

While working in the District Office of Congressman J. Randy Forbes, I had duties ranging from answering the phones and taking messages to actually handling and processing casework. Also, due to the current hard times affecting Virginia's 4th District, as well as the rest of the country, I had the opportunity to help plan and put into action the first ever Job Fair held by Congressman Forbes.

My main task from day to day in the Congressman's Office was to assist our caseworker Tammie. When we receive a claim from a Constituent, either via mail or email, either Tammie, my fellow intern Dasha, or myself would first check to see if the issue plaguing the constituent was something that fell within the Congressman's Federal Jurisdiction. If it was not, Dasha or I would call the constituent back, let them know why the Congressman was unable to assist them with the issue, and direct them to someone who could help. If the case did fall under the Congressman's jurisdiction, we would begin a case by sending a letter to the respective agency, as well as following up with the constituent. The whole process from start to finish of a case is supposed to last 4-6 weeks. While I enjoyed helping people through casework, the inefficiency of the whole process has slightly turned me off towards future government work.

However, the part of my internship that I enjoyed the most was helping to garner business and constituent interest in the job fair. This encompassed the final month of my internship as everyone in the Office pushed hard to get as many businesses into the fair as possible, and also to get the word out to as many people as possible. In the end, we had the maximum amount of businesses that were able to fit in the space we had chosen. Also, anywhere from 1750-2000 people showed up, which doubled our original estimates.