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This summer I had the opportunity to work with the Housing Justice Project (HJP) as an “onsite” intern. Before I came to law school, my work primarily revolved around houseless advocacy and community building. So, HJP appeared to be an excellent extension of the work I was already interested in.

This internship has been everything I had hoped for and more. The team was immediately welcoming when I started my first day and encouraged myself and the other interns to engage with any work that we were interested in. This encouragement meant that from the start the other interns and I were tackling things that were otherwise completely unfamiliar to us. Often, the work was something novel but whichever attorney I was working with was incredibly supportive in making sure I could succeed.

The projects ran the gamut in terms of difficulty, and I have felt so fortunate that the team was so supportive in showing me the tools I would need to figure each problem out. It always felt like they wanted us to learn and succeed with them. I also just appreciated learning as much as I could about the entirety of the process around housing law. Some of these projects included drafting stipulations associated with cases; researching and drafting advocacy letters for clients; drafting a variety of motions; trial brief work; appellate brief work- including a qui tam filing; and researching novel legal questions.

Along the way the attorneys were often checking in with us to receive feedback on how things were going and if they could be improved. The experience never felt lacking, but I really appreciated the prioritization of open communication between myself and the team. During one of those conversations, I had mentioned an interest in attempting to issue spot on new cases and the meeting immediately developed into the two other interns and myself combing through a new case and practicing the skill. From there I was able to help issue spot on multiple, new cases. A few weeks later, the other interns and I were also able to help on a post-writ case and after that experience I feel like I have received such a comprehensive look into the law I would like to practice once I graduate. I also feel this additional excitement coming back to school because there is a new understanding of how my classes will compliment the work I hope to do.

Aside from learning at HJP and appreciating the atmosphere the HJP team created for myself, I felt enormously thankful for my fellow interns as well. I believe the collaboration that HJP encourages amongst itself also helped us find a team oriented dynamic as well. We were often supporting one another during work, rotating through tasks so no individual person was overwhelmed, or talking through legal problems. It helped cement my goals of not only finding work that aligns with my morals but finding a complimentary work environment as well.

Overall, this experience has made it clear that even a small portion of the law is incredibly dense and rich. I by no means know everything there is to know about housing law, but I feel

like this experience has taught me about so many important tools to tackle these questions more effectively.