Alexander Falciani, Executive Summary  
Tonya Public Affairs 2010

Over a six-week period this summer, I interned for the Honorable Jocelyn B. Cate in Charleston, South Carolina. Under her guidance, I gained an introduction into both legal research and legal issues within family court. I became more familiar with family law, courtroom proceedings, and the professional attitude attorneys and judges carry out in their daily proceedings.

Overall, this internship provided me a great opportunity to explore my interest to the law and moreover first-hand experience the daily proceedings of a legal career. Most days, I would shadow Judge Cate and observe the judicial process within family court, which usually consisted of divorces, property division, marital agreements, custody visitation issues, child abuse and neglect cases, and lastly delinquency cases. After these cases, I was able to gain further insight by being able to discuss with Judge Cate and local attorneys any questions I had about a ruling she made, points of evidence, or any of the applicable law. Furthermore, Judge Cate also provided me relevant legal cases to read as preparation for a hearing and also as preview to the type of work lawyers and judges perform everyday. By being able to read and observe an array of cases, and also having the opportunity to discuss legal issues with a knowledgeable judge, I was able to start deriving the generally applicable rules, and then apply them to the next cases with a new set of similar circumstances. This internship gave me unparalleled experience in the field of law and its professional environment, an experience usually only reserved for law students. Moreover and most importantly, this experience gave me the vindication that I was looking for in order to affirm my resolve on attending law school.