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Over the past eight weeks, I worked as a Summer Legal Fellow at Western New England School of Law. During those eight weeks, I assisted Professor Eric Gouvin in doing research on entrepreneurship, professional licensing, regulation, and all of the legal issues that those fields present. In doing so, I found myself challenged and tested in new ways as, for the first time, I conducted legal research at an advanced level. I also found myself constantly pushed into new and interesting areas of the law, including, surprisingly, the impact of the supernatural world in shaping our real estate laws. As a result of my participation in this program, I find myself prepared and excited to enter law school and pursue my calling as a lawyer.

When I first arrived at Western New England in May, I was unsure of what project I would be working on. I had heard from Professor Gouvin that there were several projects in the works, but I soon found that I would be researching some of the key issues facing American entrepreneurs. While American political rhetoric has often focused on “small business” interests, the interests of entrepreneurs have often been overlooked in favor of established business concerns. As I soon discovered, entrepreneurs have a unique set of challenges that they face. While regulation can assist in protecting established small businesses and their employees, entrepreneurs are often hurt by regulations that are meant to help. Therefore, my first job was to conduct research into how some of these “red tape” regulations might be refined and reduced to lift the burden on entrepreneurs and present my findings to Professor Gouvin by the next week.

This job immediately presented me with some challenges. First, I was not a business major or a law school student, and so did not know where to look for the sources I would need to present to Professor Gouvin. Thankfully, Artie Berns and the staff at Western New England's Law Library were there to help. Mr. Berns quickly introduced me to Westlaw, a unique database filled with statutes, law review articles, and other legal research materials that proved invaluable during my time at Western New England. I quickly learned how to conduct focused searches on Westlaw to find the articles that I needed. In the process, I learned much about some key legal problems. For example, while conducting my research, I found that Canada's Red Tape Reduction Act of 2015 had attempted to eliminate two regulations for each new regulation created by the government. This seemed at first like a surefire model for reducing the burdens of regulation. However, over the course of my research, I found that there are many legal problems preventing similar measures from achieving effectiveness in the United States. For example, under the Supreme Court precedent set in *Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association v. State Farm*, the government must allow for a notice and comment period before eliminating any regulation, and must provide a bevy of evidence to justify its elimination. Therefore, I was able to report to Professor Gouvin that though red tape might seem easy to cut through, the process of eliminating it is often itself bound by red tape.

Later on in my time at Western New England, I was given perhaps the most unique research challenge I have yet faced as a scholar: to update an article by Professor Gouvin on the impact of ghosts on the law. Facing this unexpected challenge helped me grow as a scholar in a number of ways. For example, over the course of updating the article, I had to perform a survey of the laws governing necromancy in all 50 states. This at first was certainly a daunting prospect,

one that would likely require dozens of searches and extensive reading. However, I soon discovered that Westlaw has an integrated search feature that allows one to easily search through each state's statutes. As a result, I was able to quickly and concisely update all of the statutory references made in Professor Gouvin's article. Moreover, I learned how to easily conduct a 50-state survey by making use of technological research tools, a skill which will prove invaluable in law school. In the end, I learned that ghosts, although invisible, are very much a real thing, at least in some areas of real estate law.

Finally, I was tasked with summarizing and condensing a portion of Professor Gouvin's article into a two-minute radio address. This allowed me to further develop my skills as a writer by quickly summarizing information and condensing it into a readable and catchy format for broadcast. Moreover, it helped me make my writing more concise and direct, skills which will aid me in crafting my future essays both at Siena and in law school. I also gained some familiarity with how academic researchers can make their research accessible to the general public, which too may prove helpful in my future endeavors.

All in all, over the past eight weeks, I had a wealth of unique and interesting experiences while conducting research at Western New England. Through these experiences, I became familiar with life on campus at a law school, both in the dorms and on the campus. I also became familiar with some of the staff at Western New England, for whose kindness and help I am grateful. Due to my experiences in the Summer Legal Fellows program, I have improved my skills as a writer and as a researcher, skills which will make me more competitive as I look ahead to law school. I am grateful to Siena College and to Dr. Cutler for allowing me to have this

once-in-a-lifetime experience, and hope to continue to build on the experiences that I had this summer.