

Steven Gomez
Princeton University Class of 2019
Liman Fellowship Report 2017

The Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia ACIJ is a non-governmental organization based in Argentina, dedicated to the task of defending the rights of disadvantaged groups in Argentine society, as well as strengthening the democratic institutions of the Argentine government. Through the support of the Arthur J. Liman Fellowship in Public Interest Law, I had the opportunity to intern with the organization's "Strengthening of Democratic Institutions" (FID) sector. This internship exposed me to the different avenues through which organizations can address and combat corruption within their government, as well as the diverse manners in which one can educate the public of their rights.

My daily responsibilities in ACIJ involved the management of two databases that contained relevant information on public officials and politicians who were running for office. The first database contains a list of all public officials that occupied an important role in the any of the ministries of the Argentine government, along with all of the businesses and organizations that these public officials were affiliated with. This database serves the purpose of showing the number of conflicts of interest present between the organizations these public officials are affiliated with, and the ministries these officials are supposed to represent. The second database contained information on every relevant politician running for office in the upcoming legislative election, including whether they had ever been tried or convicted of corruption in the past. Both of these databases will serve as reference tools to demonstrate the amount of corrupt activity present within the Argentine government, as well as to hold these individuals accountable for their actions and prevent them from taking office again.

Concurrent with my daily responsibilities, I also dedicated my time to creating comparative analysis on the campaign finance laws of three Latin American countries, specifically, Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. In my analysis, I focused on the deficiencies present with the campaign finance laws and practices of Argentina, and made suggestions on how to possibly remedy these issues. I also created a shortened version of this analysis to be published on ACIJ's Sin Corrupción webpage at a later date, for the purposes of making it presentable to a larger Argentine audience, to inform them of the policy issues that need to be addressed.

I am extremely grateful for the support the Arthur J. Liman Foundation has provided me to pursue this internship. The Fellowship allowed me to learn more about how governments function and the different methods available to keep them in check, and has further solidified my interest in pursuing a legal degree.