

Maggie Cloos

Tonya 2009 Executive Summary

1 September 2009

I spent the months of June and July interning for Chancellor Jeffrey Stewart of the Tennessee Twelfth Judicial District in Winchester, TN. Judge Stewart presides over chancery court in each county in the district, hearing a range of civil cases including divorces, worker's compensation, and conservatorships. I attended several sessions of Chancellor Stewart's court in Winchester but also accompanied his colleagues in other courts throughout the twelfth district. I had the opportunity to observe both civil and criminal court as well as adult and juvenile. I witnessed a range of legal proceedings in various stages from pre-trial diversion, to trial motions, plea agreements, and sentencing hearings. I was also introduced to a proceeding I was unfamiliar with, the post-conviction petition. In addition to observing judges I also became familiar with court clerks and their support staffs as well as additional courthouse personnel like bailiffs. I also spent time with law enforcement and probation officers, child services personnel, and domestic violence counselors. Outside of the court house, I worked in the district attorney and public defender's offices. Throughout the summer I gained a rounded experience that provided me with insight into the legal system from a wide variety of perspectives. Overall the internship provided me with experience that will be invaluable as I prepare to apply to law school and pursue a career as an attorney.