

**Student: Chris Meier**  
**Placement: Viacom**  
**Program: DC Scholars in the Private Sector**

I worked at Viacom International this summer through the Padden Scholars program and Colorado law. Specifically, I worked in the legislative issues department in the Washington D.C. office of Viacom International. The office is small and focused. They are interested in protecting Viacom's interests in the face of changing legislation affecting content owner's rights, as well as the telecom industry more generally.

I was assigned a research assignment on a set on international copyright laws protected by the World Intellectual Property Organization copyright treaty. This was my primary focus over the course of the summer, and provided me with a 25 page writing sample that spans areas of international law as well as a circuit by circuit analysis of a particular internationally recognized copyright protection. Along with this research, I was also given tasks that allowed me to contribute on a daily basis to Viacom's legislative agenda. Many of these daily tasks were exciting, they included; monitoring senate and house committee hearings and markups, either in person or via webcast; gathering information on various rules and regulations related to spectrum reallocation, cellphone unlocking, copyright review, as well as international research on broadcasting rules; I was also invited to various meetings with other trade associations, as well as movie premieres, throughout the summer. I found my work at Viacom to be very fulfilling and I would gladly work with them again.

The D.C. Scholars program helped me make valuable connections, and provided a sense of community for me in a new city. The lecture series was interesting and gave us an opportunity to meet extremely important figures involved in the making of national and international telecommunications policy. Meeting with these people, as well as the support provided to us by attorneys working with the program, allowed me to make valuable connections with legal professionals. At the end of my summer, I even found a mentor who is interested in guiding me into the career I hope to take on after law school.

Last, Washington D.C. is a fun place. If you are looking for an exciting and challenging adventure in one of the most internationally diverse and well-educated cities on the planet, I recommend the D.C. Summer Scholars Program. I wouldn't trade those twelve weeks of work and life experience for anything.

Good Luck.