



Intern Spotlight: *October 2009*

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What motivated you to do an internship?

Having completed two years of pre-med curriculum at PC, I decided that I wanted to venture off and embark on something completely different. I have always been particularly intrigued with criminal defense, so I decided to pursue a legal internship.

What did you like best about the internship?

From interviewing clients being charged with offenses ranging from misdemeanors to capital felonies such as robbery and rape, all of which carry the potential of a life sentence in prison, I was able to be intimately involved in many of the unique cases that came through the office. Additionally, I had full access to all types of evidence and police reports and was able to sit in with lawyers and the clients as they discussed decisions that could dramatically affect their lives.

What did you like the least?

Juvenile interviews. On occasion, I had to interview minors for alleged offenses such as disorderly conduct in school or disobedience charges that were filed by their parents. It was often a challenge to acquire the pertinent information needed to ensure that the report I would submit to one of the lawyers regarding the client would be adequate.

What skills did you gain from the internship?

From dealing with people from all walks of life, I was really able to build my social skills. Many of the clients that I dealt with each day were angry, distraught, or even under the influence of drugs. This internship enabled me to refine how I deal with people in a variety of different situations.

How would you rate this internship 1-5?

I am interning at the Public Defender's Office again during the fall semester, therefore, I would certainly rate it a 5. My internship opened me up to a whole other world and I now have an in-depth understanding of how our court system works. I was able to recognize that I can be passionate about other things just as much as I am with biology.

Would you recommend that PC students participate in internships in general? Why or why not?

Definitely. Internships are an integral part of any academic career. The real life experiences gained while interning are something that cannot be obtained in a classroom. By completing an internship, a student can expect to gain real world knowledge relative to their chosen field.