

- **Your host organization and role**
 - Federal Community Defender Office, Capital Habeas Unit
 - Summer Intern
- **Key projects, responsibilities, and skills developed**
 - Each intern was assigned to a specific case team for the summer and then assigned miscellaneous projects from across the Unit.
 - For my case team, I researched the Pennsylvania clemency process, the composition of the Board of Pardons, and summarized the client's writings.
 - Over the summer, I completed a wide array of legal research assignments for different cases at various stages of the post-conviction process. For example, for our response to the government's petition for rehearing en banc, I researched whether the Fifth Circuit gives AEDPA deference to a state court finding as to a witness's importance. For a case granted certificate of appealability in the Third Circuit, I researched whether the district court erred in limiting habeas relief to just one of our client's convictions, after the court had determined that the constitutional violation was not harmless error. I prepared memos on each of these questions and presented my analysis to the assigning attorney.
 - The interns were also lucky to participate in moots and to attend several oral arguments before the Third Circuit.
 - At the end of the summer, one of the attorneys brought me and another intern to visit a client who is currently incarcerated in SCI Phoenix. We spoke about his case, his upbringing, and his experience of incarceration.
- **Impact on the community and on your professional goals**
 - The Capital Habeas Unit's work is essential—to individuals on death rows across the country and to the functioning of the justice system writ large. Indeed, grave errors have been uncovered and countless lives saved thanks only to their tenacity, scrupulousness, and commitment to justice. I shudder to think of a world where this office did not exist! I'm so grateful to have been able to spend the summer being a small part of that work and learning from the best of the tradition.
- **Reflections on lessons learned**
 - I learned so much about how to be a good lawyer from the attorneys in the Federal Community Defender Office, and the kind of lawyer I want to be after graduation. Good lawyers can make all the difference in their client's lives. Some cases may seem dead on arrival, whether because of poor lawyering at the outset, the overwhelming stigma against indigent defendants, adverse law, or any other number of reasons. But a good lawyer can turn a seemingly doomed case into a case with three or four live issues, unearthing overlooked witnesses, developing claims, and pursuing every possible angle. Every person facing the power of the state should have a lawyer who will fight for them like the Philly CHU does.
 - The Federal Community Defender Office is a storied organization, filled with incredible lawyers, investigators, paralegals, and administrative staff. They are some of the hardest working, most principled, toughest, most creative, prodigiously talented people. I hope to rejoin the office at some point in the future, and to fight for a world where the death penalty no longer exists.