

## Liman Fellowship Report

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As a 2017 Liman Fellow, I interned at the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington D.C. AFSC is a Quaker group that was formed in 1917 in response to the horrors of World War 1. They won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 for their work during WWII and have been involved in a variety of different social advocacy campaigns.

While interning at AFSC, I spent most of my time working on Immigration issues under Kathryn Johnson. I also helped other members of the office as needed. The summer was quite busy for immigration issues so I worked on a variety of different things as needed. A huge part of AFSC's efforts involves direct advocacy campaigns, as such the majority of my work was helping coordinate Calls for Action behind the scenes. This could involve, for example, looking up legislation or a policy that was about to go into effect or be voted upon, researching and analyzing the implications of these pieces of legislation, and then drafting action alerts to mobilize people to campaign for or against these policies.

For example, in the first couple of weeks of my internship, I worked on the implications of the new muslim ban and the vague bona fide relationship standard. We then set out action alerts to create political momentum against the ban. Other issues that I worked on in a similar capacity included the Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS) situation, Kate's Law, The No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, and DACA.

Other aspects of my internship included helping coordinate meetings of different AFSC offices with their congressional district offices. AFSC had a massive August Recess advocacy push, and I was the point person for coordinating meetings for different offices. In addition, I did

general research on topics for future advocacy pushes (such as the process of a government shutdown, what is considered essential staff, who decides what that consists of).

One of the best parts of the internship was sitting on various calls with different advocacy networks which really helped educate me on the vastness of the issues and the myriad ways different actors are coordinating behind the scenes to address those issues. For example, one particular meeting involved a national call between different organizations working against immigration detention. Organizations that chimed in included the ACLU and other big name organizations along with smaller organizations that were in the process of staging public protests outside detention centers. There was a constant onslaught of news and developments that I had to keep up with (the healthcare bill is one example), and it really helped me realize how there are many different ways that lives of immigrants can be affected.

I am deeply grateful to the Arthur Liman Program for funding my internship this past summer. I was able to accomplish a lot, and learn even more. This internship solidified my commitment to pursue a career in public interest law. I can only hope that I can have more wonderful experiences like the ones I had this past summer.