

Charlie Thaddeus

Executive Summary

May 31st - August 6th

Tonya Public Affairs Internship

My internship this summer took place in the 73rd Civil District Court of Bexar County, Texas. I worked with the Honorable Judge Renee McElhaney, and, thanks to her, I was able to observe and learn a myriad of the things about the court system, the practice of law, and what it takes to achieve a successful career once one embarks upon the path of attending law school. As is the case with many liberal arts students, I'm faced with the difficult task of deciding what I want to do with a degree that does not have an immediate practical application. For a long time, many who are close to me have suggested that I go to law school and apply my love of reading and writing there.

The largest part of my internship consisted of simple observation of the courtroom. I was fortunate enough to work with a judge who gave me an incredible amount of access to her courtroom and to herself. I gained an intricate knowledge of the court system in the state of Texas, specifically regarding the district court system. I observed mostly civil cases which consisted primarily of family and corporate law.

I was also able to serve as an aid to the judge with any sorts of tasks or project she needed done in the courtroom. I contributed to the design of projects and presentations that she will continue to use even now that I have completed my time there. This was a wonderful opportunity that allowed me to broaden my knowledge of and develop contacts in the legal profession.