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Legal Fellows was a new experience that helped me to learn things to help me in my future. Being the Siena Legal Fellow for Western New England gave me experience working with databases I'd never worked with before and allowed me to research a topic I had interest in but hadn't been able to look at from a legal standpoint, instead of a news media standpoint.

The program introduced me to both Westlaw and Lexis Advance, common legal databases that I will have to use in law school. It was nice to get some hands on experience with these databases so I have a starting point for law school. I was personally unfamiliar with them prior to the program so I had no idea how to search on them or what terms used on the site meant. I had the chance to learn all about these databases with the help of one of the law school's professors. The professors I worked with were extremely helpful and knowledgeable on many different legal topics and were just as eager to learn more and gather all the information on my topic as I was.

The topic I chose to research for the summer was the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. The topic had hit national news for a few months and then disappeared from the national eye. This had me curious so I wanted to look into what types of legal repercussions had happened with the officials in charge of Flint's water. I surprisingly didn't find many cases, but I did find out that more cases have been filed and just haven't made their way through the court system. The facts of the crisis and of the cases were really interesting to look at. Only recently were charges brought against officials of the city for the unsafe drinking water, this has been an ongoing crisis since

2014. A lot of it was stuff that I wouldn't have known without doing research into the topic and finding out all of the facts.

The Legal Fellows experience gave me experience beyond a classroom and beyond just further legal knowledge. It also gave me the chance to live in an apartment setting which further helped me prepare for law school. This program gave me some real world experience that I probably would not have had otherwise. This program truly helps prepare participants for law school and further pursuing it. It's more than just a research or clinical program. It can also help with easing into the law school experience. Law school is hard for most people and it can be extremely challenging. This program can help students prepare for that in a way that isn't quite as intense as a full class load.

The Siena Summer Legal Fellows program helped me to prepare for entering law school and familiarizing myself with tools that I'll have to use in just over a year from finishing the program.