

Gwen Short, Class of 2022- Great Rivers Environmental Law Center

This summer I was able to expand my exposure to environmental law by working at the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. Not only did I work with new federal statutes like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, but I also submitted sunshine requests and interacted with clients. This opportunity wouldn't have been possible without the funding I received from the Public Interest Law Foundation.

I was especially proud to be a PILF fellow this summer because of my involvement with PILF over the last school year. Because of my position on the executive board I learned just how much work goes into making PILF successful each year. PILF not only enabled me to have an amazing experience this summer, but last school year being a part of the PILF executive board afforded me new experiences through planning events, networking, and collaborating with the board.

I am grateful to PILF and all that it has brought me, I look forward to supporting it in the future.

Kira Sharp, Class of 2023- Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

At Southeastern Ohio Legal Services this summer I was able to directly interact and help clients with real-world issues. My supervising attorney, Mark Cardosi, assigned me with research projects that furthered my understanding of how legal research is conducted in the real world. I was able to use the research tools that Law 1 and Law 2 equipped me with to aid my supervising attorney and his clients. The real-world experience I gathered affirmed that there is a purpose in all of the labor that I am devoting to law school and that purpose is to better equip myself to help clients in the future.

The Public Interest Law Foundation made this opportunity possible for me. I was able to do volunteer work that I felt was impactful and beneficial while still affording to meet my basic needs. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity that PILF made possible and look forward to giving back in the future.

Jaclyn Serpico, Class of 2022- Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Thanks to PILF, I was able to intern this summer at Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), on the Litigation and Law team. I assisted attorneys conducting impact litigation in states around the country, and in researching policy issues. As I plan to pursue a career in reproductive health, rights, and justice, this was a dream job for me. This opportunity allowed me to develop the skills and knowledge I will need to be successful in my field.

During my internship, I was able to work with attorneys responding in real-time to pressing state issues as they arose. I gained invaluable research experience and also learned from observing the members of my team as they strategized and worked in a coalition with litigators from law firms and other non-profit organizations.

My PILF fellowship allowed me to take on this position, which would otherwise have been unpaid, without having to worry about my finances this summer. That enabled me to focus on getting everything I could out of my work experience.

Nat Rodriguez-Steen, Class of 2023- Michigan State Appellate Defender Office

This summer I worked for the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office (SADO). It was a truly remarkable and memorable experience. I worked with two supervising attorneys, Angeles Meneses and Jacqueline Ouvry, in both the direct appeals and the juvenile lifer unit.

In the direct appeals unit, I worked with clients who were appealing their convictions from the trial level. I was able to assist my supervising attorney with the writing of a brief that focused on

adolescent development for individuals between the ages of 18 to 25. The research and writing that I contributed will be beneficial to young clients who are older than 18 but yet still susceptible to the characteristics of youth such as impulsivity, risky behavior, and peer pressure. Although my internship was virtual, I was able to attend court hearings and appellate arguments with my supervising attorney as well as client visits. I learned the importance of communicating and explaining legalese in a manner that is easily digestible and helpful.

In addition, I worked with my other supervising attorney in the juvenile lifer unit on understanding the intricacies of the Michigan Sex Offenders Registration Act (SORA). SORA is a complex piece of legislation with various amendments and regulations that make it difficult for clients to fight its imposition. Registrations, like SORA, are incredibly restrictive and harmful to those who are trying to return to their communities, find employment, and secure housing. Through SADO, I was able to work directly on research and strategies to fight or weaken the reach of SORA on our client.

I was able to attend an in-person resentencing for a client who had previously been sentenced to life as a juvenile. The resentencing was incredibly emotional and heartfelt. I was able to witness the passion and kindness that SADO attorneys have for their clients. From this emotional moment, I also learned the value of self-care. It is an important reminder that we cannot fight for our clients if we are not taking our own mental health and wellbeing into consideration.

I thoroughly enjoyed working and learning with SADO this summer and I am grateful to PILF and the Justice for Children Clinic for providing me the opportunity and resources to work in public service.

Megan Murphy, Class of 2023- Advocating Opportunity

Thanks to my PILF funding, I was able to work as a legal fellow with Advocating Opportunity, a Columbus non-profit that provides free legal services to victims of human trafficking. Without PILF, I would have missed out on the opportunity to experience public interest work due to financial constraints, and I know that is a concern for many students at Moritz. It is amazing that while the university unfortunately does not offer stipends for unpaid work, there is a group of students who are so committed to making public interest work accessible to their peers.

The work I did this summer expanded my practical legal skills and helped me narrow down my career goals. My work at Advocating Opportunity involved assembling criminal record expungement applications for survivors of sex and labor trafficking, and policy work. It was very rewarding to see how the policy work I assisted my boss with, mainly preparing research for and presenting to Columbus City Council members, will hopefully directly affect the number of human trafficking victims who qualify for record expungement. I enjoyed playing a part in survivors' journeys by helping them access better work and housing and wiping their records, which serve as permanent reminders of their trauma. This summer taught me that I would love to have a career where I can use my legal knowledge to free people from some of the constraints and consequences that stick with you after being entangled in our oppressive legal system.

I am excited to give back to PILF this year as a member of the e-board and make opportunities such as the one I received this summer available to all Moritz students who need them.

Brittany Munn, Class of 2023- Judge Sargus, District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern with Judge Edmund Sargus in the District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Through this experience, I was able to gain insight into the “nuts and bolts” of what litigation really is. I was able to sit in on multiple conference calls with attorneys, pre-trial conferences, motion hearings, sentencings, and trials. I was fortunate enough to watch a two-week-long criminal trial and a three-week-long civil trial. I also had the opportunity to strengthen both my research and writing skills, through researching various legal and jurisdictional issues, and writing first drafts of orders and opinions. Through this experience, I confirmed my desire to pursue a career in litigation and recognized truly how important it is for clients to have passionate advocates. There are many great lawyers, but there are also many bad lawyers. Being exposed to both great and not so great attorneys showed exposed me to the skills necessary to make an outstanding advocate. In the criminal trial, I was able to see outstanding Federal Public Defenders. I once again realized just how important it is for there to be passionate advocates defending the rights of the accused in trials and courts.

I also learned how important preparation is. It was obvious when an attorney was not prepared, and it was just as obvious when an attorney was very prepared. This summer reminded me of how important lawyers are to clients. Being a passionate advocate, and a prepared advocate, is so important.

Meara Maccabee, Class of 2023- Ohio Public Defender, Appeals and Postconviction Section

This summer, through the PILF fellowship, I worked with the Ohio Public Defender in the Appeals and Postconviction Section. I wanted to work with OPD because I am interested in going into public defense, and my experiences this summer confirmed my desire to pursue public defense as a career.

Going into this experience, I was most excited for client interactions, as well as the opportunity to contribute to cases through research and writing projects. OPD was remote and prisons did not accept in-person visits for the majority of my internship, but I was still able to observe client meetings, which was probably the most rewarding aspect of my time with OPD. For example, I sat in on a phone call and, later, a video call, with a client who was scheduled for a Full Parole Board Hearing. The attorney (also my intern supervisor/coordinator) and I discussed beforehand what a client interview for a Parole Board Hearing would look like, and then I sat in on the interview. During that phone call, I learned so much about client interaction, especially how to obtain all the information you need as an attorney during the short amount of time allotted for client meetings. A few weeks later, I tuned into the Parole Board Hearing and then attended a video chat with the client, where the attorney was able to tell the client that he had been granted parole after decades in prison. This short meeting was perhaps the most rewarding meeting I’ve experienced, and although “wins” in public defense are few and far between, they are special.

I also completed many research projects, from discovery issues to jail time credit issues, as well as writing projects like a letter to a client explaining his jail time credit, several memos for practitioner use, and a draft trial court motion on a novel violent offender registry issue. It was amazing to be able to contribute to so many different cases and to research such a variety of issues.

Toward the end of the summer, the intern coordinators invited the interns to an in-person trial in Washington County. We had not been able to observe any in-person proceedings, and none of us had observed a criminal trial before, so we jumped at the opportunity, despite the 2 ½ hour drive to Marietta and back each day for three days. Unfortunately, the outcome of the trial was unfavorable for the client, but we discussed many potential issues for appeal with both the trial attorney and the appellate attorneys

from the Appeals and Postconviction Section. I was upset at the outcome, but the experience gave me an up-close understanding of the everyday injustices in our criminal legal system.

Overall, I had a wonderful summer and I am grateful to PILF and to Professor Kelly for the Katherine Silver Kelly First-Generation Fellowship. The funding allowed me to pursue an unpaid internship with an amazing organization that confirmed my interest in pursuing public defense.

Stephan Laboy, Class of 2023- Ohio Public Defender, Death Penalty Department

This summer I had the pleasure of working at the Office of the Ohio Public Defender in the Death Penalty Department. This was a rewarding endeavor both in terms of the legal experience I gained and in the personal fulfillment of working for this cause. This was an unpaid internship and was made possible in part with the financial security that the PILF fellowship provided. Too often, public interest work is underappreciated and as a result unpaid. PILF fellowships allow students to pursue their passions while serving the public.

My interests in criminal justice reform and the abolition of the death penalty were part of my motivation to come to law school. I believe that lawyers have an imperative to use their skills to help those who do not have the same access to our complex legal system, in whatever way that manifests itself. In the past, Ohio has mercilessly doled out the death penalty. There are over 100 convicts on death row and at one point, Cuyahoga County was the county with the second-highest death penalty sentencing rate in the country. Ohio's laws are confusing and often applied inconsistently. The enumerated mitigating factors in sentencing can be manipulated in a way to be effectively worthless. Furthermore, with the post-9/11 changes to federal habeas, many condemned individuals have a long-shot hope for relief at best. Relief however has come in Ohio recently when Governor DeWine placed a moratorium on executions until the state legislature could come up with a new method for carrying out the executions, something that the legislature seemingly has no appetite to do. Even though this amounts to an informal abolition, those condemned will not be afforded the peace of getting to live out their natural lives until it is formally abolished.

My work this summer consisted of numerous different types of projects for the myriad of cases the overburdened and understaffed department manages. I conducted legal research on issues involving search and seizure, interrogation techniques, and comparative laws in federal jurisdictions. I also wrote short briefs to assist our clients. I am particularly proud of an amicus brief the department submitted with which I was able to assist. In Ohio, courts have routinely taken a harsh position on claim preclusion when it comes to ineffective assistance of counsel claims. This results in a paradoxical situation where a defendant's counsel must prepare traditional arguments as well as ineffective assistance of counsel claims for direct appeal. Many states and almost all federal courts have abandoned this practice because it is harsh and relies on information likely outside the record on direct appeal. Our amicus brief urges the Supreme Court of Ohio to abandon its outdated rule. These experiences were important for my development as a law student and affirmed my commitment to the profession.

Dustin Koslen, Class of 2022- Equip For Equality

During my summer I worked at Equip For Equality (EFE) in Illinois. While I was remote from Columbus, I enjoyed the opportunity to work in Chicago and enjoy the large market of law it offers. I focused on disability rights law with employment, prisons, nursing homes, and any civil rights violations in disabilities. I wish I could have been in person as I did not get all the interaction with attorneys and

clients that I desired, but I did foster connections with the attorneys at EFE that were vital to my growth into work.

My mentor, Jin-Ho Chung is a senior litigator, and we would have long talks about career growth, how to think and operate as an attorney and how to do my best work. With Jin-Ho assignments were more than turning in my work. We would talk through what I found and my thoughts on how they would work in court, what the opposing counsel was thinking and why. I gained confidence in my abilities as a legal thinker and writer to where I feel confident, I could go out next year and represent my own clients. I did get to interact with clients over the phone frequently and I had a lot of independence in my work. I was trusted with many cases where I researched, wrote outlines, briefs, edited work from attorneys, and even got to write and send demand and advocacy letters.

I also was able to attend large conference calls for a couple of consent decrees that EFE had fostered in Illinois. These meetings included an attorney from the state, from multiple nonprofits, from big law firms, and of course a judge. It was really interesting to see the operation of attorneys in policy and how difficult it is to foster agreement amongst a large collection of parties, even when some of them ought to agree. Throughout the summer, my passion for civil rights law and disability rights law, as well as, leadership and policy was confirmed.

Charley Kalfas, Class of 2023- Caring Veg Community

This summer, I worked as a Law & Advocacy Intern for Caring Veg Community here in Columbus, OH. CVC is a 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on making veganism fun, friendly, and accessible. Further, they see veganism as a philosophy that calls for consistent anti-oppression in all fields, so their work involves much more than just discussing animals and food.

During my internship, I completed legal research pertaining to nonprofit and mutual aid work and I developed educational programming relating to animal law and laws about activism on behalf of animals. Some of this work has been and will be highlighted on their company's Instagram. I also got the opportunity to participate in less legally-oriented volunteer work while being part of the organization.

This was an amazing opportunity for me, as animal law is a topic I was incredibly interested in but likely would not have been able to learn much about just through classwork. Further, while the work I did make use of the skills I have started learning and will continue to learn in classes, it was certainly not the type of work that typically comes to mind when one thinks about lawyers-which is something that I was okay with and hoping for, and I believe definitely fits into PILF's mission. This was an unpaid role so I definitely would not have been able to do this without PILF.

Julie Howard, Class of 2023- Ohio State Legal Services Association

My time at OSLSA was very rewarding in that it helped me look at the law from a different perspective than how we typically look at it in school. The constant client contact I had during my fellowship gave me an in-depth look at the human side of the law. It was also a good reminder that seeing the actual and tangible help that we give real people as lawyers can be a lot more meaningful than the numbers we see on our paychecks.

OSLSA was also a helpful look into what civil public interest work is like. Before this summer, I had only worked in criminal law settings. However, I had always been interested in civil work, which is why I decided to try out OSLSA this summer. While I still prefer criminal law, there are definitely aspects of civil law that I enjoy. I'm not sure that I'd necessarily want to do what the attorneys at legal aid are

doing, but I definitely would love to work on class action cases, medical malpractice cases, and toxic tort cases. I'm sure my experience with representing indigent clients in civil matters at OSLSA will be a helpful reference for my future work serving underprivileged communities.

Cecilia Hardy, Class of 2023- Ohio Public Defender, Death Penalty Department

My work this summer with the Ohio Public Defender's Office in the Death Penalty Department was a great introduction to public interest work. I learned about both the practice of law as a public defender, as well as about the culture of public interest offices and spaces.

During my time with OPD, I worked on a variety of long- and short-term projects. One of my long-term projects was reviewing a client's entire medical records (over 600 pages) to gather information about his physical and mental health to try to better understand why he committed the crimes that led to his conviction and death sentence. For another client, I watched 30 hours of police interview footage to look for inconsistencies in a witness's statements and testimony that would benefit our client.

For shorter-term projects, I helped one of the attorneys with editing traverses and briefs, conducted research on res judicata and ineffective assistance of counsel, found resources for imprisoned people wanting to file for divorce, and participated in team meetings with a client's team of attorneys and mitigation specialists. I also wrote a motion to waive court costs for one of our clients, and it was officially filed and granted by the court, which was exciting to see.

Though the position was almost entirely remote (I only went into the office one time), when I was able to interact with the attorneys and staff at OPD, it was exciting to feel the collective dedication to our clients. We had frequent discussions about justice reform, death penalty issues, and many other topics in criminal justice that I am passionate about. Because everyone in the office is driven by the same goal, namely keeping our clients alive and abolishing the death penalty, there was a sense of community in the office.

Ren Halter-Rainey, Class of 2023- Equality Ohio

My summer internship with Equality Ohio has truly been the most informative and exciting experience of my law school career thus far. Being able to work with and observe a team of lawyers engaged in direct representation work, while also assisting in research and community-based projects meant that I was never bored and was able to form numerous connections with professionals engaged in LGBTQ+ advocacy. One highlight of my experience includes being able to work in tandem with my supervisor on a number of complex family law cases—an area of particular interest for me. I was also able to observe my supervising attorney in several hearings, which allowed me to gain experience and a level of greater comfortability in courtroom settings.

On the project side, I assisted in gathering information to be used in the Ohio Health Modernization Movement's research into Ohio's discriminatory felony upcharges for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. I was also able to assist in the compilation of a spreadsheet documenting the policies that each Ohio probate court has implemented regarding gender marker changes—a change in the law that occurred during my internship. Both of these research experiences truly led me to feel like I was making a difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ community members, both during my time at EO, and into the future. Finally, I was able to work with a small team of interns and a legal fellow to lay the groundwork for Equality Ohio's series of Legal Clinic Resource Fairs. This project seeks to combine the EO Legal Clinic with other LGBTQ+ service providers to bring much needed resources directly to the Ohio communities which most need them, in a trauma-free, easy-to-access setting. Without the assistance of my PILF

fellowship, it would have been much more difficult for me to do this kind of work. I am endlessly grateful to PILF for allowing me to have these experiences and serve my community this summer.

Lauren Greene, Class of 2023- Transportation Security Administration

This summer, I interned for the Transportation Security Administration's Chief Counsel's Office. The experience was unlike any other, allowing me to assist with analyzing and drafting legislation directly. I was able to further develop my writing abilities as well as enhance my critical thinking and analysis skills. The highlight of the experience was that, on my last day, I got to witness a House Committee Markup where the Committee analyzed every bill I had assisted with throughout the summer.

The PILF fellowship was incredibly valuable to me throughout this summer. As an unpaid, full-time intern, I would have been extremely stressed about finances had I not received the PILF funding. I was responsible for two rent payments as well as living costs and other bills for the summer. Having an unpaid position would have been next to impossible had I not received this fellowship.

Because I received the PILF fellowship, I was able to gain invaluable exposure to the practice of administrative law and have a wonderful experience working with TSA. By not having to stress about my finances, I was able to fully focus on my work and gain as much from the experience as possible. The funding also allowed me to visit Washington, D.C. at the end of my summer and personally meet the attorneys I had been working under. I am extremely thankful to have been able to receive this funding and am excited to further explore my passion for administrative law.

Patrick Finn, Class of 2023- United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York

This summer I worked as a Law Intern at the Long Island Office of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, in the Criminal Division. There I had the honor of assisting brilliant attorneys and seeing how federal criminal practice works, in addition to getting plenty of research and writing practice.

The most valuable part of the experience was watching the Assistant United States Attorneys do their work and having the opportunity to ask them questions. I was able to see how a complicated racketeering case is built against a dangerous gang, how prosecutors work with law enforcement and interact with defense counsel and judges, the work that goes into preparing for trial, and everything else that goes on in a U.S. Attorney's Office. The experience was enlightening and solidified my desire to eventually become a federal prosecutor.

The PILF funding I received allowed me to take advantage of the opportunity I was given without worrying about how I would support myself during an unpaid internship. I was able to pay rent for my apartment in Columbus and pay for the gas that I needed to commute 30 minutes to work each day. I am immensely grateful to PILF for making it possible for me to work for the government like I wanted to and still cover my expenses.

Michael Fahy, Class of 2023- Ohio Justice and Policy Center

I came to law school aspiring to expose the U.S. criminal punishment system for what it is - a fear-driven and inconsistently applied set of rules and consequences that fails to protect the public, promote rehabilitation, and help heal those who are harmed. My summer internship at OJPC has not only affirmed my commitment to dismantling this system but also has shown me the importance of centering the experiences and perspectives of those most harmed by its failures. All of this was made possible by the fellowship I received from the Ohio Public Interest Law Foundation.

Before this summer, I had only a basic understanding of what the worst problems of our criminal legal system looked like in the abstract. Learning from OJPC's attorneys and staff this summer about systems like civil impacts of criminal records, the commutation process, and extreme sentencing has helped me contextualize what I had mainly learned from books and classes. OJPC showed me what zealous, client-centered advocacy looks like in practice and how to find creative ways to generate justice for people marginalized by our criminal legal system.

But I have learned the most from the clients themselves. I am amazed at the bravery and trust that clients have shown me when discussing how their histories with the legal system have made them feel ashamed, embarrassed, and remorseful. While I am tempted to rage about how the legal system has forgotten these clients' humanity and remembers only their mistakes, I have learned that it is empathy, listening, and affirmation that clients seem to need the most. Opening a safe space for clients to share how their lives and families have been affected by their records and their incarceration helps leads us, as their advocates, toward the advice and guidance that will truly make the most difference for them.

I remember telling my law school career counselor at Ohio State that the main thing I was looking for in a summer opportunity after my first year of law school was the chance to learn from attorneys how to treat clients with dignity and respect when navigating difficult topics like their record, finances, families, and regrets. While I'm so lucky to have found that opportunity at OJPC, I'm even more thankful to have met and learned from some of the incredible people that OJPC serves. It's the humanity, growth, and resilience of people caught up in the legal system that now inspires me more to dissect and dismantle the systems that weigh so heavily upon them. I am grateful to PILF for their support in helping me further down my path toward a career supporting the rights of people affected by the criminal legal system.

Samuel DeWitt, Class of 2022- Franklin County Municipal Court, Environmental Division

Thanks to the PILF Fellowship, I was able to spend my summer working at the Franklin County Municipal Court in the Environmental Division. I completed legal research and spent many hours observing hearings, status conferences, and even some court and jury trials. Through this is I was able to gain an understanding of not only courtroom procedures and etiquette but also the ways in which attorneys interact with each other, with clients, and with judges and other courtroom staff. This was much less formal than I expected, which gives me hope that one day I can become a successful attorney and litigator. I was also able to spend time talking with Judge Stephanie Mingo of the Environmental Division as well as other judges in the municipal court, which helped me to understand the role of judges in the legal system.

Another benefit that I gained through this internship was getting to observe and interact with all kinds of people on a daily basis in the courtroom. Many of the defendants in environmental court are there because they either cannot afford to fix a housing violation or are prevented from doing so by physical or mental disabilities or other hard circumstances. By listening to the conversations between these people and the judge or magistrate I learned that the goal of the environmental court is simply to help people, rather than to punish or accuse them of violations. The judge was very lenient in most cases and made it a priority to be deferential to the defendants and their attorneys. The environmental court, more so than other courts, truly operates in the public interest in that its goal is to remediate public nuisances and other environmental hazards in order to make communities safer and healthier. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to intern at the environmental court and will cherish the experiences I had in court for the rest of my career as an attorney.

Megan Cremeans, Class of 2023- Tenant Advocacy Project

Housing law was an entirely new endeavor for me. I am fortunate to have not faced eviction, though I have signed many leases. However, this summer I spent several hours each week preparing for the Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP) Clinic in Fairfield County, Ohio. Under the supervision of Caitlyn McDaniel, I gained a greater understanding of Landlord-Tenant Law and a deeper appreciation of the necessity of safe housing, especially in the time of a global pandemic.

Each week, I would pull the Fairfield County Municipal Court docket for evictions cases. Some weeks had as few as twelve cases and some weeks had upwards of forty cases. TAP Clinics are held once a week, and while some clients pre-register, many clients do not know about or take advantage of preregistration. Pulling the case early helps to make providing legal services to potential clients more efficient. After initial training, I was tasked to review the complaint, the lease, and the notice(s) of eviction to try and craft either a defense or a reason to dismiss the complaint. I then compiled all the complaints as well as possible defenses or reasons to dismiss and conveyed them in a weekly report to my supervisor. Most of the time, however, the complaints were rock-solid, and our task turned into a negotiation for either staying and paying the rent due or giving the tenant some extra time to move their things.

It was a good feeling to help a tenant get a case dismissed or negotiate a way to stay, but those feelings were not frequent. Months of stayed cases came flooding in when the eviction moratorium was (somehow) ruled unconstitutional by the magistrate and very little could be done. Social workers and attorneys are limited by the programs and funding available to them. More than ever, I am confronted with the sense that owning residential property for profit is one of the vilest ways to earn a living.

Mellicent Costarella, Class of 2023- Ohio Department of Natural Resources

This summer I had the ability to work for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) legal team because of the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF). Not having the capability to work during my first year of law school, I required funds over the summer months to continue my legal career path at Moritz. However, having a primary interest in non-profit and public interest jobs, most of the internships were not paid positions. If I did not gain the PILF funding that I did, I would have had to accept a job in the private sector in order to financially sustain myself. Because of PILF's generous funding, I was able to spend my first summer in law school pursuing a field I was passionate about: environmental law.

At ODNR I conducted research, attended meetings, and corroborated with ODNR attorneys in maintaining and growing Ohio's natural beauty for all individuals to enjoy. I was able to work with many different divisions of ODNR, including wildlife, oil and gas, H2Ohio, and parks. The ability to explore these divisions showcased the different aspects of environmental law and enabled me to help people enjoy Ohio's nature to its fullest extent.

I am eternally grateful for PILF allowing me to pursue one of my interest areas this summer, and help individuals enjoy Ohio's natural beauty in the process. Thank you.

Alexa Civittolo, Class of 2023- Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio

Overall, I had a great summer working my first job within the legal field. I was at the Federal Public Defender's Office (Capital Habeas Unit) for the Southern District of Ohio. It was truly an eye-opening experience, for multiple reasons. First, we got to experience firsthand the technicalities of habeas

law, which is incredibly complex and quite honestly, set up to keep defendants incarcerated. Second, I was able to learn more about the impacts of race and economic class on our criminal legal system. Examples of this include harsher sentences for black defendants with white victims, or defendants unable to afford bail being stuck in prison for extremely long periods of time leading up to their trial. We had cases of ineffective assistance of counsel, prosecutorial misconduct, and juror misconduct, all of which contributed greatly to our clients' death sentences. Our unit is hopeful, however, with the implementation of the Serious Mental Illness Exemption that has recently passed in Ohio, along with bills initiated in both houses of the legislature, that the death penalty might be ending in our state. It would be a huge win, as two Ohio counties, Cuyahoga and Hamilton, have some of the highest death sentence rates in the country. Reflecting on my summer as a "CHUtern," I truly did learn great amounts, and worked on skills that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my time at Moritz and beyond.

Having a PILF Fellowship was honestly a life-saver. My internship was unpaid and full-time, which didn't leave me with much time to get a second job. Being able to rely on those funds for groceries, rent, and other bills, really allowed me to focus on my work and being the best intern possible.

Sarah Charlton, Class of 2023- Ohio Public Defender, Appeals and Post-Conviction

I spent over 10 weeks this summer with the Ohio Public Defender's Office in the Legal Department. Specifically, I worked in the Appeals and Post-conviction (APC) Section of the Legal Department. The APC Section litigates appeals and post-conviction matters for adult, non-capital felony offenses. I had the pleasure of working with 3 other Moritz students, including one other PILF Fellow.

I thoroughly enjoyed my summer, largely because OPD allowed me to be hands-on with legal matters from the very beginning. My early assignments were largely research (i.e.: conducting a 25-state survey about how different states resolve a particular legal issue). However, within a few weeks, I was thrown into much more. For example, by my third week, I was able to sit in on client meetings and read trial transcripts for direct appeal cases.

One of my favorite parts of the summer was learning more about Ohio's Parole Board process. This was an area of the criminal law world that I had very little knowledge of prior to my summer. During my summer, Legal Department attorneys represented dozens of individuals who were up for parole in Ohio. I had the pleasure of attending 2 client meetings for one individual up for parole and conducting background research on his case. The attorney I was shadowing that week was able to later successfully argue for his release in front of the Board.

Further, writing and research are two of my favorite parts of law school, and it was exciting to be able to apply the skills I learned in Law I and II to my role this summer. While I did not get to draft any motions myself, I conducted large-scale research projects on various topics to help my supervisors prepare their briefs and motions. For example, I conducted specific research assignments related to polygraphs, as well as in-lieu-of-conviction sentences and felony sentence calculations. Each of these assignments, and the many more I worked on, helped me sharpen my skills.

But by and far the best part of my summer was getting to attend a three-day trial in Marietta Ohio. Though OPD is centered in Columbus, it has county offices in Athens, Ross, Trumbull, and Washington Counties. So, for three days the OPD attorneys in Washington County hosted us. The defense attorney in the case, Ray Smith, spoke to us at the start of each day, during each recess, and at the end of each day. He explained all aspects of the trial and answered all of our questions. We got to watch the case unfold from voir dire through the reading of the jury's verdict. It was the first time I was able to see a trial from start to finish, and it reminded me why I wanted to go to law school in the first place.

In short, I am very thankful to PILF for funding my summer. Had it not been for my fellowship, I would not have been able to put over 400 hours to indigent public defense in Ohio. I gained great skills and learned from incredible attorneys. I also learned more about myself and my own career aspirations in the process. I was able to do all this while also paying my rent, utilities, and groceries. Without PILF, I likely would have had to either work part-time for a paying job and only part-time for OPD, or accepted only a paying job entirely. I am so glad that I did not have to do that, as I would not want to trade my experience at OPD for anything.

Elizabeth Califf, Class of 2023- Ohio State Legal Services Association

This summer, I interned at Ohio State Legal Services Association where I was placed with two different branches. I worked at Southeastern Ohio Legal Services- New Philadelphia and Ohio Poverty Law Center. SEOLS-New Philadelphia uses a general practitioner model which allowed me to see a variety of types of cases from housing to custody disputes to unemployment compensation issues. This was incredibly beneficial. I came to law school without any legal experience and wanted my 1L internship to expose me to many different practice areas. In addition to getting to see different practice areas, I also gained experience researching, writing memorandums, and talking with clients. At OPLC, I was able to learn about policy work and, overall, became more familiar with the legislation process. I wrote bill summaries and compared bills in Ohio to laws and bills throughout the country. I was able to learn about a variety of different issues such as housing discrimination, Critical Race Theory, and the practice of suspending driver's licenses for failure to pay fees and fines. Additionally, being at OPLC allowed me to improve my analytical and research skills.

When searching for a 1L summer internship, it was important to me that I be exposed to a variety of different practice areas, as well as improve upon existing skills. SEOLS-New Philadelphia and OPLC provided me with this invaluable experience. Without a PILF fellowship, my summer would have looked a lot different, though. Despite working full time at OSLSA, I would have had to obtain another job elsewhere in order to pay my bills. The PILF fellowship allowed me to engage fully with the work I was doing at OSLSA without worrying about how I was going to afford rent this summer. I am incredibly grateful to PILF for providing me with a stipend this summer and allowing me the opportunity to learn about different areas of work within the legal field.

Ashlee Buxton, Class of 2023- Legal Services Association of Columbus

Over the course of the 2021 summer, I spent my time as a law clerk for the Legal Services Association of Columbus in the housing division. My supervisor, Donna Mayer gave me several assignments to complete over the summer. I was given the opportunity to perform legal research regarding income discrimination and the impact it has on the Columbus community. I obtained case law from all over the country to try to determine how prevalent and impactful income discrimination is against individuals who obtain housing vouchers. I ultimately organized my findings into a memo.

In addition to this research, I also looked into housing associations all over the country to determine if they possessed model leases for landlords engaging in the Section 8/housing voucher program. I created a table to showcase the few housing associations that did provide model leases, but many ultimately did not. I saved the model leases that I found and sent them to my supervisor. The goal of gathering these leases and data was to hopefully encourage the Columbus Metropolitan Housing

Authority to consider providing model leases for their Section 8 program to prevent landlords from taking advantage of those receiving assistance by putting in unreasonable fees and contractual obligations.

If I was not conducting research, then I engaged in person. I attended eviction court, attended client meetings and interviews as well as actively participated in a few. I aided in helping potential clients fill out paperwork and guided them through the process they were about to take part in. Overall the experience was rewarding and eye-opening.

Erin Brind'Amour, Class of 2023- Environment and Management Law Association

This summer I was honored to work as an intern with the Environment and Management Law Association (EMLA) and its partner, the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE). Although this was an in-person internship, Hungary's border closures for covid-19 meant that I couldn't get into the office until July 1, so the hours I was able to complete were less than expected. However, with that said, my experience with these organizations was really rewarding and would have been impossible without a PILF fellowship.

The position itself might not sound very appealing: I worked in an unairconditioned office in a walk-up building that, according to my boss "had not been renovated since the Soviet invasion in 1956," on days where the temperature sometimes rose to 94 degrees or higher. However, the experience as a whole was overwhelmingly positive. Although I originally was interested in this position because of my affinity for natural resources law, I was assigned a project on SLAPPs that sparked my interest in a field of law I had never even thought of before, advocacy for journalists and whistleblowers against frivolous gag lawsuits.

I also felt inspired to come to work each day because of the passion my coworkers had. In Hungary, democracy cannot always be taken for granted, and my colleagues showed up ready to fight against the injustices perpetrated by the Fidesz government and other malevolent actors. I learned critical intercultural communication skills, practiced flexibility in new and foreign situations, and collaborated with lawyers and journalists across the E.U and the Balkans.

Without the PILF fellowship, this experience would not have been possible. Although luckily the cost of living in Hungary is relatively low, and I lived with three roommates in Budapest, the cost of my plane ticket and my rent back in Columbus would have been impossible burdens without the gracious financial assistance of PILF. I am very thankful to all who have supported PILF and I look forward to helping out to ensure that future OSU law students can have the chance to explore new and rewarding areas of public service.

Josh Bradford, Class of 2023- Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

This summer I had the opportunity to work full-time as a volunteer clerk for the Athens SEOLS office. Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, or "SEOLS", provides legal services to low-income clients in primarily rural areas of Ohio. On a personal level, the work was gratifying because I've lived most of my life in an area covered by SEOLS and am familiar with the rural communities they serve. From a professional standpoint, my time clerking has given me a new perspective on the type of work performed by public interest attorneys and the specific challenges which arise in the practice of housing law in rural areas. The attorneys I worked with provide an invaluable service to their community and I was proud to play a small role in their efforts to assist others.

Working full-time for SEOLS would have been impossible without my PILF Fellowship. Making myself available 40 hours a week to perform legal research left little time for much else, and if I had taken a part-time job to support myself, I would have had no time at all. Being able to devote the time and focus

required to work on research assignments without worrying about my living expenses was truly a blessing. The fellowship also covered infrequent travel expenses. This allowed me to supervise a meeting between a client of the Steubenville office and several other parties when conflicts of interest made it impossible for the Athens office attorneys to become personally involved. This was a unique experience and allowed me to participate in the kind of work that SEOLS attorneys perform outside of the office or the courtroom. Overall, this has been a great opportunity and I've decided to continue my volunteer position at SEOLS through the semester on a part-time basis. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to PILF for making this possible.

Marcus Andrews, Class of 2023- Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio

Overall my position this summer as a legal extern at the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Ohio: Capital Habeas Unit was challenging, rewarding, and a great learning experience.

To begin, I can say that PILF helped me very much in simply making this summer financially possible. This was a position that I had a gut feeling that I wanted very early on last year and something that many people encouraged me to pursue as a very high-quality, transferrable experience in public interest work. All the great things I heard about this externship were true, and I felt that my work was valued, and in recognition of the fact that I wasn't being paid, the whole office seemed really invested in giving me opportunities to learn, gain unique experiences, and get as much intangible benefit as I possibly could out of the summer. That was amazing, but obviously doesn't pay rent, so it goes without saying that PILF played a huge role in making this possible for me. And it helped me push back against questions from well-meaning friends and family about why I would work for free this summer. Knowing that I had PILF's backing, not just financially to pay the bills, but in terms of a community of like-minded students who made the same choices and organized to help other students make it work, took away so much stress and allowed me to confidently seek out and take the opportunity that I *really* wanted this summer without a second thought.

Concretely in terms of my work experience, this summer was great. It was a steep learning curve to figure out habeas corpus and I think that even if it's not something I work in specifically again any time soon, I know that the practice of learning a complex area of law and unpacking legal issues and decades-long procedural histories will serve me well wherever I go. I received a lot of great training opportunities, chances to talk with practitioners around the office, and a lot of one-on-one writing advice with my supervisors that will absolutely help me in any future job, and I suspect, in the next 2 years of law school. I got a variety of practice, including legal research, factual research, drafting, cite-checking, and the chance to familiarize myself with a dozen or so cases, all with different, complex legal issues and procedural histories at play.

The work itself was also highly rewarding because after a year of school I was able to finally contribute to real work that I believe in, helping real clients. It was sobering and sometimes disheartening, to see in such detail the utter injustice of the death penalty, and all the legal hurdles to relief that have been created in recent decades. But at the same time, this introduced me to a whole community of people working to both keep their clients alive and push for the abolition of capital punishment, all of which filled me with hope. This was probably my greatest overall takeaway from the summer – how public defenders and others working in and around criminal defense can work collaboratively and creatively to not just do their best to serve their clients within the system, but actively work against the system and push for its delegitimization and dismantling, helping both their own clients and creating systemic change that benefits generations to come.

To summarize, this experience was everything that I hoped for in terms of learning and gaining experience, and supporting work that I believed in, and PILF totally made that possible.