

## **MY EXPERIENCE AT FARMWORKER LEGAL SERVICES SUMMER 2005 (TRAVIS LOGGHE)**

To potential intern candidate:

I write this nearly a full semester after working as an intern at Farmworker Legal Services (FLS). In the hubbub and chaos we call law school, one might expect to have forgotten the details of a summer internship. Yet the experience of working at FLS is still vivid in my mind.

For example, I constantly find myself perking up to any comment regarding “illegal aliens.” In my labor law class I gave a presentation regarding migrant farmworkers and the Agricultural Worker Protection Act. I am even more prone now to speaking with the Latino janitors.

Furthermore, my internship experience has really deepened the perspective I bring to my coursework. It is one thing to hear your Legal Profession professor talk about legal services to the indigent. It is another thing to experience what he or she is explaining. No matter whether one works for a big firm doing corporate law or ends up writing wills in a small town, it is extremely important to keep the needs of the underserved in mind and make a genuine commitment to helping them in some way. An internship at FLS will only make this more apparent.

Some of the tasks I performed while at FLS include:

- Outreach to migrant farmworker camps.
- Legal research and writing on migrant farmworker related issues.
- Client intakes in both English and Spanish.
- Community education at Migrant Head Starts on the rights of migrant farmworkers.
- Drafting client letters.
- Attending Migrant Resource Council meetings to converse with other migrant farmworker advocates.
- Participating in the planning of a civil rights hearing by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights in Kalamazoo, MI.

Of all the tasks I had, the one that left the strongest impression on me was going on outreach. Ironically I lived in the so-call “Student Ghetto” in Kalamazoo. However, my summer housing was like the Radisson Hotel when compared to many of the farmworker dwellings I visited. Outreach was an excellent way to connect with the farmworkers and help them with their problems.

An internship at FLS also has many practical aspects, especially for those looking for a career requiring a strong Spanish background. Apart from gaining an immense knowledge of law pertaining to farmworker issues, interns are also able to practice their Spanish on a daily basis. Because of this, I am currently applying to two internships in the spring that require Spanish. One involves business transactions in Spanish. The other involves representing Latino clients in criminal matters. Without my internship at FLS this would not be possible.

In short, I highly recommend an FLS internship to anyone who wants to make a difference in the lives of others. Whether you are unsure of your career path, planning to practice migrant farmworker law, or just looking for a worthwhile summer internship, you will come away with an invaluable experience almost impossible to gain elsewhere.