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While it wasn't exactly Hollywood, my summer fellowship with BeyondMedia Education in Chicago, IL did draw on elements of the dual legacies of the Liman family – public service law and movie-making. BeyondMedia is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to provide media literacy education to women and children and to provide the necessary media tools for these populations to create their own forms of media. BeyondMedia's work and the products of the communities they serve emphasize the importance of media as a tool for social justice and recognize the role social documentation plays in advocacy efforts. While BeyondMedia consists of several projects that work with numerous community organizations, I was staffed exclusively on the Women and Prison project. This project developed as an effort to share the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women with the general public. The project embodies what is perhaps BeyondMedia's most comprehensive media effort, as it has included media education workshops, documentary making, public art displays, panel discussions, and, the project I was most involved with, the use of the Internet as an advocacy tool.

The Women and Prison website, entitled "A Site for Resistance," provides incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, as well as others involved in the fight to reform or abolish the current criminal justice system in the United States, a space to share their stories and reflect on their experiences. In doing so, it makes public the experiences of this often hidden, forgotten, and stigmatized population. Included on the website are interviews with Diana Delgado, who was forced to give birth while shackled to a hospital

bed; Lucretia, whose illicit activities began when her mother sold her to a pimp at age 12; and many others. The website also includes artwork and poems submitted by women currently in prison, as well as video clips of spoken word performances by formerly incarcerated women. While the website undoubtedly emphasizes the personal narratives and reflections of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, it also provides a space for more traditional forms of assistance and advocacy. A prominent link on the website provides a comprehensive list of resources for women caught up in the criminal justice system. Scholars and lawyers have also used the site to post their articles, and several links to longer, more academic articles are displayed on the website.

My time at BeyondMedia was primarily spent in front of a computer. At first I was rather disappointed with this because I had been looking forward to conducting my own interviews, yet I soon realized that the organization already had a large amount of information that needed to be transferred to the website. This ended up being quite beneficial to me because I was able to read all the available information and gain a much more comprehensive understanding of an issue I knew little about. I also did a significant amount of research with the intention of finding more academic reports on the issue of women's incarceration. I was particularly pleased that I was able to combine my past research on immigrant detention and deportation by posting a few articles on this topic on the website. I also watched a great deal of interview and lecture video footage, much of which I transcribed to be included on the site. I also chose video and audio clips from this footage to include on the website in order to make it more interactive and interesting.

While it sounds rather banal, the aspect of my position at BeyondMedia that marked me most profoundly was transcribing interviews conducted with women formerly

involved in the sex industry. Although I was not speaking to the women directly, the casual format of the interviews and the repetition of watching the same clips over and over again(!) allowed me to gain a sense of intimacy with the women being interviewed. They told their stories in a very honest manner, and while they appeared uncomfortable and even ashamed at times, their strength in sharing their experiences demonstrates their dedication to reforming the sex industry and helping other women still involved in prostitution. It was also very moving to see this group of former sex workers go to the state capitol and lobby for alternative sentencing and the removal of prostitution from their records once they have served their sentences. The legislation these women advocated passed in the House, although it has yet to pass in the Senate.

Overall, I had a very positive experience interning with BeyondMedia and am very grateful that the Liman Program afforded me the opportunity. Working for BeyondMedia allowed me to explore the issue of female incarceration and demonstrated the nexus between advocacy and media, a relationship I would like to pursue in the future. For the time being, I am working as the Community Resource Coordinator at KIPP Ascend Charter School, a charter middle school on the West side of Chicago serving about 300 fifth through eighth graders. While the connection between public service law, media literacy, social documentation, and elementary education may seem obscure, I am sure that these many experiences will serve to inform a more nuanced understanding of contemporary American society and will prepare me to address a wide range of issues once I eventually begin practicing law in the public service.