

Law School Personal Statement

I was a Midwestern girl from a small Ohio town who agreed to spend a semester as a Politics and Government intern in Washington D.C. I felt a little like the five-year-old girl who stood in the doorway of my kindergarten classroom while my mom gently nudged me forward saying, "You are going to be fine, honey. You will love school." During my first week in D.C., I was shoved and pushed around on the streets by the men and women hurrying to catch their trains. Sometimes I felt invisible, scared, and excited—all at the same time. I wanted to challenge myself to play a crucial role and make a difference in society, but I knew this would entail stepping out of my "comfort zone." I was determined this internship would present the opportunity to explore the dynamics of the government, test the legitimacy of the three-tiered system and apply what I had learned during my traditional college semesters.

As the days passed, I acclimated to the urban culture and the job that had brought me to D.C. in the first place. I chose the internship with Beacon Consulting Group because I identified closely with their objectives in representing non-profit groups, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. I focused in the areas of educational reform, health care reform, the Veterans Administration, and the up and coming green industry sector. My primary obligations were attending congressional hearings, gathering information pertinent to our clients' specific interests, and then summarizing it for Beacon's management team to present to our clients. Additionally, my duties included writing letters to senators and members of congress and inviting them to events that may prove beneficial to our clients; filling out annual paperwork for possible governmental grants; attending luncheons, forums and meetings to help further the causes of our clients.

For my first assignment, a confirmation hearing for the President's nomination for Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I arrived an hour early, but over one hundred people were already impatiently waiting in line. I ended up seated in an overflow room for over four hours, shoulder to shoulder with complete strangers. I could not see the small monitor in the front of the room or hear the specifics of the proceedings. That did not matter; I was still accountable. And I was accountable for gathering the salient facts of the hearing and organizing them into a brief for our client. Though I started to doubt myself, I committed myself to writing and rewriting the report with information that would help our client obtain government funding. My college years of writing research papers helped me immensely. In the days following my first hearing, I spent over thirty hours reviewing documents and testimony and developing several drafts, including a final draft, of a twenty-page memo. That memo was one of twenty memos I wrote that required me to apply the critical thinking and writing skills I developed at Ohio Wesleyan. My superiors at Beacon thanked me for my memo, praised my thoroughness, appreciated my timeliness, and, of course, assigned the next project.

Many times I have heard that all learning does not take place in a classroom—I can vouch for this statement. I began my journey as a naive girl from a small Midwestern town, but transformed into a more cosmopolitan woman who has learned some of the ropes of political life in Washington D.C. I became knowledgeable about Veterans Affairs, health care reform, the lack of funding for education, the need for alternative energy sources, and other current issues. I witnessed firsthand how congressional hearings are conducted and how funding is allocated. Although challenging at times,

my internship helped prepare me for my next challenge—law school. I have a better idea about what I want to do in the area of governmental law and policy, and I look forward to my future following law school. I have transformed into a different self—a wiser, more mature self attuned to the political realities of Washington D.C. and our nation— who will, in my next chapter, make a positive difference in our society.