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I spent my summer as a Fellow at the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in Central Islip, New York. Never having done an internship, I was unsure of what my time would be spent doing. On my first day I sat down with Leif Rubinstein, who explained that my time would be split between two clinics, The Veterans Affairs Clinic and The Elder Law Clinic, both of which would give me tasks on a day to day basis. My first week was spent working with Craig Bruno, Esq. and he would assign me tasks that included reaching out to veterans and reading through files to see if there were any issues in clients military records. However, after a week or so he really didn't need me too much so I began to work with Denise Doty, Esq. and AveMaria Thompson, Esq. both of whom had plenty of assignments they needed to be completed. They gave us small things to handle at first, and as our time progressed, they challenged us to complete assignments that involved doing our own legal research for cases that they gave us.

One of the first things that we learned was that attorneys do a lot of research on their own and it is not necessarily case law that they are looking at. Our first assignment was to look up the all of the costs associated with getting a floor repaired. This required looking at the cost of supplies, costs of labor for every kind of labor, and the rental costs of supplies associated with cleaning the floor. We would be taken out of comfort zone when we were assigned something that would sometimes require us to spend a couple of hours looking up very specific items for cases. We would also do legal research on cases that were working on by using LexisNexis and Westlaw to help AveMaria with her upcoming trials. These services gave us an extensive look at the district, state, and federal levels to see if there were any previous rulings on the legal issues at hand. This was also a time for us to have to find out what the legal issue in the cases that AveMaria was giving us were. As she taught that if you don't know the legal issue, you won't be

able to help anyone. Learning that there were all different types of legal research that you could do for cases that you receive every day.

Working with the clients became one of the more interesting parts of the summer to me. There were a few different ways that we would interact with the clients while working at Touro. We did client intakes, this is when we would hear their case and try to boil it down to the main issue so we could give the cases to the attorneys. This method would usually be longer because it would require sitting there as the clients talked about all of the issues that they had while you tried to figure out if they would be able to receive help from the clinic. There would also be the times that we would meet clients at court and try to explain to them what was going on while AveMaria would argue their cases or try to work out stipulations with opposing counsel. This was my favorite time to talk to clients because for most of them it would mean the end of their legal problems and they would thank you for the time that you had put in towards their case. While not every client was grateful for the work that you had done for them, there was still a sense of satisfaction with completing each case.

Actually going to court was my favorite part of my time at Touro because it opened me up to how other lawyers and judges conduct business. We went to district court every time that we went and it was always the landlord-tenant court. There are six district courts in Suffolk County and we were able to go to four of them and find out how different each courtroom was. The first thing that we realized was that you always have to look for your case number on the calendar so you know when you are going. In that time, you also find out that the calendar is always long and it can take a few hours for the judges to get through all of their cases. Each judge was different in their approach but they all had the same basic rule and that was that they wanted their courtroom quiet at all times. Most of the cases wound up getting settled by

stipulation because the two sides did not want to risk losing everything when there could be some type of agreement. Being able to actually see the court system in progress allowed me to see what it would take if I did choose to become a litigator in my career.

My time at Touro Law Center opened me up to the Law profession in ways that I could have never imagined as an undergraduate student. Being in an environment of both law students and professional attorneys gives you a clear idea of what to expect once I finish college. I want to thank Dr. Cutler for granting me the opportunity to work in this environment. My time at Touro would not have been as great if it weren't for my co-fellow, Geena Caporale, who I worked side by side with on every assignment that we were given. And I finally I would like to thank AveMaria Thompson and Denise Doty, who took us under their wing for the summer and challenged us to work as if we were law students in their clinic.