



Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition

Anna Sheu L'21, a 2019 CTIC Public Interest Fellow, on her Experience at the Securities and Exchange Commission



Prior to law school, I spent time in the business world. Although I was more interested in a JD than an MBA, I thought corporate law would be a way to leverage my past experiences. This led me to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) this summer – law firms represent private clients who frequently interact with the SEC and I hoped that this government internship would widen my skillset by giving me insight into the ‘other side of the table’ and enable me to be a better client servicer.

I joined the SEC’s Home Office in Washington, D.C. in the Division of Enforcement. Enforcement, as it’s known, investigates potential violations of the securities laws that govern capital markets. It is the SEC’s largest and perhaps the most active division. Enforcement attorneys see cases involving issues ranging from vanilla insider trading to this year’s trendy topic, cryptocurrency. My prior work experience in tech added an interesting dimension to my summer projects – I analyzed corporate practices from a regulatory, outsider perspective. In one of my most interesting projects, I analyzed a blockchain ledger while attempting to build a case against a cryptocurrency scammer. This case gave me the opportunity to apply the skills I used while working at a startup to my newly-learned legal skills. These included understanding data munging as well as marketing lingo.

Seeing how Enforcement attorneys apply law to fact in the real world was a fascinating behind-the-scenes experience for me, and I’m grateful to the Center for Technology, Innovation & Competition for awarding me a Summer Public Interest Fellowship to do this public interest work at the intersection of law and technology.

Note: The Securities and Exchange Commission disclaims responsibility for any private publication or statement of any SEC employee or Commissioner. This post expresses the author’s views and does not necessarily reflect those of the Commission, the Commissioners, or other members of the staff.

CTIC’s Summer Public Interest Fellowships fund internships with public interest or government organizations doing work relevant to CTIC’s focus on technology policy, intellectual property, cyber law and privacy. These Fellowships are open to Penn Law 1Ls and 2Ls and give students the opportunity to gain experience in technology law that might not otherwise be available to them. A Call for Applications for next summer will take place in early 2020.