JUDICIAL INTERN: ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL DIVISION

PICS Internship 2020
Kate Liu
1. Observation Hearings/Trials
   Participating in countless hearings, non-jury trials, and even one hybrid jury trial

2. Motivation and expectations when starting this internship

3. Research and Assignments
   Analyzing motions and researching case laws to write legal memorandum

4. Beyond the Internship
   How this summer internship has shaped my personal, academic, and professional trajectory
INTRODUCTION

Motivations and Expectations When Beginning the Internship
WHY I APPLIED TO THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Academic Interests
- Concentrating in Political Philosophy with Certificate in Values & Public Life
- Intersection of the law, philosophy, and our surrounding community
- Interest in questions of judicial philosophy, judicial activism, and philosophy of punishment

Career Interests
- Extracurricular experience as an attorney on Princeton Mock Trial
- Aspirations to attend law school
- Hoping to gain more first-hand experience with the legal system and learn more about the Courts
I believe that the judicial system is essential to upholding our moral and legal duties to each other as members of the same community.
Observing Hearings & Trials
TRANSITIONING TO A REMOTE FORMAT

March
Eleventh Judicial Court transitions to be entirely remote, using the Zoom platform for hearings and non-jury trials

June
Began my remote internship with the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

April
Decision made to make all PICS internships remote
OBSERVING HEARINGS

- Observed hearings everyday through Zoom (hundreds during the course of my internship)
- Case Management Conferences, Motion Calendars, Special Sets, Calendar Calls, etc.
- Motion for Summary Judgment, Motion to Dismiss, Motion to Amend, Motion for Sanctions, Motion to DQ
- Insurance, Slip and Falls, Negligence, Foreclosures, Fraud
OBSERVING NON-JURY TRIALS

- Would span hours and sometimes days
- Foreclosure Case
- Void Deed and Quiet Title
- Multiple witnesses on both sides
LEARNING FROM OBSERVATION

LEGAL CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY

Learned about the Judicial System as a whole:
- Hearings vs. Trials
- Legal Fees
- Appeal Process and Court System

Some Terminology as well:
- Motions
- Legal Research

ACADEMIC AND PHILOSOPHICAL INTERESTS

Conversations with Judge Fine after hearings and trials:
- Election of Judges
- Sentencing Guidelines
- Equity and Fairness in the Judicial System
To prepare for a hearing, I would start by reading every relevant document in the docket, including motions, responses, and legal memoranda.

Then, I would research relevant case law, Statutes, Executive Orders, and Rules of Evidence on Westlaw and other sites.
Above are two screenshots of the Miami-Dade County Clerk website, which is where I would access the docket of materials to review for each hearing or trial. This information is accessible to the public for most cases.
In addition to reading through the Complaint, orders, motions, responses, and relevant memoranda of law, I would also conduct my own research on Westlaw. Above is a screenshot of a Westlaw page as well as a Westlaw email Judge Fine sent me to help with researching a particular case.
After reading all the relevant material on the docket and conducting the necessary research, I would draft a legal memorandum on the issue at hand (around 5 pages) to send to Judge Fine that included a recommendation of how the Court ought to rule.
BEYOND THE INTERNSHIP
AN EYE-OPENING OPPORTUNITY

- Shaped my personal, academic, and career goals
- Learned so much about our Judicial and Legal System
- Explored issues that definitely shaped how I understand systematic change
- More excited than ever to work in the legal field and the public sector!
THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Judge Fine for his endless support, advice, and mentorship throughout this internship and the PICS program for supporting this amazing opportunity.