



York County Court Internship

D. Blake Savage
Northwestern High School
Summer 2017



Overview

- This summer, I took part in a legal internship with the Rock Hill Magistrate Court, the Solicitor's Office, and the Public Defender's Office. It was led by Judge Stephanie Wood, Melissa Inzerillo, and Sharon Kopp. This internship was designed to show the full scope of the legal profession through shadowing numerous attorneys, observing various types of court, and learning important basics in case law.

Week 1

Monday 6/12-Magistrate Court
(Orientation/Judge Stephanie Wood)

Tuesday 6/13-Moss Justice Center
(Public Defender's Office/Melissa Inzerillo
and Toni Johnson)



This week was all about beginnings, in particular the beginning of this internship and of the legal process, as preliminary hearings are the first step in a case being tried. On Tuesday, my first day in court, Melissa Inzerillo and other defense attorneys appeared before Judge Putman in preliminary hearings to determine probable cause. This is where the judge hears arguments to decide if there is enough evidence for the case to go to trial. Later that day, I shadowed Toni Johnson as she presented a case in Magistrate Court before Judge Sexton. This week I learned about the formalities of court and that criminal law is about much more than a verdict.

Week 2

Monday 6/19-Moss Justice Center
(General Sessions Court/Judge Dan Hall)

Tuesday 6/20-Moss Justice Center
(General Sessions Court/Assistant
Solicitor Sharon Kopp)

Wednesday 6/21-Moss Justice Center
(Trial/Montrio Belton-Education Law)

Friday 6/23-Lancaster
(General Sessions Court/Creighton Hayes-
Criminal, Family, & Civil Law)



During week two, I observed the normal proceedings of court, called General Sessions. This primarily consisted of guilty pleas and probation hearings, which were presented to Judge Hall on Monday; and the occasional trial which I saw on Tuesday with Solicitor Sharon Kopp. I shadowed Montrio Belton on Wednesday. He practices education law and provided an opportunity to observe him in court with his clients. Friday, I traveled with Creighton Hayes to Lancaster to observe first appearances. This is when a defendant is assigned an attorney. To my surprise, I learned that the vast majority of cases do not go to trial.

Week 3

Monday 6/26-York Police Department
(Tour/Detective Mumaw)

Tuesday 6/27-Rock Hill Police
Department (Tour/Captain Bollinger)

Wednesday 6/28-Magistrate Court
(Public Defender-Sherril Alford and Law
Enforcement Victim's Advocate-Robyn
Crews)

Thursday 6/29-Magistrate Court
(Criminal Jury Trial/Twana Burris-Defense
Attorney)

Friday 6/30-Magistrate Court
(Eviction Hearings/Judge Berinsky and
Pre-Trial Motions/Judge Putman)



In week three, I saw the full scope of the law. On Monday, I toured the York Police Department with Detective Mumaw, who worked on the murder investigation of the former York Mayor. Tuesday, Captain Bollinger, the second highest officer in the Rock Hill Police Department, gave me a tour of our city's facility. The victim's advocate, Robyn Crews, met with me on Wednesday to discuss the details of her job which included explaining the legal process to victims, preparing them for court, and accompanying them to court if requested. On Thursday, I observed a jury trial on domestic violence and concluded on Friday with Judge Berinsky conducting eviction hearings.



Week 4

Wednesday 7/5-Magistrate Court
(Miranda Rights Speaker/Attorney
Christopher Wellborn)

Thursday 7/6-Magistrate Court
(Mock Trial Speaker/Attorney Gary Lemel)



Week four was all about trials, both real and pretend. On Wednesday, Chris Wellborn taught about Arizona v. Miranda. This case guaranteed citizens will be informed of their legal rights for their protection. Gary Lemel came to speak on Thursday. He shared information about Mock Trial and inspired me to work to begin a group at my own high school. When I was not learning from our speakers, I worked with the Magistrate staff filing and entering traffic tickets.

Week 5

Monday 7/10-Moss Justice Center
(General Sessions Court/Domestic
Violence Court)

Tuesday 7/11-Moss Justice Center
(General Sessions Court & Lunch with
Solicitor Kevin Brackett)

Wednesday 7/12-Moss Justice Center
(General Sessions Court)

Thursday 7/13-Moss Justice Center
(General Sessions Court/Matt Shelton-
Senior Solicitor)

Friday 7/14-Magistrate Court
(Speaker/Senator Wes Climer)



This week, I observed another week of General Sessions Court consisting primarily of guilty pleas, probation hearings, and bond hearings. I also had lunch with Solicitor Brackett on Tuesday. He shared that a judge does not have to abide by a jury's decision if they return a verdict of guilty. On Friday, I had lunch with Senator Climer who explained what it is like to work in the State Legislature.

Week 6

Tuesday 7/18-York Courthouse
(Master in Equity Court/Jim Boyd)

Wednesday 7/19-York County Sheriff
Office (Tour/Heather Mouzon-Staff
Attorney)

Friday 7/21-Magistrate Court
(Search and Seizure Speaker/Jennifer
Colton-Senior Solicitor)



Week six showed me a wide spectrum of the law including exposure to Master in Equity Court. This court, which I observed on Tuesday, handles all non-jury matters. Wednesday, I toured the Sheriff's Office with Staff Attorney Heather Mouzon, who represents the department when they are sued. On Friday, Jennifer Colton came to share invaluable information about search and seizure laws, including scope limitations that determine where the officers may look and what items are being sought.

Week 7

Monday 7/24-Moss Justice Center
(Circuit Court/Judge John C. Hayes)

Tuesday 7/25-Chester Municipal Court
(Preliminary Hearing/Twana Burris-
Defense Attorney)

Thursday 7/27-Magistrate Court
(Office Work and Project)

Friday 7/28-Magistrate Court
(Projects and Back to School Lunch/Judge
Stephanie Wood)



The last week of my internship was a busy one. On Monday, I watched General Sessions Court with Judge Hayes presiding over guilty pleas. Tuesday, Twana Burris took me to Chester to watch her argue in preliminary hearings. I also was able to help her office staff later that afternoon. Thursday and Friday were devoted to project work to complete my internship and a celebratory lunch for all of Judge Wood's interns.



Summary

This internship taught me a great deal about the legal profession. In addition to asking me to observe various types of courts and shadow different attorneys, Judge Wood asked many in the legal profession what movie inspired them to become lawyers. Based on the answers she received, I was asked to watch *12 Angry Men* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Originally, I thought I wanted to practice international law, but, as a result of this internship, I am now also interested in criminal defense. To broaden my perspective even further, I interviewed a transactional attorney and also researched the legal field using SCOIS. This information was crucial in furthering my knowledge of the profession. As one of the attorneys told me, “Choosing your practice of law is all about what kind of day you want to have.” For me, this means different personality types can find a home in the wide spectrum of law practice.

Submitted Materials

- Job Description
- Time Sheets
- Confidentiality Agreement
- Agreement, Release of Liability and Indemnification
- SCOIS.net Report
- Interview with Van Miller

