

Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2011 was sweltering. The mercury on the thermometer was surpassing 100 degrees with regularity, politics were the most charged they had been in recent memory, and the debt ceiling crisis cast a large shadow over all of Washington. Thankfully, however, LTE nationwide public safety networks, FCC regulatory reform, universal service reform, cramming, and the Future of Media were but a few issues that took the decision maker's minds off of the impending national default doom. My designation as a Hatfield Scholar allowed me to be right in the thick of these policy issues. The Hatfield Scholar award presented the opportunity for me to accept a position as a law clerk in Commissioner McDowell's office at the Federal Communications Commission. Working as a clerk in an FCC Commissioner's office, while additionally being a Hatfield Scholar, was an unprecedented opportunity that opened the several doors for me in Washington that would certainly have been out of reach otherwise. My time in Washington was unquestionably the best experience of my short legal career thanks to the Hatfield Scholar's program and the Silicon Flatiron's Center.

Upon arriving in Washington, I knew the summer was going to be far different than anything I could have experienced summering in Colorado. Politics, policy, and power were everywhere in Washington. As a law clerk in Commissioner McDowell's office I felt a sense of pride in contributing on a daily basis to our national telecommunications policy. After just a couple of days in the Commissioner's office it became evident, that as a graduate of CU Law's Telecommunications Law & Policy course, I had a much deeper understanding of telecommunications policy than my fellow law clerks. In addition, the Silicon Flatirons Center and the University of Colorado Law School name carried great weight in the small telecommunications circle in Washington. It was very exciting to be working on hot button telecommunications policy issues that I had dissected in class the previous semester. Something

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I would be working on one day would be front page news in the Washington Post the next day. It was invigorating and gratifying helping shape policy that affected the entire United States population.

My time in Washington was critical in aiding my understanding of the nuances of telecommunications law and policy. I can undoubtedly say that I have a much more developed and thorough understanding of telecommunications policy than I did when I first arrived in Washington. While the actual policy work that I completed in Washington was extremely valuable and thought provoking, it was everything else that truly made my experience in Washington unforgettable. Silicon Flatirons Senior Fellow Preston Padden maintains an extensive network of influential friends and colleagues in Washington. Preston did everything in his power to put me in touch with these individuals. It was an incredible opportunity to meet several top Washington lobbyists who had spent many years on the hill and throughout the halls of the FCC. I was able to have lunch with the former President of the National Association of Broadcasters, Disney executives, and a multitude of other top Washington lobbyists. Speaking with these individuals gave me a vivid understanding of how Washington actually functions. I quickly learned that relationships are one of the biggest keys to success in Washington. Additionally, it was very refreshing to see how genuine and kind-hearted Washington lobbyists can be. The Silicon Flatirons Center and the Hatfield Scholars Program made breaking into the tight-net Washington telecommunications circle much easier.

My time in Washington also provided me with several other unique experiences. Never did I dream that I would sit next to Nancy Pelosi at the Congressional baseball game, attend a Microsoft cocktail event and be one amongst senators, dine amid two former FCC chairman at the head table at the annual FCBA luncheon, or converse with Brett Baier while enjoying lunch

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in the News Corp. offices. These were just a few of the experiences that the Hatfield Scholars program made possible. I am forever grateful for the opportunity I was extended.

Arriving in Washington in May I was unsure of where I wanted my career to take me. Returning to Colorado in August, I am certain that I want to begin my career in Washington working within the telecommunications law and policy sector. I now believe that in order to be a successful advocate, whether on behalf of a company, individual, or trade association, one must spend time in Washington to understand how and why legislation and regulation is passed. Whether in the federal government or in the private sector, I am dead set on beginning my career in Washington and being a part of the policy, politics, and power that drives the decisions that control this country. I have caught the Washington bug, and I can't wait to get back. I look forward to sharing my Washington experience and everything that I learned with my fellow CU Law peers. I highly recommend the Hatfield Scholars program that made my Washington experience possible.

I must give a multitude of thanks to the Hatfield Scholars Program, the Silicon Flatirons Center, Preston Padden, Dale Hatfield, Bryan Tramont, Brad Bernthal, Anna Noschese, and everyone else that I worked with at the FCC and met in Washington