This summer I interned for the Athens-Clarke County Solicitor General’s Office in the Clarke County Court House of Athens, Georgia. In my time here I have been exposed to the many different aspects that surround our judicial system at the State Court level (state laws) as well as the Municipal Court level, which pertains to city laws and ordinances. The Municipal Court deals with city ordinances, traffic violations, theft of property, vandalism, public intoxication, and DUI’s among other things.

The department within the Solicitor General’s Office that I worked most directly with was the Victim Witness Advocate Program which meet with victims of domestic crimes and disputes and helped them through the process of the trial and gave them insight on options available to them after a crime had been committed. Because there are so many cases of Domestic Violence that occurs within the court system on a weekly basis, the office I worked in set aside every Friday morning in court for Domestic Violence Fast Track Cases. After the Domestic Violence Fast Track case hearings are adjourned, the Victim’s Witness Advocate Department sends out disposition letters or that date of the next calendar call or jury trial dates to the victims involved in the crime. I was responsible for writing the disposition letters to be sent out to the victims, informing them of the trial’s outcome, and explaining that the defendant had pled guilty to his crimes brought before the court and has agreed to the sentence given by the court, additionally agreed to forgo a trial by jury and has waived all rights to a state appointed attorney.

As a whole I was absolutely thrilled with my internship. I was truly able to gain a deeper understanding of our country’s Judicial System at the state and county level, and truly get some amazing court observations and hands on experience that cannot be taught in a classroom. However, after having this summer to be exposed to law, I can say with complete confidence that
law school is not something I wish to pursue. After talking with the attorneys and judges in the office and the courtroom, I have come to see that law is a glorified field of work with little feeling of accomplishment or monetary success. As the beginning of my Junior year at Sewanee dawns on me, I look forward to continuing to discover what my passion in life will be and what possible career options are open to me. I would like to thank Sewanee’s Career Services and the Tonya Public Affairs Internship fund for helping me to discover what is and what is not my future career.