

Student: John Cook IV
Placement: 21st Century Fox/News Corporation
Program: DC Scholars in the Private Sector

I had the pleasure of spending my 1L summer in the Government Relations office of 21st Century Fox (originally, News Corporation). Although I performed research for Kathleen Ramsey and Rick Lane, my primary reports were to Jared Sher and Maureen O'Connell. It is a small office, with around half a dozen attorneys and their staff. I was the only intern in the DC office.

My work consisted mainly of researching issues that arose over the course of the summer and writing memos on the topics. I also worked on a Comment to an FCC Public Notice and drafted an *ex parte* filing. The Comment was in response to the FCC's proposal to limit enforcement of broadcast indecency to "egregious" cases. I edited specific areas in the large comment and drafted the conclusion. It was neat to see my writing filed as part of the public record in an FCC proceeding. The *ex parte* filing was in response to a meeting that Fox held with members of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology regarding the two channels of spectrum dedicated to wireless microphones. The spectrum currently allocated to wireless microphones was threatened by the repacking element of the upcoming incentive auction. Because Fox has owned and operated local affiliates that rely on this spectrum for news reporting, they were working with the Commission to ensure a workable solution was derived before the auction. A few weeks after this initial meeting, I met with staff members of two Commissioners' offices regarding the wireless microphone issue. I enjoyed gaining first-hand experience in the complex relationship between a government regulator and the private entities it regulates.

Most of my time at Fox was spent researching issues of importance to the Fox team. I gained a breadth of knowledge drafting memos on the state of the law for issues ranging from satellite spectrum to Internet closed captioning. This broad learning was a key takeaway from my summer that I will be able to harness in future telecom law classes. I was surprised to witness the degree to which private companies are necessary to the regulatory rule making process. In many cases, the FCC seemed unaware of the potential consequences of their proposals; industry input was key to ensuring businesses could continue to serve their customers. I was also surprised at how those in the communications bar are tightly knit. This close relationship between those working in industry, at law firms, at public interest groups, and at the Commission ensured that each side had a better understanding of the issues confronting the others.

I was also able to attend two House of Representatives hearings and one Senate hearing. I attended these with the two lobbyists in our office. Again, it was great to see how Washington relationships in action. Another highlight of the summer was the weekly programming hosted at Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer. It was invaluable to hear insights in a small, informal setting from leaders in communications law. I especially enjoyed hearing from FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, FTC Commissioner Maureen Ohlhausen, and Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer Partner Bryan Tramont. Finally, it was wonderful to build a relationship with the amazing professionals in my office. Maureen and Jared were both great mentors and I look forward to turning to them for advice as I continue my career.