

Equipped with a limited amount of prior legal knowledge, I set out to partake in advancing my scope with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chattanooga Tennessee. This allowed me many opportunities to ask everyone's opinion about my impending path to becoming an attorney one day. "Be 100% certain and stay truly committed to your goal." This piece of advice was repeated an innumerable amount of times throughout the summer. As simple as it may seem, it is integral to the success of any lawyer in today's world.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is divided into the civil division and the criminal division. As evident by their titles, this entails a tale of two different worlds. The civil division was driven by lawsuits, while the criminal division was more concerned with placing "bad guys" in jail through mandatory minimum prison lengths. My daily duties involved clerical work for both divisions, which required a focused mind capable of juggling both divisions. Namely, it was easy for one to get lost in the specific stories of each case despite the need for efficiency.

Fortunately, my duties were flexible as the summer progressed. One day may be filled with case filings, while the next day I could focus on observing a jury trial. Each day would hold something different. This spontaneity allowed me to truly experience all the possible legal events in the practical world.

Despite the differences of the divisions, it was evident that they all shared something in common. The amount of desire possessed by each employee was undeniable. Individuals offered advice at times even when there were no inquiries. Many hours were spent paying attention to every detail. In other words, every member of the team was truly committed to their goal.