Nick Platt
Tonya Public Affairs Internship Fund
8/30/12

This summer the Tonya Public Affairs Internship fund allowed me to undertake an internship at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress ("the Center" or CSPC) in Washington, DC. The Center is a non-profit public policy institute that studies the Presidency and the institution of Congress with the aim of guiding current policy makers as they deal with the nation’s most difficult issues. By drawing on deep knowledge of the history of these institutions and the benefit of a removed, bi-partisan position, the Center, over its forty-seven years of operation, has advised the government on how to approach its challenges and make the best policy decisions.

I worked this summer as part of a team that organized an off-the-record CSPC Policy Roundtable discussion to encourage bipartisan compromise and executive branch, Congressional and private sector relations on the issue of cybersecurity legislation. My duties included drafting invitations; writing briefing memos for the events moderators, Senator Chuck Hagel and Former White House Chief of Staff Mack McLarty; managing and tracking correspondence; making follow up calls to Congressional staff members, business leaders and executive branch officials; attending hearings on cybersecurity on Capitol Hill; and writing a debriefing memo about the event for the Center’s board of trustees. I am proud to have contributed to what was a successful event for the Center and enjoyed learning first-hand and in a behind-the-scenes manner about the legislative process.

I am very grateful to the Tonya Public Affairs Internship Fund for providing me with the opportunity to pursue this opportunity at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress.