

**Student: Michelle Hersh**  
**Placement: FCC**  
**Program: Hatfield DC Scholars in Public Service**

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Dale Hatfield & the Silicon Flatirons community for their support during my summer internship with the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission as well as reflect on how valuable my time in the nation's capitol has been to my personal and professional goals. Unsurprisingly, I leave this summer experience feeling immensely proud to be a part of the Silicon Flatirons family and eager to pay this generosity forward as I move onward in my own legal career.

It's hard to believe that I was able to visit Washington, D.C. for the first time this past November for a Silicon Flatirons' conference. Needless to say, I was thrilled to return for the summer and extremely excited to be working in the Policy and Licensing Division of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. The Bureau had a busy summer, especially following a year of unfortunate 'super storms' and public safety tragedies. Further, the Bureau was able to dedicate time and efforts to the rules and deployment of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), an independent authority that holds the license to the entire 20 MHz public safety broadband spectrum. By the end of the summer, I truly felt like I had received a first hand look into the role of the federal government in ensuring that the nation's communications infrastructure continues to be accessible, reliable, resilient, and secure, especially in times of an emergency. Without a doubt, my time at the FCC has been one of the highlights of my legal training.

While emergency communications was a topic I was not incredibly well versed in, upon arriving at the FCC I quickly realized that Colorado Law and the Silicon Flatirons had provided an incredible knowledge base in telecommunications and technology policy. After taking courses in Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Law and Policy I felt prepared to speak about issues with confidence. Further, after attending several Silicon Flatirons conferences, I have developed a better understanding of how issues materialize and evolve over time. I truly believe that this level of understanding allowed me to contribute to my Bureau from day one of my internship.

On top of my incredible experience interning at the FCC, the Summer Scholars Program allowed me to capitalize on the work experiences of my fellow classmates and several leaders in the telecommunications community. The Monday night seminars were a great treat – literally allowing us access to the inner thoughts of leading experts and visionaries in the telecommunications space. Further, it was beyond enjoyable to be connected to such a great community far from campus. I want to thank all those individuals that made the Summer Scholars Program possible and a success.

Further, the Colorado Law alumni now working and living in Washington, D.C. have been invaluable mentors and allies in our summer experience. Too many alumni to individually name took hours of their time to check up on my work and experiences in D.C. via email and phone, over lunch and coffee breaks, as well as after work to help navigate work experiences and discuss personal and professional goals. I continue to be

overwhelmed by the generosity that has emerged from the Colorado Law and Silicon Flatirons community.

As I return to my final year of law school, I am so grateful that this experience has reiterated the value of public service and my eagerness to join the legal field.

Thank you again.