During my summer internship with Chief Judge David C. Norton of the District Court of South Carolina, I had an array of duties ranging from drafting judicial orders to popping popcorn for the Judge and his guests, as well as answering phone calls to maintaining copy machines. Other times, the Judge and his law clerks asked me to research and compose lists of the defendants’ attorneys or to gather a multitude of papers in order to create a docket with the details of a case. All of the imperative details forced me to pay close attention to each single paper I filed, or, rather, each single sentence I composed. As I became more familiar with the case management system, courtroom conduct, and judicial jargon, I realized that all of my tasks were now easier as my skills improved. Moreover, I also recognized how interesting, yet difficult, the judicial field was - only further fueling my passion for law.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the internship was attending both civil and criminal cases, ranging from small misdemeanors to large class action lawsuits. By researching the cases prior to arriving in the courtroom, I could draft my own conclusion without the influence of others. Later, after listening to the Judge’s compassionate and firm responses, I realized that only such wisdom could derive from years of experience. By closely listening to and analyzing the Judge’s sentences, I saw many of my own errors and misjudgments. The Judge then allowed me to create my own judicial orders and submit them to his law clerks, who would then return them to me with corrections and suggestions. This process helped me become a better writer, as well as a better interpreter of some of the most difficult situations. Because of the time I spent with Judge Norton and his clerks, I have never been more interested in the legal field, especially that of the judicial system.