

Student: Gabe Bouvet-Boisclair
Placement: Free Press
Program: Hatfield DC Scholars in Public Service

I spent my first summer as a law student interning with Free Press's Policy Team in Washington D.C. Free Press is a non-profit organization devoted to changing media and technology policies to better serve the public interest. Spending the summer in D.C. was a valuable experience for a number of reasons.

Working at Free Press allowed me to gain exposure to a number of different technology law and policy issues while working on my research and writing skills. Specifically, I worked on spectrum auction issues, cable television policy, and IP Transition matters. My assignments consisted of summarizing policy perspectives for in-office use, drafting position papers, ex parte letters to the FCC, and even drafting comments for an FCC docket that Free Press was filing in. Additionally, all of the full time staff members at Free Press were kind and easy to approach. The attorneys on the policy team were incredibly knowledgeable about all of the issues Free Press was working on, as well as how D.C. operates. I had never worked at a non-profit before, and spending 10 weeks at Free Press has helped me understand how some non-profits operate. I believe that this experience has really helped me decide in which direction I would like my career to advance in.

The other great thing about this internship was simply experiencing Washington. I believe that anyone interested in politics, governmental relations, administrative law, and lobbying work could benefit from a short stay in D.C. Additionally, for anyone hoping to work in D.C. post-graduation, this program affords a number of opportunities to meet people, including many Colorado Law alums who have a genuine interest in helping out students. Moreover, it was very beneficial for me to be able to observe the interaction between non-profits, government bodies and private interests. Some of my favorite parts of the summer were going to Senate and House Hearings on the Hill, sitting in on FCC open meetings, and attending a variety of lectures and seminars on many different issues. In particular, the Monday Seminars organized through the program were a great way to learn about all types of work in the technology field, and what experts are doing in a variety of positions. For example, our group had the opportunity to meet with two FCC chairpersons this summer, Ajit Pai and Mignon Clyburn. Additionally, the public service scholar, myself included, were able to meet with Gene Kimmelman every Thursday to discuss how non-profit groups can be effective in achieving their objectives.

This summer program was really a great opportunity for anyone interested in getting an inside view on technology law and policy, as well as getting an inside look at how D.C. operates.