



Daniel Harris

Political Science major, Class of '08
Internship with **District Attorney's Office of Philadelphia**

How did you find your internship?

SJU academic department.

What were some of your internship responsibilities? What was a typical day like for you?

Around the office, I faxed and copied documents, subpoenaed Philadelphia Police Officers, filed, summarized cases, etc. I spent most of my ten hours a week in court assisting and observing my Assistant District Attorney.

What aspect(s) of your internship did you find the most rewarding?

Since a very young age I have always wanted to be a lawyer. I was never sure what kind of lawyer. I did consider being a trial criminal lawyer or prosecutor. Over the course of the internship I witnessed the complexities of the job. I saw the toll the job took on my ADA's body and spirit. I learned how demanding the job is. The internship has not deterred me from becoming a lawyer. The internship just showed me the reality of the job. TV and movies make the job look easy and that everything always works out. I learned that is not the case at all.

What aspect(s) of your internship did you find the most challenging?

I found keeping up with the legal jargon was tough. I have not been to law school yet and there are still some words I have not learned yet. My ADA was always great about explaining the terms afterwards.

How did your internship contribute to your professional development?

I still want to become a lawyer. I most likely will not pursue criminal law. I do not think I have the toughness to be a trial attorney. My ADA has introduced me to other fields of law that I think I will be most interested in. This internship taught me what type of law I do not want to pursue. My ADA and I continue to talk and he has offered to help me find my way into his field.

What advice would you offer to SJU students about finding an internship and/or being a successful intern?

I would tell students SJU has a fine career development office which offers many internships. The Political Science Dept. offers a terrific course titled Philadelphia Internship. In addition SJU offers the Washington Internship and other CO-OP programs. Students would be hard-pressed not to find something they are interested in. My advice to be a successful intern would be to go in with an open mind and ask as many questions as possible.