

Between the dates of May 16th and July 8th I interned under the Honorable Judge Cate in the Family Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Charleston, South Carolina. My primary task under Judge Cate was to develop an understanding of how the Family Courts of South Carolina are run in and out of the courtroom. On a daily basis I talked not only with Judge Cate, her court reporter and deputies, but also with attorneys in order to obtain the fullest comprehension of how the court operates. During my time at the courthouse, I primarily observed cases pertaining to marital agreements, child custody, divorce, child abuse and neglect, bench warrants, name changes, and adoptions. While observing these cases, I analyzed files regarding the respective cases not only to understand how and why the parties were in court but also to develop a sense of how legal documents are written and formatted.

In addition, I was in charge of assisting Judge Cate's secretary on administrative tasks, such as making sure necessary files were on Judge Cate's bench for the week's docket. I also attended other courtrooms in order to observe other judges to gain a perspective on how they administer rulings and conduct their courtrooms. Moreover, I read and briefed Supreme Court Cases that impacted Family Court law, which allowed me to better understand how rulings at the Supreme Court affect the courts below it.

All of these were my responsibilities while I interned for Judge Cate. During my time, I gained a very good understanding of the role the Family Court retains in South Carolina. I now better comprehend legal procedure, legal language, and what is to be expected of me as an attorney. After graduation I hope to seek out additional internship opportunities that incorporate children related issues. It is my wish to then proceed to law school where I will become an attorney with the goal of eventually becoming a Family Court judge.