



Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition

Sanjay Jolly L'21, a 2019 CTIC Public Interest Fellow, on his Experience at Public Knowledge



For my CTIC Public Interest Fellowship, I was a summer law clerk at the advocacy organization Public Knowledge in Washington DC. As a joint degree student at Penn Law and the Annenberg School for Communication, the fellowship was a fabulous opportunity to work at the intersection of communication policy, nuts-and-bolts lawyering, and public interest advocacy.

Public Knowledge advocates on a number of communications-related issues, including privacy/surveillance, rural broadband access, intellectual property, and the regulation of digital platforms. I benefited from working on a diverse range of projects which provided me with insights related not only to cutting-edge legal thinking in the communications field but also the ethical and strategic considerations necessary for coalition-based public interest advocacy. Among my tasks as a summer law clerk, I helped prepare congressional testimony on the "future of news", drafted a legal research memo on the application of the Federal Trade Commission's unfairness standard to data protection, and wrote a blog post on the role of economic nationalism in tech regulation. In addition to valuable writing projects, the supervising attorneys at Public Knowledge encouraged me to gain as much exposure as possible to the inner workings of Washington. I regularly attended congressional hearings and FCC meetings, as well as research talks at other organizations. I also took part in the myriad meetings held at Public Knowledge's own office, where on an almost basis we hosted visitors from industry, government, academia, and the non-profit advocacy sector.

Perhaps the most valuable aspects of my time with Public Knowledge were the mentorships I received from the organization's staff and the camaraderie I shared with the other clerks and interns. They were a passionate, diverse, and brilliant group of people, and I expect to carry on those relationships for many years.

I am extremely grateful to Professor Yoo and everyone at CTIC for enabling this opportunity through their generous support. My time at Public Knowledge provided invaluable training and helped to clarify my professional goals as I continue my education at Penn Law and the Annenberg School.

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.