

Amanda Spangler

Intern at the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas

Chardon, Ohio

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern at the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas. Throughout the summer I was able to sit in on a number of hearings and witness the legal process in action. I also was exposed to some of the more clerical aspects of the courthouse, such as the processes of filing and service, which helped me to understand the work of lawyers and judges with a greater appreciation. Through all this, I was exposed to a range of wide range of civil and criminal law. This exposure helped me to understand many of the procedural differences between the two.

I worked closely with several magistrates throughout the summer. From them, I learned how to conduct legal research, write briefs, and I was able to practice both of these quite frequently. Much of my research involved seeking out the answers to puzzling legal questions. It was quite thrilling to finally come across the right answer that might be crucial to a case's success or failure.

My position allowed me to interact with different staff members and to have my many questions about the legal process and justice system answered. I was able to speak with public defenders, county prosecutors, staff attorneys and the judges themselves, all of whom provided a wide range of insight. Additionally, I had the opportunity to observe lawyers argue and defend their cases in hearings. This was an incredible thing to witness as an aspiring lawyer myself.

One of my most memorable days at the courthouse was the being able to watch a jury trial. I had never before witnessed the process of jury selection, but after observing the voir dire

process, I was surprised with how fascinating and crucial it really was. After the completion of the jury trial, I was able to speak with the defense attorney one on one. He emphasized the importance of this process in ensuring justice.

I am extremely thankful for my summer spent at the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas and am extremely grateful to have been selected as a Wellman Hill recipient. Without the generosity of Judge Hill, my valuable summer experience would never have been a reality. My summer at the courthouse has left me looking forward to my future as a lawyer and has left me with valuable knowledge and experience to draw upon in all my future endeavors.