

CTIC's Summer Public Interest Fellowships

The CTIC Summer Public Interest Fellowship provides funding for Penn Law 1L and 2L students who secure internships with public interest or government organizations doing work in the technology policy, intellectual property, cyber law, privacy, and other areas. CTIC awarded 2021 summer public interest fellowships to Soojin Jeong and William Weber, both of whom completed their internships the summer following their first year at Penn Law.



Soojin Jeong worked at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), a Washington, DC, public interest research center that focuses public attention on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues. EPIC provided her opportunities for substantive research and writing to advocate for the public, many of which involved cutting-edge technologies.

“With my interest in facial recognition, I enjoyed the opportunity to draft a public comment to the Department of Homeland Security about its use of facial recognition at airports,” she said. “Through this assignment, I learned how to spot issues and expound on the importance of audits, accountability, data security, and mitigating racial bias.”

After researching the legislative history of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), Jeong, for an amicus brief, drafted a policy argument that companies should be held vicariously liable for lead generators that violate the TCPA. Additionally, for the EPIC's open government initiative, she researched and drafted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Transportation to obtain information about its automated traffic enforcement program.

One of her favorite projects involved researching how artificial intelligence can reflect or reproduce existing biases in industries such as employment, education, healthcare, credit, and criminal justice. “The development of new technologies raises an endless array of interesting questions about how to apply existing laws or how to create new laws and regulations to protect privacy and democratic values,” she said.

Jeong is excited to continue engaging with privacy issues and technology at law school and in her career. “I look forward to the challenge of learning about new technologies, staying on top of regulatory news, and balancing various stakeholder interests while advocating for truth, fairness, equity, and accountability in technology,” she added.



As a CTIC Summer Public Interest Fellowship recipient, William Weber spent the summer of 2021 at the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He was assigned to the Defense, Industrials, and Aerospace Section which reviews mergers and brings enforcement actions in industries such as defense, avionics and aeronautics, industrial equipment, highway construction, mining, and waste.

“I spent most of the summer on a case team reviewing a proposed merger and was tasked with assessing whether the merger would harm competition in the relevant market. I had the opportunity to participate in interviews with customers and competitors of the merging parties to figure out how the deal might impact them. I also helped analyze product-level market share data to get a sense for where the merging parties overlapped,” he explained.

Along with working on the case team, Weber helped review initial merger filings to identify transactions where the DOJ might want to conduct a deeper review. This part of the internship allowed him to learn about other industries and types of transactions the DOJ reviews for antitrust concerns.

“My experience was incredibly rewarding. I really enjoyed working with every member of my team and appreciated the extensive intern-specific programming set up to help teach us about antitrust law and the work of the DOJ (including a speaker series, economics training, and a mentorship program). I really appreciated both the opportunity to join the DOJ and the generous funding from CTIC,” he added.



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