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Operations and Information Systems

Career Exploration

The areas of real estate and law have been interests of mine for as long as I can remember. As a child, I always overheard conversations about easements, mortgages, and title insurance at Friday night dinners at my grandparents' house, but I had never formally studied these topics until recently. Two summers ago, I interned at Atlas Commercial Real Estate Company. There, I had the opportunity to shadow staff members from various departments, including accounting, real estate management, and real estate development. I was also able to participate in conference calls and meetings, and review leases, building plans, and other legal documents. In addition, I performed site visits of various properties that the company was developing and attended meetings with prospective and current tenants.

Participating in these various aspects of working at a real estate development company excited me about the prospect that one day I would be making similar decisions about lease structures, mortgage clauses, and land use. Learning about real estate has opened my eyes to a realm of possibilities for my future in the real estate industry. After gaining exposure to the real estate industry, I was also interested in the legal aspects of real estate and how these two disciplines can be combined. I now have a more clear understanding of my future career goals.

As a child, I spent countless hours in my family's law office, getting the opportunity to experience a true day in the life of a real estate lawyer. Without even realizing it, being exposed to this atmosphere at an early age piqued my interest and made me want to learn even more. My tight-knit family would spend countless hours collaborating with each other on various tasks and projects, while I quietly observed. I always liked the fact that the office environment was laid back and informal, while still busy and efficient. Further, I found the work schedule to be flexible, which is something that I greatly value.

After college, I intend to go directly to law school. While there, I intend to concentrate on the study of real estate and other areas of business law. After I graduate from law school, I might clerk for a judge for a year in order to gain broad experience and/or get an entry level job at a law firm. I am most excited about getting a job as a lawyer in a firm that specializes in real estate law. After my first or second job, my long term plan is to work with my sister and my parents at my family law firm. My ultimate goal is to gain as much knowledge as I can in other jobs and then apply what I have learned to my work at my family law firm. On a typical day I would meet with the other lawyers at my firm and determine the responsibilities of each member. Having tasks that are my unique responsibility will provide me with the opportunity for independence, while also allowing me to learn from others, both of which are important to me. Although it may be challenging at times to work with family members, I have observed my family in this regard and have found that the benefits most often outweigh the detriments.

If given the opportunity to do so, I would ultimately choose to work at my family law firm because I can continue to work in the legal community while also having flexibility and the ability to work in an informal setting, without the usual pressures of a typical law firm. The atmosphere of my family's firm has shown me first hand that while still working hard, there can be a balance between working hard and having a fulfilling lifestyle.