

**Rebecca Coffelt wrote the following about her internship working for Commissioner Jon Leibowitz at the Federal Trade Commission:**

I got to be a part of many exciting things while working for Commissioner Jon Leibowitz at the Federal Trade Commission this summer. When I arrived the office was preparing for the Commissioner to testify on the Hill. I also attended Senate hearings on Spyware, behavioral marketing, and high petroleum prices. My daily work consisted of assisting the Commissioner's staff in preparing for meetings with stakeholders, workshops, voting decisions, amending reports, and speeches. Additionally, I analyzed and researched issues relating to: the proposed market manipulation rule, freedom of speech in commercial advertisements, the public comments to the behavioral marketing principles, reverse payments of brand pharmaceuticals to generics, and a blocked health care merger.

This was an opportunity to take what I had learned in a classroom about policy and law and apply it in a setting where these ideas were heard by those making the important decisions. The posed questions were no longer theoretical conjecture; they were now positions that could bring about results and consequences. In preparing for a conference I was asked how the agencies and industries were doing with the digital TV transition, and what if anything should be done to improve the consumer education. This was a question I had already thought about, but now I was able to put my enthusiasm for these issues towards a concrete purpose.

While the benefits of my experience will still be realized for years to come, I have been immediately impacted in several ways. I felt how rewarding it was to use my legal training in the fight for the public good on a systematic level. Consumers benefit tremendously from the actions of the Federal Trade Commission. I saw how Congress and several agencies have to interact to solve any one problem. Getting this front row seat to the political processes affirmed my faith and confidence in the system. I learned from watching the most accomplished professionals in their field navigate difficult conversations. My research skills were sharpened in having to sift through congressional reports and appropriations. I attended career building and networking events, including speaking at the Dale Hatfield reception. There I met many of you who have contributed to Silicon Flatirons and the Hatfield Award. I am grateful for this financial support which made the training and exposure I received in Washington D.C. a possibility.

*Rebecca Coffelt is a student at the University of Colorado School of Law. She has worked in telecommunications law as a Clerk at Stoel Rives, and Qwest. Rebecca also gained experience in public service and policy while working for a State Senator and several non-profits.*