

Summer 2004

My internship at the ACLU was one I shall not soon forget. Almost every project I had at the ACLU, I instigated. Every project was met with approval and all of the materials I needed were supplied to me. I created the project to put voter restoration flyers at different places of business. I was able to join in on the brainstorming for getting signatures for the Constitutional Amendment form.

While working at the ACLU I learned to communicate with a diverse group of people. Some of the felons I met had committed "white-collar crimes" and were very well educated. Some of them only had very minimal education and could only sign their name. However, with each candidate the goal was the same, regaining the right to vote.

I was stunned while working with these convicted felons because not one of them professed innocence. They all willingly admitted they did wrong and paid for their crimes. With this statement comes the question, "If crimes are paid for, then why are their civil rights not restored?" It seems to me the felons are still paying for crimes they committed.

I hope to be an attorney one day. Working at the ACLU afforded me the opportunity to see that crimes are committed by a very diverse group of people. Felonious crimes cross our socio-economic and racial barriers. Undoubtedly, more black males were in this group, but the upper class white males were represented as well.

Any student that wants to intern at the ACLU should be self-motivated and have the ability to communicate at many different levels. If a student needs a lot of supervision, the ACLU is not the place to intern. I enjoyed working there, but I created jobs and followed through on those jobs.