

**Student: Reggie Nubine**  
**Placement: Consumers Union**  
**Program: Hatfield DC Scholars in Public Service**

This summer I had the opportunity to work at Consumers Union (CU). Through the program I had the opportunity to work on a range of telecommunications policy issues, go to many hearings meetings, and meet very influential individuals in the industry. Although, the summer in D.C. was tremendously hot and humid, the experience gave me an extraordinary appreciation for the public side of the telecommunications industry. I am truly grateful to all the individuals who made this program happen and the patience that they had with all of the fellows including: Professor Hatfield, Dean Wiser, Bryan Tramont, Gene Kimmelman, Anna Noschese, Laura Littman, Ryan Tharp, and everyone else who in anyway played a part in all of us living and working in D.C. Further, I would like to thank all of the guest speakers who took time out of their schedules who came and spoke with us each week. And finally, I would like to thank my supervisor Delara Derakhshani, who will remain my mentor and friend for the years to come.

At CU this summer I had the opportunity to delve into a multitude of issues and topics including: legislation on the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, rulemaking on “Do Not Track”, mobile application transparency, a range of spectrum issues, issues arising out of the Lifeline program, cell phone unlocking, transparency in general, cramming on mobile phone bills and “bill shock”, big data issues, data caps issues, municipal/community broadband issues, and outage reporting among other things. I had the opportunity to not only research issues, but also attend multiple hearings and meetings where I represented CU. Following hearings and meetings I sharpened my writing skills by writing summaries and background memos for my supervisor and director. Further, I had the chance to attend ex parte meetings and even draft a congressional letter on CU’s support of the Lifeline issue.

A major benefit of this summer was learning how the Federal Communications Commission worked. In Legislation and Regulation we had been taught that agencies were much faster moving than Congress in most issues. This fact was flipped on its head this summer. Many of the pressing issues this summer, especially Spectrum and incentive auction issues, presented a very slow and calculating FCC. That dynamic along with a very impatient Congress was very interesting to see. Further, because I worked with a public interest organization it was fascinating to see the strategies that representatives used to persuade congressional members to accept their side and reject their opponents.

After working in D.C. I have come to appreciate the regulatory and public policy options that are available with a law degree. Although D.C. is an amazing place, I have come to love Colorado and I would like to stay here upon graduation, so I think that it would be very rewarding to work at the state level at the Colorado Public Utility Commission with telecommunication issues. My experience in D.C. was amazing, and I believe that anyone who has the chance to take part in the experience should jump at it. Before going though, students should definitely take the Spectrum Management class. The crash course that the class provided was tremendously helpful. I would have been lost in my first few weeks in D.C. without the information that Bryan and Professor Hatfield provided.