

Residency Externship Program in Public Policy

Learn. Serve. Lead.

March 2016 newsletter



REP-PP Akia Pichon outside the White House during the REP-PP February 2016 photo shoot

"Policy work in D.C. is its own animal - everyone here is plugged in responding to minute-by-minute changes in the political climate. It is exciting to be putting skills I learned in law school to work in such a highly charged environment."

-Mitch Monthie

REP-PP Student Joey Vrechek inside "Peacock Alley" at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D.C., February 2016



REP-PP STUDENTS HALFWAY THROUGH THEIR EXTERNSHIPS

It's hard to believe but REP-PP students Zack Brown, Tom Connally, Mitch Monthie, Avery Ory, Kia Pichon, and Joey Vrechek are halfway through their semester in Washington, D.C. So far, they have had incredible opportunities to engage in policymaking first hand including staffing congressional hearings, attending briefings on Capitol Hill and other venues across D.C., researching important aspects of the law like separation of powers and anti-trust processes, and working on high profile policy items including criminal justice reform, employment equality, Second Amendment and property issues, and the FBI's attempts to gain access to encrypted information from Apple.

"I have really found my niche here. For example, I understand what senior staff and the Senator [Senator John Cornyn] need before a hearing and I am proud to be able to provide well researched and comprehensive material to them - even at a moment's notice."

-Avery Ory



Pictured on this page from top left: Zack Brown, Avery Ory, Mitch Monthie, and Tom Connally.

"I really appreciate the way my **externship** is helping me refine and improve my skills. From working on anti-trust issues to research projects directly for Congressman Barton, my externship has **challenged me** and put my analytical, research and communication **skills** to great use."

-Tom Connally

HALFWAY THROUGH

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They also continue to meet policymakers from all three branches of government to learn about substantive policy and hear stories about how these public sector lawyers planned their careers and became successful.

*"We have had great presenters during the semester. Meeting **Jesselyn McCurdy of the ACLU** and **Nkechi Taifa of the Open Society Foundations** and seeing how passionate these women are about what they do was very refreshing."*

-Kia Pichon

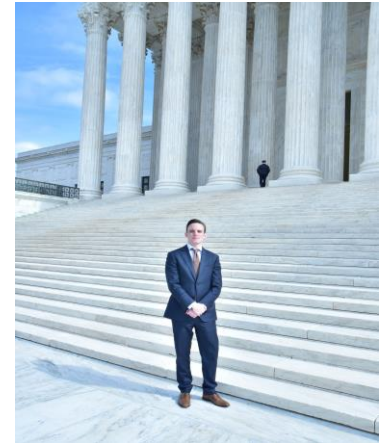
REP-PP Students will enjoy spring break and then come back for more time in the classroom and more opportunities to make their mark on national policy.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MARAHDON PHOTO SHOOT ACROSS WASHINGTON, D.C.

REP-PP Students indulged the program director in February 2016 and participated in a marathon photo shoot that had them everywhere from the White House to the Speaker's Balcony of the Capitol,



to the Supreme Court, and then on to



the Willard Hotel (where it is said the term "lobbying" was coined).



to one of Washington, D.C.'s most storied bars, Old Ebbitt Grille. Check out more photos on the REP-PP website!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3, 2016 –

Speaker Series: Brandon Delet, CEO & Co-founder, Measure

March 10, 2016 –

Speaker Series: M. Tia Johnson, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security

March 14 – 18, 2016 –

Spring Break

March 21, 2016 –

Speaker Series: Caroline Lynch, Majority Chief Counsel, Crime Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary & Ami Sanchez, General Counsel, Senate Small Business Committee

March 29 – April 17, 2016 –

National Cherry Blossom Festival Activities

March 31, 2016 –

Speaker Series: Colonel David Graham, Department of the Army, JAG School

April 1, 2016 –

Tour of the Pentagon

April 12-14, 2016 –

Aggies on the Hill Events:

April 12 – Evening Reception

April 13 – Evening Reception

April 14 – Law School Luncheon

REP-PP GETS A NEW WEBPAGE

The new REP-PP webpage will be launching in March 2016. The webpage will include blog posts, videos, news & events, as well as information for prospective participants and employers. Coming soon to

law.tamu.edu/rep-pp