

# The WCBA Diversity Committee's 2012 Summer Intern Program: Another Success!

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CO-CHAIR, WCBA DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Thanks to the support of several area firms and attorneys, five local high school students had the opportunity to work as summer interns and get exposed to the legal profession this summer. Since the program's inception in 2007, over 25 students from social, cultural, racial or ethnic groups statistically underrepresented in the legal profession have benefited from the program. This year, the following firms and students participated:

## FEDERAL BAR COUNCIL

Hosted Ms. Francesca Martin who has begun her senior year at Preston High School. The Federal Bar Council also hosted Ms. Gabriela Tavaréz for several weeks in August after Ms. Tavaréz's 6-week internship with the Renzulli Law Firm LLP concluded (see below). Ms. Martin and Ms. Tavaréz were supervised by Jeanette Redmond, Esq. This is the 4th year that the Federal Bar Council has participated in the Summer Internship Program.

## GROSS & STABILE LLP

Hosted Ms. Camille Alicia Cox who recently completed her senior year at Mount Vernon High School and has started as a freshman at Penn State in the fall. Ms. Cox was supervised by Hannah S. Gross, Esq. This is the 2nd year that Gross & Stabile LLP has participated in the Summer Internship Program.

## JACKSON LEWIS LLP

Hosted Mr. Al Amin Sardar Mohammad who has begun his senior year at Lincoln High School. Michael L. Abitabilo, Esq. and Susan M. Corcoran, Esq. supervised Mr. Mohammad. Jackson Lewis LLP has hosted a student every year since the inception of this program 6 years ago.

## KEANE & BEANE P.C.

Hosted Ms. Diana Cordero who has begun her senior year at Lincoln High School. Stephanie L. Burns, Esq. supervised Ms. Cordero. Keane & Beane P.C., has hosted a student every year since the inception of this program 6 years ago.

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From left to right: Diana Cordero, Francesca Martin, Al Amin Sardar Mohammad, the Honorable Edgardo Ramos, Camille Alicia Cox and Gabriela Tavaréz

## RENZULLI LAW FIRM LLP

Hosted Ms. Gabriela Tavaréz who has begun her senior year at Yonkers High School. Lisa Enoch, Esq. supervised Ms. Tavaréz. This is the first year that Renzulli Law Firm LLP has participated in the program. A special thanks goes out to Ms. Enoch and the Renzulli Law Firm for participating this year!

The purpose of the high school summer intern program is to raise the academic and professional aspirations of students in these general groups.

The students are referred to the program by local high schools and community organizations. We endeavor to select students who have the skills and com- portment necessary for interacting and learning in a professional environment.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback we receive from participating firms is that the students exceed expectations—they are smart, dependable, quick learners who appreciate the opportunities the program provides.

This year, one firm described their intern as "punctual,

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responsible, inquisitive and conscientious.” Another said, “everyone loves [our intern]. Thank you. Thank you.”

With relatively modest resources, firms can get quality help over the summer and at the same time make a huge difference in these students’ lives. Selected students are matched with participating law firms to work as clerical assistants. The firms have the opportunity to interview and approve their assigned students. The internships are paid, part-time positions of 20 to 25 hours a week, for a minimum of 6 weeks, at a suggested wage of \$7.25 per hour (minimum wage), for a total commitment of about \$870.

Participating firms are expected to provide student interns with at least 4 opportunities to observe the practice of law by attending events such as closing, depositions and court appearances.

This summer, the WCBA Diversity Committee organized two private meetings with federal judges for the participating students. The students met with the Honorable Cathy Seibel and the Honorable Edgardo Ramos,

both United States District Judges for the Southern District of New York, in their chambers in White Plains. The students spoke with Judge Ramos about his academic experiences and professional path to the federal bench, as well as some of his experiences since he became a federal judge late last year. The students then met with Judge Seibel who spoke with the students about some of the tough cases our judges are regularly called upon to decide. We are truly grateful to Judges Seibel and Ramos for inviting the students to their chambers and for speaking so warmly and candidly with them about their experiences.

After these meetings, the students enjoyed a group lunch during which they reflected on the morning’s discussions with Judges Seibel and Ramos and shared some of their own academic and personal experiences with one another.

Both the students and the firms clearly benefit from the program and we hope that your firm will consider participating next summer. If you or your firm is interested in participating or have questions about the program, please contact Jeanette Redmond at (914) 682-8800 or [jeanette.redmond@federalbarcouncil.com](mailto:jeanette.redmond@federalbarcouncil.com).