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King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

This summer, I had the privilege of working as a 1L Summer Extern with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. I was assigned to the Most Dangerous Offenders Project (MDOP), focusing on homicide cases within King County. When I learned about my placement, I was ecstatic, knowing I was in for a unique and impactful experience.

As an extern, I had a variety of opportunities within the unit. I was immediately assigned several research projects, including improper Miranda procedure and Confrontation Clause analysis. The Confrontation Clause analysis was particularly challenging; I struggled to narrow down the most relevant rules and find analogous cases. However, a colleague connected me with a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Appellate Unit, who generously reviewed my research and discussed my rules and analysis with me virtually. With her guidance, I was able to submit strong, quality research promptly. It was meaningful to me that despite the difficulties, I could communicate with team members in the Prosecutor's Office, and we worked together to successfully complete the assignment. This collaborative spirit was present throughout my externship!

Another exciting opportunity was being invited to sit at counsel table and assist with a trial alongside my supervising attorney. Through this experience, I witnessed the voir dire process, opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, and closing statements. During the trial, I took notes, discussed my observations and feedback with my supervisor, asked questions, and received clarifications about trial matters. Experiencing the jury's deliberation and the subsequent "not guilty" verdict revealed how a prosecutor transforms into a counselor to console the victim's family. At that moment, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office's client became more tangible; by representing "the State," we speak on behalf of the victims, their families, and their communities.

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office externship was unique, particularly due to the field trips arranged for externs. Over the summer, I toured the jail, met the Medical Examiners and toured their office—including the storage freezer and examination room—and visited the shooting range. These field trips were exceptional! At the shooting range, for instance, we learned about ballistics evidence from a local police department. After trying out different firearms, a simulated crime scene was set up for us to review evidence and determine the number of shooters, types of guns used, and more. This experience gave me a new appreciation for both our law enforcement officers and our Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys.

Overall, I am grateful to have been selected as a Legal Extern with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. I learned so much this summer, which has made me incredibly excited for my second year of law school and the opportunities ahead. I could not have asked for a better experience and am honored to have served as a public servant for King County.

