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Placement: National Association of Broadcasters
Program: DC Scholars in the Private Sector

I spent my summer working for the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) in the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Department. Our docket was a full one this summer, with issues far outside the normal subject of broadcast incentive auctions. Along with my co-interns, I worked on comments for

1. A proposed revision of the FCC's Part 15 rules to allow Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices to operate within specific 5 GHz blocks,
2. A proposal to change the apparatus requirements for conveying emergency information and the requirements for video description required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility of 2010, and
3. An update to the FCC's indecency enforcement regime.

I learned a great deal during my time at the NAB, both inside and outside of the office. The clerks took projects from almost all of the attorneys in the office, which allowed us to really meet the entire team. This really reinforced the lesson that different bosses assign work in different ways, with different objectives, and different expectations. The large number of mentors in the office also gave us the opportunity to hear different perspectives on the way the FCC functions and the best routes for advocacy. Most importantly, however, the multiple-boss dynamic allowed us to meet many more DC telecom professionals than we would have otherwise, each with their own advice and their own networks.

These networks proved to be an exceptional way to meet people and to learn about the industry in Washington. Having an existing connection to outside attorneys made it much easier to connect to, set up meetings with, and develop relationships with other members of the telecommunications bar in DC.

The NAB clerks also attended a few Congressional hearings — one on the STELA reauthorization and one on the incentive auctions. Both of these opportunities gave us a window into the legislative process that dictates FCC policy. On the regulatory side, we attended a number of FCC open meetings and met with attorneys from the FCC's Audio Division about what it means to work as an attorney for the FCC.

I am most appreciative of my summer in Washington, to all those who helped me get out there, those who supported me while I was out there, and to those who showed me — intentionally or not — how great of a fit the District is for me. I look forward to returning next year and seeking employment after the bar.