

During the summer I interned at Morton, Morton, and Associates for ten weeks in Zebulon, Georgia. Although the firm is a private practice, Robert Morton holds many local positions in Zebulon and the surrounding counties. Mr. Morton is the county attorney for Pike County, the city attorney for Zebulon and Williamson, and a judge in Zebulon, Greenville, Woodbury, Williamson and Barnesville. Mr. Morton's father and partner, Thomas Morton, is the city attorney for Meansville and also the county attorney for Pike County. In addition to Mr. Morton's regular duties as county attorney for Pike County, he was also the acting County Manager during my internship at the firm. Robert Morton's existing responsibilities to the different local government agencies was multiplied by his position as County Manager. Furthermore, his office was short staffed during the summer months which made the tasks designated to me were of great importance and gave me the opportunity to receive lots of experience. The majority of the firm's daily operation was devoted to the different government positions that Robert Morton and Thomas Morton have. However, the office does continue to maintain their private clients but my responsibilities focused on helping with the local government work.

Being a small firm my responsibilities were often beyond my expectations. Although I knew I would be attending court with Judge Morton I did not know that I would be invited to sit behind the bench and take on an active role in the running of court. I also attended County Commissioner Meetings. Commissioner meetings were interesting due to the fact that many of the topics discussed were ordinances that I assisted in drafting at the office. Every day did not consist of court or interesting public meetings; therefore, in between I helped prepare for the different deadlines that had to be met.

As a city and county attorney the majority of their job is advising the city and county on decisions. Robert Morton does not have the time to research every state and federal law that may conflict with decisions; therefore, I mostly prepared research on topics that the city and county commissioners were discussing. Any time a new ordinance is considered or an existing ordinance is changed, to insure the safety of the city or county from suit, all aspects have to be explored for legality. Once I presented the research to Robert Morton and the decision was made about what was going to be done with each ordinance I would help draft the changes or the new ordinance. At the next commissioner meeting the ordinance would be discussed, edited, and voted on until the ordinance passed or was neglected.

Another part of my responsibility regarding ordinances was updating the master copy of the annotated code. This involved making the annual new copy of the entire annotated code for approximately thirty government employees. I also prepared the electronic copy that the employees were offered. In addition to the employees' copy of the code Robert Morton also had a complete, updated copy that included all original documents. Therefore, every time an ordinance passed I would collect the signed copy of the final ordinance and add it to the book or replace the ordinance that it corrected. This was a very extensive project that I did throughout the summer.

As the acting County Manager Robert Morton was responsible for all departments that operate under Pike County. Although many of the responsibilities as County Manager overlapped with some of his county attorney duties, there were many tasks that were more complex as County Manager. For example, every week Robert Morton held a staff meeting for all of the department heads. I would accompany him to the meetings and take extensive notes to

help plan the calendar for the firm. In addition, my notes were often cross referenced during firm staff meetings to confirm different details.

My experience at the firm this summer introduced me to many of the methods used by attorneys. As an intern I was given responsibilities that were often intimidating. However, as I developed a vocabulary that included legal jargon I was able to draft legal documents and letters for Robert Morton and his paralegal. With the number of different professional meetings I attended I improved my ability to conduct myself in a business environment, as well as my ability to be an active member in the conversation while taking extensive notes. In addition, I observed the proper way to conduct business in court and was astonished at the mannerisms different people had in court. For example, Judge Morton had to have the bailiff remove a woman from court.

Even after my summer interning with Morton, Morton and Associates, LLC I am still confident that I want to be an attorney. On multiple occasions Robert Morton would call me about the following day's agenda late at night when he was leaving a meeting and question if I was sure I wanted to be an attorney. After seeing the different capabilities with a law degree I am even more conflicted with what type of law I want to practice. However, I have no doubt that I will proceed to law school after I complete my undergraduate degree at Sewanee: The University of the South. My internship was beyond my expectations as far as the knowledge I obtained and the different opportunities I experienced. My exposure to legal documents and procedure will accompany me as I grow as an aspiring lawyer and will help me when I attend law school. I also believe that I was able to become an asset to the firm because of my ability to accomplish the different tasks I was delegated and contribute to the small firm with large responsibilities.