

Myranda Buiquy

This summer I have been interning at the Washington State Supreme Court in Justice Yu's chambers. I had the great opportunity to learn more about the state courts and the importance of the judiciary. My first day opened with attending the 2022 Washington Supreme Court Symposium: Reparations for African-Americans. The symposium set the tone for the rest of my internship, exploring the historical and legal treatment of black Americans and examining remedies to combat anti-blackness. I started law school around the same time the murder of George Floyd occurred. 2020 was a year that was marked by that tragedy and shifted my perspective on what I thought the justice system was. Justice Yu authored a letter signed by all the other justices, calling for the legal community to work together in eradicating racial injustice. Our state supreme court is a leader in our nation in addressing systemic racism and I felt proud being able to be a part of Justice Yu's chambers this summer.

The internship was mainly remote, although I did get to visit the Temple of Justice a couple of times to meet the team in-person. I was nervous about working remotely because I craved mentorship and teamwork with other people. However, the whole team was incredibly welcoming and communicative via email and Zoom. I felt like I was part of a team and got to build strong relationships with the other folks in the chambers. I was in awe of every person on the team; each person was so knowledgeable yet so generous and caring during my learning process. I felt like I had autonomy over my time at the chambers and was definitely stepping out of my comfort zone. I was allowed to choose cases that I connected with and present my research and my own perspective on the cases. Having a discussion with a Justice and their team is one of the most valuable moments of my internship.

My last case presentation centered on an issue regarding Washington courts moving towards more racially equitable practices. I had researched and presented on a wide variety of cases from juvenile cases to insurance law. But I was excited to learn more about our state's responsibility in bettering the justice system in certain areas. I read numerous analogous cases and combed through hundreds of pages of transcripts and other legal documents. I think any individual's first impression of a case leads to having an initial opinion on the result of the case. I watched and learned from the other clerks the importance of reading every legal document in relation to the case. The briefs from both parties are vital to formulating my own analysis on the case, rather than relying on someone else's summarized version of the facts or the arguments. I was proud of my work by the end of my internship, and felt that I delivered my best oral presentation that summer. I dread public speaking and prefer legal writing, but this internship gave me the opportunity to practice and build confidence.

I ended my internship learning more and presenting about racially equitable practices in the legal field to a state Justice. Those issues have stayed with me since the start of my 1L year and have changed my approach to my legal career. Through this grant, I was able to practice my commitment to improving diversity in the law and advocating for vulnerable communities; I hope to continue practicing these values for the rest of my legal career.