

2010 Summer Stipend Testimonials

I interned this past summer with 2 non-profit organizations, Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) and Tulsa Lawyers for Children (TLC). Interning for these two organizations was fantastic. At DVIS, I worked in their legal department and was able to work on many projects including meeting with clients and attending hearings. At TLC, I assisted with various office projects as well as participated in their Shelter/ Show Cause project. Both internships were very beneficial in furthering my legal experience in family and juvenile law.

The summer stipend I received was very helpful in allowing me to pursue these opportunities. I live in Claremore and had to drive into Tulsa five days a week to work. The stipend provided money for gas and expenses relating to my travel. I am very grateful that this stipend was available to assist me with these expenses and as a result, made these internships possible.

Over the summer, I worked for the Human Rights Department at the City of Tulsa. I was involved with a lot of exciting projects that were not all legal projects, but did require me to use my legal knowledge. I worked with the mediation division doing intakes for divorcing couples to make sure the cases that could be handled by the City. I also worked with the small business division, going to contractor meetings and reviewing contracts to ensure the City was meeting the guidelines set forth by HUD in those contracts. Finally, I helped write the City of Tulsa's master plan, which included plans for the rehabilitation of North Tulsa, increased help for the homeless, and other projects to benefit the City of Tulsa.

This was an unpaid internship, so I used the stipend money to help with living expenses and to pay for parking downtown. It was very helpful.

I have an extensive background in working with victims of domestic violence and intend to return to the field once my law degree is completed. The agency I work with is a small, rural agency which is unable to afford a legal department. Part of the experience I hoped to obtain during law school was an exposure to a legal office which dealt specifically with issues involving domestic violence. The legal department of Tulsa's Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) provided just such an opportunity.

I was able to obtain an internship with the DVIS legal department over the summer of 2010; however, I was concerned as to how I could afford to participate in the internship. I live in Tahlequah, and commute to attend TU. During the school term, I am able to receive student loans which help to cover my costs of commuting, but this was not an option for the internship. Additionally, DVIS is a non-profit agency, and is not able to afford an agency stipend for its interns. The Public Interest Summer Stipend helped to pay for the costs of commuting and made it possible for me to accept the internship with DVIS.

During the internship, I was permitted to conduct client interviews, assist with file maintenance and documentation and draft legal documents. I was also able to sit with experienced attorneys as they worked through issues with clients. The experience with the DVIS legal department allowed me to establish invaluable professional contacts, and provided me with tools to assist victims of domestic violence. The internship gave me the necessary experience to establish a framework to build on through future experiences.

I spent last summer working in Denver, Colorado for the Colorado State Public Defender's Office as a certified intern. I split my time evenly between juvenile & county court. In juvenile court, I primarily handled the morning detention docket and then spent my afternoons visiting with clients at the juvenile detention facility. During my weeks in county court, I helped with the morning county docket and then spent the afternoons prepping for my cases going to trial. As a certified intern, I could appear in court on the record on behalf of my clients as long as my supervising attorney was present with me; this allowed me to gain valuable trial experience in front of both a judge and a jury.

The summer stipend helped me be able to move to Denver for the summer and live there while accepting an internship that did not pay. I used the stipend to help cover all of my expenses, which included living expenses in Denver, my rent back here in Tulsa, and other miscellaneous expenses associated with traveling back and forth between the two locations for the internship.

During the summer of 2010, I received a Public Interest Summer Stipend and worked as a full-time volunteer intern at the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Oklahoma. Throughout the course of my internship, I had the opportunity to observe many interesting court proceedings as well as complete several projects. I drafted prosecution memoranda, indictments, and responses to motions to suppress. I also researched several federal criminal law issues and wrote memos explaining my findings. Additionally, I observed meetings with law enforcement and witnessed interviews. The work I completed during my internship at the U.S. Attorney's Office was both meaningful and interesting, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.

I used the money from the Public Interest Summer Stipend to help cover my basic living expenses. Because I spent the entire summer working at the U.S. Attorney's Office and did not have any other sources of income, the stipend was extremely beneficial. Although I did not have to relocate for my internship, just covering my necessities for the summer was challenging. The stipend program helped me to accomplish this task.

Not only did the Public Interest Summer Stipend Program benefit me financially in the short term, but it also assisted me in pursuing a career in the public interest field. My motivation for coming to law school was to find work in the public interest sector, and I am confident that my service at the U.S. Attorney's Office will help me to achieve that goal. I am very grateful to have been a recipient of the Public Interest Summer Stipend.

This past summer I interned at the United States Senate for the Environment and Public Works Committee in Washington D.C. I was able to take this opportunity in large part due to the public interest stipend. I used the money I received for all daily necessities including food and my commute to work on the metro. Additionally, the stipend contributed to my sight-seeing adventures and afforded me the opportunity to really experience all Washington D.C. had to offer. The public interest stipend allowed me to take this position and to work as an intern at the United States Senate and really solidified my desire to work for the federal government in the future.

During the summer of 2010, I worked for the Federal Public Defender's Office in the Eastern District of Missouri. As an intern I interviewed clients and researched legal issues. I also learned about care, compassion, and being a dedicated public servant by some of the best attorneys in the state. As this was an unpaid internship, the money I received from the Public Interest Law society stipend fund was greatly appreciated. I used it pay for my parking everyday in downtown St. Louis, and for the gas I used to commute an hour to and from downtown St. Louis every day. I also, used the money for other things like housing and food. Without this help from the public interest law society I would not have been able to work for at the public defender's office. I would have been forced to accept a job that came with a pay check or as I did the previous summer, work a part time public interest job and work at Wal-Mart on my days off. I have a strong interest in providing legal services for those less fortunate in our society, as everyone deserves competent legal representation. The Public Interest Law Society at the University of Tulsa helped me and other students such as myself, dedicate time and resources to wonderful and worthwhile public interest causes.