was able to observe the litigation process every day, from trials to pre-trial conferences and criminal sentencings. I was given a high level of responsibility, and wrote several draft opinions. Her law clerks were great mentors – I learned a lot about the law, and improved my researching and writing ability immensely. Overall, interning for Judge Feuerstein was an invaluable experience.

Laura B. Tatelman  
**Chambers of Judge Susan D. Wigenton, U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey**  
I strongly recommend interning in a Judge’s chambers to every first year law student. In addition to being an intense practice in legal writing, a judicial internship offers you a unique opportunity to practice thinking objectively about conflicting factual and legal arguments, and apply the law to the facts from that objective point of view. While I encourage pursuing any judicial internship a student is able to secure, of course I am partial to pursuing an internship in Judge Wigenton’s chambers. Judge Wigenton and all of her clerks are truly inspirational. They support an open-door policy, take the time to get to know their interns, and encourage sitting-in in court (also an invaluable experience). The commute to Newark is very manageable (I live in Brooklyn) and the experience is well worth the trip.

Karina van Ginkel  
**US District Court for SDNY**  
My summer experience as a judicial intern for Honorable Deborah A. Batts in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York exceeded my expectations. I pursued a judicial internship in hopes of honing in on my legal research and writing skills, and was able to do that, in addition to so much more. During my 10 weeks in chambers, I was able to watch a criminal trial from start to finish, work with fellow students who will become my future colleagues, receive career advice from experienced law clerks, discuss topical legal issues with my judge, and meet Justice Sotomayor, twice! The experience was invaluable, and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking to make the most of their 1L summer.

Carolina Velez  
**The Honorable Cathy L. Waldor, US District, DNJ**  
This summer I worked as a Judicial intern the Honorable Judge Cathy Waldor in United States District Court for the District of New Jersey in Newark. I prepared memoranda for the judge summarizing the motions before her, including employment discrimination and retaliation. Became familiar with litigation procedures by observing civil and criminal courtroom proceedings, including opening statements, closing statements, direct and cross examination of witnesses and oral arguments. I found this internship very enlightening as I got a behind the scenes look at how our court system actually works. I highly recommend this to all law students at one point in their academic career because the law is very different in practice. I learned how difficult and costly it can be to go to court, and how long it actually takes for cases to be brought to the bench. I found that I was really drawn to the settlement conferences and learning how the judge essentially mediated a better resolution.
STATE JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

REFLECTIONS:

Gillian Bader
Justice Barbara Jaffe, NYS Supreme Court, Civil Term
I had a wonderful experience interning for Judge Barbara Jaffe in the New York State Supreme court, Civil Term, this summer. The judge and court attorneys were always focused on giving me assignments that would further my research and learning experience and took a real interest in my professional growth. This internship was the perfect balance of legal writing/research and observation as I was able to observe numerous trials and oral arguments while still researching and drafting upwards of ten motion decisions. The judge was always very helpful, providing me with constructive criticism and comments/edits for all of the writing I did for her. The court attorneys were also incredibly helpful whenever I needed additional information or help with a draft. Finally, the program overall for judicial interns in the NYS Supreme Court had a wonderful lunch lecture series that I attended often. Overall, I
would highly recommend this internship as I learned so much about our legal system and had an excellent experience working for Judge Jaffe.

Emily Belfer  
**Judge Louis B. York, New York County – Supreme Court, General Term (Civil) Part 2**  
I was fortunate to have a judicial internship after my 1L year. I drafted three decisions for the judge over the course of the summer, which added up to the main projects I worked on over those ten weeks. The decisions were diverse: one was a motion to compel arbitration, another a motion to reargue a case, and the last a motion for summary judgment. I also performed research and wrote two background memos for the judge on topics that he ruled on: granting a supplemental needs trust and whether to certify a class seeking to file a class action against a government agency in New York. Perhaps my favorite part of my internship was the opportunity I had to observe trials and motions in the courtroom and to sit in on conferences between attorneys and the judge or other members of the judge’s staff. Through watching other attorneys at work, I was able to see what made for excellent lawyering – and also which traits produced sub-par lawyering. These ‘live’ experiences were all ones that could not be had in the first-year classroom and they reassured me that the law was something much bigger than the doctrinal classes I had taken over 1L. Overall, my internship gave me a good sense into one lens of how the government and judicial system operate in New York, which will better inform any career I ultimately pursue.

Michael A. Broderick  
**Massachusetts Trial Court, Land Court Department**  
For any student with an interest in real property, a judicial internship with the Massachusetts Land Court is a valuable experience. I confronted a new legal issue every day and had the benefit of accessing a group of judges regarded as experts in real estate law. My co-interns and coworkers were perhaps the most intelligent group I have yet worked with and we were able to operate as a team in many instances despite all working for separate judges. This position combined the academic rigor with practical experience, as interns drafted opinions and prepared courtrooms for and assisted the judges during trial and other proceedings. Moreover, observing attorneys from the unique position of directly in front of the bench offered tremendous insight into the actual practices and behaviors of litigators. For better or worse, the Land Court is significantly understaffed due to a four year hiring freeze on all lower courts in that state and, often through necessity, interns may be given a workload comparable to that of a full time law clerk. This internship was challenging, satisfying and could be really fun at times.

Courtney Brown  
**New York State Supreme Court, Civil Term – Justice Laura Vistacion-Lewis**  
I learned more during the ten weeks at my judicial internship than I did in the first year of law school. Not only did I sit in on court hearings almost every day, but I also got to sit down with the judge after each one and hear exactly why she made the decision(s) she did. I learned skills not taught in law school, like what, from a judge’s perspective, is good lawyering and what is bad lawyering. Whether or not you think you’re interested in being a litigator or law clerk after graduation, a judicial internship will give you hands-on experience that you can use and apply during law school and future internships/jobs.

Angela Chao  
**Nassau County Supreme Court of New York**  
Interning for Judge F. Dana Winslow at the Nassau County Supreme Court was a rewarding experience in multiple ways. In addition to writing decisions and observing trials, I was able to expand my network by making lasting connections with the law secretaries, the judge, and attorneys in the courthouse. The internship was part of a summer internship program that included networking events and field trips to Appellate Division, a prison, and the county medical examiner. Judge Winslow and his staff are extraordinarily intelligent and enjoyed teaching prospective attorneys on how to think like a lawyer, and
how not to think. While I learn a great deal in law school, I was able to grasp real-world experiences at this internship that I would not have otherwise gained through my courses.

Donovan Cho  
Supreme Court of the State of NY, The Honorable Tanya R. Kennedy  
I had an amazing experience working in the Supreme Court of the State of New York this past summer. I worked under the Honorable Tanya R. Kennedy, in the Guardianship division working to find guardians for incapacitated persons who were facing eviction from their landlords. Most of these people had no other friends or family to protect them, so without the Court and the people who work within it who work tirelessly to find them suitable housing and guardians, most of these people were in very real danger of facing homelessness and even premature death. The judge, court attorney, clerk, and every lawyer I had the pleasure of working with strived tirelessly to make sure that all possible help that could be afforded to these individuals were awarded.

Morris Dweck  
The Honorable Marsha Steinhardt, NYS Supreme Court, Kings County  
Spending the summer as a judicial intern was very beneficial. Conducting research and presenting it to a judge prepares one for any legal career. Having a behind the scenes view of the judicial process was a unique experience. This type of internship will definitely someone interested in litigation decide if it’s the right career for him or her. One also gains practical experience with all kinds of legal motions and documents. The internship also consists of the Brooklyn supreme court internship program, which tours many different types of courts and meets with professionals from many different practice areas.

Kimberly Eaton  
Superior Court of New Jersey, Bergen County Civil Division  
My internship with Judge Toskos was a great experience. I had many opportunities to research cases for various motions. The staff allowed me to work at my own pace and answered my questions as I learned how to write different types of documents. I learned to summarize the parties’ arguments so that the Judge would be able to quickly reference my documents on the cases while ruling on the motions. I also gained a lot of experience in discussing the cases with both the clerk and the Judge, which helped me to understand how cases get decided. In addition to regular civil cases, Judge Toskos also handles in lieu of prerogative writs (suits against municipalities) and Mount Laurel cases (low- and moderate-income housing requirements). Both of these types of cases exposed me to a fair amount of constitutional law and land use law. In addition to researching and writing, I also observed several trials, both with Judge Toskos and in other courtrooms. In the Bergen County Courthouse, the clerks email each other about the cases over which each of their judges is presiding, and offer observation opportunities to all of the interns in the courthouse. Observing litigation gives interns the chance to see opening and closing arguments, oral arguments for motions, and the questioning of witnesses, including children. Watching trials after completing the first year of law school will provide a great perspective because interns can learn from how the attorneys shape their arguments in the courtroom.

Thema Emanuel  
Supreme Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands  
My judicial internship at the Supreme Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands was extremely rewarding. Apart from the fact that I got to work in a tropical paradise for ten weeks, I also was afforded the opportunity to be exposed to a wide array of legal, social, and political issues while working at the Court. One especially unique aspect of my internship was the fact that many of the appellate cases we dealt with were cases of first instance, due to the fact that the Supreme Court was only established in 2007. This really provided me with the opportunity to hone my research and analytical skills, as I frequently had to look to other jurisdictions for guidance on many legal issues. The cases I was assigned touched on a variety of legal topics and the wealth of knowledge that I was able to gain in ten short weeks is immeasurable.
Arielle Foni  
**Honorable Jill Konviser, New York Supreme Court**

My summer internship was a wonderful learning experience. Working for a judge in New York Supreme Court allowed me to observe courtroom proceedings and pick up on lawyering skills that I was not exposed to in my law school classes. For example, watching various lawyers direct and cross-examine witnesses during criminal trials has informed me about different styles and techniques lawyers use. I have developed a newfound appreciation for the law and for how lawyers think about issues. Now, I enter my second year of law school invigorated and excited to apply the things that I have learned.

Allyson Fuchs  
**New York Law Department/New York City Criminal Court**

My judicial internship with the New York Law Department provided me with a great opportunity to see and experience the many facets of the criminal justice system through various field trips and the judicial internship itself. These field trips ranged from viewing and talking to judges in a variety of special courts, from Drug Courts to Integrated Domestic Violence Courts. Additionally, we sat in on parts of various trials and arraignment courts. Trips were not only to courts; however; we even went to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and were walked through the training lab where evidence is tested for DNA.

Working under a judge and viewing courtroom proceedings from the bench while being able to ask her questions whenever I was unsure of what was going on afforded me a unique opportunity and provided me with a very different point of view. Additionally, doing research and completing decisions for her provided me with the opportunity to learn about important criminal proceedings and common charges and gave me a great sense of accomplishment. All in all, I learned a lot both from the Law Department trips and speakers and from the judge I specifically interned for.

Emma Glazer  
**The Honorable Jeffrey Cohen, NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, 2nd Dept.**

I worked for Hon. Jeffrey Cohen on the Appellate Division, Second Department in the NYS Court System. I was given the responsibility to locate relevant research and create factual analyses to be used in drafting opinions from the bench. Prior to each week’s oral argument, my fellow interns and I would review the cases on the upcoming calendar to create brief bench memorandum for the Judge’s review prior to argument. I was exposed to extremely varied areas of law, and was able to get a small grasp of the complexities of the CPLR and how procedural errors can often override the substantive legal claims at hand. Overall, working for the Appellate Division was a great 1L summer experience.

Alan Roy Gray, Jr.  
**Hon. Ann T. Pfau, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Kings County, Civil Term**

Working in Justice Pfau’s chambers this summer was one of the best internships I have ever had. She and her law clerk treated me with the same respect that they showed to attorneys in the courtroom and trusted my judgment as if I had already graduated from law school. Specifically, my duties entailed research and drafting decisions, orders, and memoranda for over a dozen cases currently pending on the Justice’s docket on a variety of legal topics. Justice Pfau also allowed me to sit on the bench with her during motion hearings and both jury and non-jury trials. She also allowed me to observe the inner workings of the Medical Malpractice Early Settlement Part, over which she not only presides, but also serves as the statewide coordinating judge. And, because Justice Pfau also provides over a general Civil Part as well as a part of the Commercial Division, I was exposed to a wide variety of civil litigation that I never thought interesting before. I cannot say enough good things about my work with Justice Pfau – all of which was made possible by Cardozo’s Public Service Stipend.
Avi Guttman  
**Justice Laura L. Jacobson, Supreme Court Kings County – Civil Term**  
Overall I had a wonderful experience this summer. The part I enjoyed the most was actually being in a courthouse and seeing real lawyers in action. Working as a judicial intern is very valuable because it is both a learning and a working experience. The judge taught us a lot about the judicial process and about how lawyers can put on a successful case. I also got the opportunity to visit several other Kings County courthouses and proceedings, including the criminal court, bankruptcy court, federal court, mental hygiene part, domestic violence court, and several others. These experiences offered me a very educational summer experience.

Aside from learning, interning for a judge provides interesting and meaningful work. Researching case law to help rule on real cases was very exciting, and it felt good to have a part in an actual judicial decision. These writing assignments also provide great legal writing practice for the future. Overall I had a great summer and would recommend a judicial internship to future Cardozo students.

Daniel Hoffman  
**Honorary Bernice D. Siegal, New York State Supreme Court, Queens County, Civil Term**  
This past summer I worked as a Judicial Intern in New York State Supreme Court, Queens County Civil Term for the Honorary Justice Bernice Siegal. Throughout the summer I observed jury trials, pre-trial settlement conferences and attorney oral arguments. I also spent days attending trials at the Supreme Court Appellate Division and the Eastern District of New York. My summer assignments included researching and preparing draft opinions deciding summary judgment motions submitted to the court covering a variety of legal topics. During my summer as a Judicial Intern I gained invaluable experience which will serve as a building block to my legal career.

David Israel  
**Supreme Court, Kings County, Civil Division**  
As the summer comes to a close, I look back at my time working for the judge and I genuinely feel very accomplished. Drafting opinions gave me a sense of authority, albeit monitored by the clerk, on issues that I only month ago I began to learn. This real world experience of putting my academic knowledge to use was reassuring that what I’ve learned in class will be helpful and useful in the future. I appreciate the opportunity that I was given and I highly recommend interning in the public sector, especially for a judge regardless of what career path one may have in mind.

Max Jacobs  
**11th Judicial Circuit, Maim-Dade County**  
My summer internship with the Judge was an amazing experience that I would recommend to everyone. I got to work with both the prosecution and the defense on a daily basis which allowed me to learn about all aspects of the court system. The research and writing assignments strengthened my writing abilities. In addition, I was able to work on issues that are regularly presented before a judge. This internship made me realize that I absolutely made the right decision in deciding to attend law school.

Abraham Klug  
**Judge Sherry K. Heitler, NYS Supreme Court - Civil, New York County**  
The internship opened up a whole new appreciation and respect for our courts. Before this internship I would never have thought of working in the court system. However, I now realize how integral the court system is to society. The court has no bias and its only intent is to administer justice as best as possible. As one of the law clerks that I worked with this summer said, “The issue of a case is my client. Not many attorneys can say that serving their clients best interest will always be the right and moral thing.”
Michelle Kornblit
The Honorable Esther M. Morgenstern, NYS Supreme Court, Kings County, Integrated Domestic Violence Unit
The Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) court seeks to provide more informed judicial decision-making through having one judge responsible for one family, sorting through the family’s entire case with sensitivity and efficiency, hearing cases with combined family, matrimonial and criminal matters, and rendering a comprehensive decision. I have developed an understanding of how the IDV court functions and I value how the innovative nature of the IDV court improves legal access and the litigation experience in a way that is responsive to the public’s need. During my judicial internship, I have observed the judge in courtroom proceedings, conducted legal research, written memoranda of law and assisted the court attorney in pre-trial conferences. I thoroughly enjoyed this internship and learned a great deal as the IDV court, as well as the Kings County Supreme Court Summer Intern Program, provided me with practical legal experience, familiarity with court operations and a better understanding of the complex needs of the public.

Catherine Leibowitz
The Honorable Michelle Hollar-Gregory, New Jersey Superior Court, Criminal Term
Working for Judge Hollar-Gregory’s chambers in New Jersey Superior Court, Criminal Term was a great experience. Judge Hollar-Gregory is a smart, talented woman and I really enjoyed learning from her this past summer. Because I was there Monday-Friday for ten weeks, I got to participate in every event that took place over the summer. I had the opportunity to help the court on busy calendar days—every Monday and Friday—by filling out forms and organizing court jackets. By participating in busy calendar days, I familiarized myself with every stage of a criminal trial from pre-arraignment to sentencing. The rest of the week, I wrote memoranda for the judge and watched trials and motions. Writing memoranda for the judge really improved my legal research and writing skills. Judge Hollar-Gregory moved from criminal court to civil court this summer, so I was able to learn more about civil procedure, too, which was great.

Beyond learning about law and procedure, I learned so much about criminal law in practice. I always imagined that a bitter battle ensued between prosecutors and defense attorneys, but I was pleasantly surprised to see that they have a positive working relationship. Spending my summer in a courthouse taught me the importance of respecting the court, the judge, clients, and other attorneys. From writing memoranda to helping out in the courtroom, I feel as though I received a truly well-rounded education while I was in Superior Court and had a really great time as well. This has been a memorable summer and I look forward to taking these experiences with me as I continue my legal career.

Benjamin Levin
New York State Supreme Court – Commercial Division – Justice Melvin L. Schweitzer
Working for Judge Schweitzer was an enriching and fun experience as the environment in the chambers was great. I was fortunate to learn a lot about commercial litigation from Judge Schweitzer, who involved the summer interns as much as possible, as well as from his two law clerks. I read plaintiffs’ and defendants’ briefs that were submitted to the court, performed legal research and wrote numerous memoranda. Also, I wrote 6 draft opinions concerning complex breach of contract and fraud cases under the supervision of Mr. Hansen that were then reviewed by Judge Schweitzer before he issued his opinion.

Adrienne Levy
Honorable Ronald Zweibel, NY County Supreme Court – Criminal Term
My internship at the New York County Supreme Court was very educational. I got to see every step of a criminal case from arraignment to trial, including jury selection, opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, closing statements, jury instructions, deliberation, and plea agreements. I conducted
research and learned a lot about standard criminal procedure rules and motions. I took part in several pre-
trial hearings and was instructed on the legal standards. I also got to write drafts for a couple decisions
and read and summarize motions submitted to the court. There was even some unexpected networking, as
I got to know many of the Assistant District Attorneys and Public Defenders who came through the
courtroom. This internship gave me a great overview of criminal law and procedure.

Anna Linetskaya
Chambers of Hon. Judge Melvin L. Schweitzer, New York State Supreme Court, Commercial
Division
The summer internship at Judge Schweitzer’s Chambers was a truly great experience: I was able to hone
my legal research and legal writing skills, as well as to get first-hand exposure to the litigation process.
Skilled supervision from the law clerk ensured that I always knew the direction in which my research was
going; constructive feedback on draft opinions helped to improve my writing style; while friendly
atmosphere in the Chambers made work a very enjoyable process.

Shane Martins
Chambers of Honorable Brian P. Stern
Working in the Chambers of the Honorable Brian P. Stern was a fascinating experience for which I will
always be grateful. Over the ten week period I was able to see multiple trials from voir dire to jury
deliberation. After the verdict, the judge would bring me into a conference room with the jury where I
was able to ask questions such as how they viewed witness’ credibility, lawyers’ credibility, etc. It was
fascinating to see the different tactics lawyers have in advancing the arguments; many of which were
helpful, while others provided examples of what to avoid.

In addition to participating in the conferences during trial, as well as listening to the actual testimony, I
performed extensive legal research regarding the cases that were on the respective court’s daily calendar.
Through such work I gained an immense amount of knowledge regarding legal situations I had never
encountered. Judge Stern placed great weight on such research and I was able to use such to write draft
memoranda which would eventually be published. Aside from the legal knowledge I gained through this
experience, I was also able to make professional connections that will be helpful throughout my legal
career. I am very please with my internship, and the work for which I provide.

Morgan Molinoff
New York State Unified Court System, Westchester County (Supreme Court, Criminal Part; and
Family Court)
This summer, I had the privilege of working in the New York State Unified Court System in Westchester
County. For the first six weeks of the summer, I was a judicial intern for the Hon. Robert A. Neary, an
acting Supreme Court judge presiding over the criminal part in White Plains, NY. Then, for four weeks, I
interned in the chambers of the Hon. David Klein, a family court judge also in White Plains. I really
enjoyed my summer internship experience, as I got to work with wonderful people and learned a lot about
both criminal and family law. During each internship, I interacted with my judge and sat in on trials and
other courtroom proceedings on a daily basis. Both judges had incredibly kind and patient court attorneys
and clerks with whom I worked very closely and got to know well. When I wasn’t in the courtroom
observing, I was in chambers doing legal research and writing memos. All in all, it was a great experience
because it gave me a firsthand view of what goes on in a courthouse on a day to day basis, and allowed
me to meet, observe and network with judges and judicial staff, as well as private attorneys, legal aid
attorneys and prosecutors. I came away with a much better understanding of what it’s like to be a
practicing criminal or family law attorney, and I think I can now make a more informed decision about
what role I would like to play in the legal world in the future.
Darius Niknamfard  
**Hon. David Schmidt, Kings County Supreme Court**  
I spent my summer working in the Kings County Supreme Court under the Honorable David L. Schmidt. Working for Judge Schmidt was an invaluable learning experience I will never forget. In general, working in a court was extremely valuable for me as a future litigator because I now have a better idea of the characteristics of a successful litigator, as seen through the eyes of the court. Working under Judge Schmidt was especially valuable. Judge Schmidt taught me that first and foremost the court’s goal was to help the parties reach an amicable solution to their dispute. He accomplished this by combining a very aggressive settlement centered philosophy with a logical dissection of the weaknesses of each party’s position. Lastly, I learned that the court is not all about the judge. There are clerks, court attorneys, court reporters, and court officers, who have a strong influence on the outcome of cases as well. These parties must be cultivated much like the judge must be. I hope that I will have a chance to work in the court system again soon.

Karla Ostolaza Ortiz  
**Hon. Judge Madden, Supreme Court of New York, New York County**  
During the summer after my first year of law school I interned with Hon. Judge Madden in the Supreme Court of New York, New York County. I had a wonderful and enriching experience. The judge was approachable and willing to answer questions about the law and our professional life alike. The clerks were also extremely helpful. I highly recommend this internship if you want to improve your legal writing and research and get to know what happen inside of the chamber and what is the court process to reach its decisions, a mystery even to many seasoned lawyers.

Leah Peyman  
**Hon. Norman Janowitz, Nassau County Supreme Court**  
Working for Judge Norman Janowitz in the Nassau County Supreme Court this summer exceeded all of my expectations. Both he and his law clerk, Segal Magori, facilitated an environment that was extremely conducive to learning a full range of lawyering – both in oral advocacy and legal research and writing. I was given interesting and substantive assignments throughout the summer. My responsibilities varied from writing research memoranda to drafting decisions on orders of contempt, rearguments and renewals, attorney withdrawals, counsel fees, and pendente lite support. These assignments required me to review motions, cross-motions, affidavits, affirmations, and exhibits, retrieve all cases cited by both parties on Westlaw, and perform additional legal research on the issues where it was needed. I had the privilege of receiving feedback on all assignments I completed. I had the opportunity to observe pre-trial conferences and trials and to discuss these trials, hearings, and conferences with both the law clerk and the Judge. Additionally, I was invited to join Ms. Magori at various functions outside the courtroom as networking opportunities to get further familiarized with practicing attorneys in various practice areas.  

My judicial internship was well-rounded because I was able to perform substantive legal research and writing assignments and interact with and observe lawyers in full practice on a daily basis.

Lee Pickett  
**Hon. F. Dana Winslow, Nassau County Supreme Court**  
My internship with Judge Winslow at the Nassau County Supreme Court was an excellent chance to observe and learn about legal practice first hand and to develop real-life legal research and writing skills. It also was a great opportunity to engage in public-sector legal practice. I found the judges, law secretaries and other personnel at the Supreme Court to be sincerely dedicated to serving the public by administering justice in the most fair and impartial manner possible, and it was a great honor to spend a summer taking part in their work.
Tara Pistilli  
Richmond County Civil Court, Honorable Philip Straniere  

Interning with the Honorable Philip Straniere in Richmond County, Civil Court this summer served as an enjoyable and educational experience. At the start of the internship, I was given the opportunity to observe a number of trials, pre-trial conferences, small-claims arbitrations and other proceedings. In doing so, I gained a better understanding of the strategies and processes used by the Judge to resolve the cases brought before him. This observation period proved to be a valuable exercise in that it forced me to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of certain litigation techniques and court behavior. Additionally, the observation period proved helpful when I began researching and writing draft decisions.

Throughout the summer, I wrote a number of draft decisions on a wide variety of topics ranging from consumer credit disputes to the validity of “John Doe” service of process in a case with a long and complex procedural history. At the completion of every draft decision, the Judge discussed with me in detail the final product of my work. He often pushed me to think outside of the box and consider even standard issues from a different perspective. Often my initial instincts were correct, but I believe the thought process he led me through will serve as an important tool in the future. In addition to the research completed for decisions, I assisted the Judge with research for the book he is currently preparing for publication. I was asked to answer detailed questions about the small claims procedures in each state, which often required intense research and statutory interpretation.

Overall, I found my experience interning with Judge Straniere extremely rewarding. Through Judge Straniere’s guidance and feedback, I have strengthened not only my legal writing skills, but also my research techniques and comfort discussing legal issues and concepts. Additionally, Judge Straniere’s great sense of humor and breadth of legal knowledge made him an excellent mentor.

Daniel Rabinowitz  
Judge Alice Schlesinger, Supreme Court of New York, New York County, Civil Court  

I had an amazing experience working for Judge Alice Schlesinger, Supreme Court of New York, New York County, Civil Division, this past summer. As part of my work I wrote two different bench memos, which ultimately became decisions. One was an article 75 involving a FINRA arbitration. The other was an Article 78 involving the New York City Housing Authority. On top of that I had to write three other memos for the Judge which involved a FOIL request by the New York Civil Liberties Union, a collateral estoppels issue involving the New York City Law Department, and a third memo involving unpaid subsidies by the New York City Housing Authority.

The unique thing about my internship is that I wasn’t just stuck in the library doing research all day. Within the first few weeks I became a member of the office and was given various administrative tasks in the courtroom and in chambers. These included talking to counsel on the phone, checking attorneys in on motion day, helping the Judge prep for hearings, and attending all hearings and trials. I even got the opportunity to witness three separate voir dires. As the only intern this summer I really felt like I became an integral part of the office. I was kept in the loop on all the different cases and hearings before the judge, and was even allowed to question attorneys on one instance on various factual issues involving a case.

Penina Radinsky  
Judge Martin Shulman- New York Supreme and Appellate Term Judge  

This past summer I interned at Judge Martin Shulman’s (New York Supreme Court Appellate Term Judge, First Department) chambers. I observed many different trials and appeals during his appellate terms sessions. I observed many trials and meetings this summer. In July, I was fortunate to observe an asbestos trial staring with jury selection through the ending settlement discussions. I assisted the attorneys with jury selection for the asbestos trial, by calling all the jurors into the judge’s room to discuss
his/her hardship claims. Lastly, I drafted opinions for a nuisance summary judgment case and a landlord-tenant vacate default judgment case.

**Jenny Raphael**  
**Queens County Supreme Court**  
I interned in the Queens County Supreme Court, Criminal term in Judge Richard Buchter’s chambers. I would observe trials, hearings, and calendar calls and discuss evidentiary and criminal procedure issues with the judge and his principal law clerk. I would also research evidentiary and procedural issues that would arise while the judge was presiding over the court in the court’s law library and provide the judge with the information he needed to make a proper ruling on a particular issue. I wrote opinions and memos and both the judge and his principal law clerk provided me with constructive criticism. As a result, I went through a long term revision processes for each legal research paper. I learned a lot about how the judge writes important legal documents like memos and opinions, and this helped improved my legal writing style.

Overall, I had a great experience working for Judge Buchter. The work environment was very pleasant and supportive and I learned a lot about the inner workings of the criminal law through the lens of a presiding judge. I found that the hands on work experience that I had this summer made the internship extremely rewarding and I looked forward to getting up early to go to work each morning.

**Albina Ray**  
**NYC Family Court**  
I worked at The Queens Family Court and really enjoyed the experience. People that work at the court are amazing and they are trying to make the process very diverse and enjoyable. I worked with Court Attorney Referees and Support Magistrates who adjudicate a significant amount of cases at the court. I was involved in several cases and had to write legal memoranda as well as draft decisions on various legal issues. Some of the issues involved Family Law questions such as the best interests of the child in custody/visitation disputes or Acknowledgement of Paternity issues in child support cases. However, the legal questions that I worked on did not always involve Family Law. For instance, sometimes I had to prepare legal memo and/or decision on procedural motions such as a motion to disqualify an attorney based on alleged conflict of interest or a motion for a pretrial release of a forensic report.

My favorite part of the job was observing. The proceedings at a Family Court can be emotionally exhaustive and they are definitely not glamorous. But at the same time, in a courtroom you receive priceless firsthand knowledge of the judicial process and litigation techniques. My summer experience was great and I would recommend this job to anyone who is interested in getting some real life experience!

**Frank Rosenfield**  
**Hon. Norman Janowitz, Nassau County Supreme Court, Matrimonial Center**  
My experience at the Nassau County Supreme Court Matrimonial Center was incredible. I was immediately given a great deal of responsibility, and was even helping to draft judicial opinions by the end of my time at the internship. I got to know both my judge and law clerk really well, and both of these people became my mentors. Additionally, I became very well versed in the common issues of family and matrimonial law, as well as major precedent. The internship allowed me to display and improve the research skills I learned my 1L year. I would recommend this experience to anyone who is thinking about a career in family or matrimonial law.
Abigail Schuster  
**Judge Edward T. O’Connor, Jr. Superior Court of New Jersey, Civil Division**  
At my internship, I had the opportunity to research a multitude of topics regarding tort, contract, and real estate actions. I often drafted bench memoranda for motions that were used by the judge on the bench. Most commonly, I worked on summary judgment motions, motions to dismiss, and motions compelling discovery. The diversity of the cases and types of motions that I worked on allowed for a truly informative and educational experience. I would recommend working in a judge’s chambers to any 1Ls seeking summer employment.

Melerie Shih  
**Chambers of the Hon. Carolyn E. Demarest, Supreme Court of the State of NY, Commercial Division**  
During my summer internship with Judge Carolyn E. Demarest, Presiding Justice of the Commercial Division, New York State Supreme Court, I learned a great deal about the court system and judicial process after witnessing how much time and effort parties put into the proceedings. My research assignments greatly varied because the Commercial Division requires expertise across the complex expanse of commercial law, which includes issues ranging from promissory notes to real estate foreclosures. Judge Demarest allowed interns to sit in during motions proceedings every Wednesday, where attorneys for a variety of pending cases made their strongest oral arguments, sometimes with their clients present, and it was very interesting to watch. I was also fortunate to witness a few trials, where I learned even more about court proceedings as well as tactical strategies employed by attorneys. It was a very informative summer and I would recommend law students to spend some time during their academic careers interning for a judge.

Bryan Sterba  
**Kings County Supreme Court: Civil**  
I enjoyed my internship at the Kings County Supreme Court immensely. Although I was officially only working for one judge in the civil term, whenever I had free time I was brought to other terms to view trials; I went to trials for mental hygiene, criminal, and family court; afterwards I usually was able to speak to these judges and get their opinions. My primary responsibilities included drafting judicial decisions on the motions, and all the research that went with it. The work was challenging, but gave me a unique opportunity to learn about trials from a judge’s perspective.

Boris Tadchiev  
**Hon. Melvin L. Schweitzer, New York State Supreme Court, Commercial Division**  
I worked on 3 cases throughout the summer. First, I read the briefs relating to the particular motion as well as any relevant exhibits. Next, I spoke with the clerk and we discussed a possible course of action. I relied on his guidelines to draft an opinion. I also conducted some legal research since some of the briefs did not address important issues. The clerk then looked over the opinion and suggested some edits. Lastly, the judge looked over the opinion and signed it after his edits were incorporated. I recommend this internship VERY HIGHLY with absolutely no reservations. The cases were incredibly interesting and challenging and I learned a lot on how our judicial system operates. The judge, the clerks, and the secretary were all amazing people and offered their support, guidance and feedback throughout the whole summer.

Justin Vine  
**The Honorable Justice Gerald Lebovits, New York Supreme Court**  
Working for a state judge was an excellent experience. Not only did it allow me to see what happens behind the courtrooms but Judge Lebovits is also very hands on and strives to see his interns excel. Drafting opinions can be tedious and stressful at times, but the evaluations and critiques I received from Judge Lebovits greatly helped enhance my legal writing skills.
David Weiss
NY Unified Court System, Honorable Eileen Rakower
Since the market for 1L students is highly competitive, it is a great opportunity to intern in a judge’s chambers while earning a stipend. Experience with court attorneys, and with a judge herself, is an invaluable experience to learn how to write and argue in the future. The internship also provides the opportunity to see countless attorneys argue their cases in front of the judge so you can learn different attorney’s styles and, perhaps more importantly, what not to do. Working in a courthouse provides you with numerous networking opportunities and the chance to see how a case receives its due process. I highly recommend participating in this program and, more specifically, working in a judge’s chambers.

Basyah Klyman Wiesenfeld
Hon. Ruth Pickholz, State Supreme Court, Criminal Division
While I had recently completed a course in Criminal Law, I was unprepared for the range of cases that I faced this past summer. From murders and rapes to man who stole a pair of seven-dollar socks. What I most enjoyed about this experience, from a legal perspective, is the variety of approaches the different lawyers took to the different cases. Some (ok many) were long-winded, while others were brief and to the point. Others had more of a gentle manner while some were severe. However, each and every lawyer approached their case understanding the impact they were having on the defendants’ futures. Within the walls of law school, I did not understand the magnitude of the power of a lawyer. Only after watching lawyers battle out the future of a man who raped his grandson could I begin to comprehend the far-reaching impact of a lawyer’s decisions. I look forward to becoming a lawyer, as well, so that I can use my legal education to help others who cannot help themselves.

Maggie Yang
Chambers of Honorable Gilbert C. Hong, Criminal Court, Kings County
This summer I spent ten weeks interning in the Chambers of Honorable Gilbert Hong in Criminal Court, Kings County. I received my first assignment, drafting a decision on a 30.30 motion, on my first day of the internship. Elky Ogorek, Judge Hong’s Court Attorney, taught me how to read the various documents contained the case file and gave pointers on where to look for pertinent information. During the internship, I also drafted decisions on suppression hearings, such as hearings on Dunaway, Payton, Huntley, and Mapp, and a decision on a motion to renew. These cases dealt with assault, rape, drug transactions, criminal possession of weapons, and theft.

Elky gave me the opportunity to do my own research and write the decisions. At first, I was terrified that I was taking on such a large role in determining an outcome of a motion and possibly the defendant’s life. I felt more comfortable when I got a better handle on legal researching because I knew that by carefully researching both sides of the argument I had come up with an informed conclusion backed up by the law. Whenever I had questions about a legal issue, I was able to talk to her to make sure that I was on the right track. She edited my drafts for style and for streamlining my legal reasoning. Another draft later, I handed the decisions to the judge, who signed them, and handed down the opinion in court. The experience helped hone my legal researching skills, while learning about the decision-making process. It was also a great opportunity to gain experience in legal writing.

Another part of my work was to compile a 280-page reference guide on Summonses. Every week, Court Attorneys receive piles of summonses where they have to read through to accept or reject based on facial insufficiency. The statues are very detailed and my assignment was to collect information on approximately 100 of the most frequent summonses and index them in a way that would be an easy “go-to” guide. The information included the relevant statues and case law for clarification. I learned what summonses are and the basic requirements that makes it facially sufficient.
The most rewarding part of the internship was sitting at the bench with Judge Hong when during calendar calls and arraignments and observing trials and hearings. Judge Hong provided me with valuable feedback on the attorney’s litigation styles, something that will be valuable no matter the type of law I want to pursue. The judge was really friendly and took us out to lunch where he gave us candid advice on our careers.

Finally, I participated in the NYC Criminal Courts Internship fieldtrips where I visited the Medical Examiner’s Office and many courts throughout the city. It was interesting learning about the NYC’s Criminal Court system and meeting other judicial interns.