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An Externship Story: Emily Hardman



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Emily Hardman (2L) clerked for the Utah Supreme Court, worked for a major law firm in London and was a research assistant for a professor at Oxford University all in one summer.

“I wanted to take advantage of the externship program here at the law school,” Hardman said. “I was talking with Karen Andrews [the Off-Campus Recruiting Coordinator and Externship Advisor] and telling her my plans to work at a law firm in Cache Valley I had worked at before to earn some money. She said, ‘Emily, you’ll be able to make money for the rest of your life. You should take

advantage of these opportunities now, while you’re a student.”

Andrews encouraged Hardman to apply for an externship with Justice Jill N. Parrish of the Utah Supreme Court. Later on, Hardman also applied to work at a law firm in London through the Matched Externship Program and applied to be a research assistant at Oxford University, independently.

When Hardman began working at the Utah Supreme Court, she was assigned a case and asked to write the bench memo. The bench memo was ultimately incorporated into the final court opinion.

“I thought I would be the file girl; I didn’t expect to have an actual case assigned to me,” Hardman said. “I was shocked when I sat down with the clerk and she handed a file to me and said, okay this is the case you’ll be handling. Go ahead and write a bench memo with your suggestions for the judge. I was slightly overwhelmed, but I researched and researched and eventually gave my memo to the judge. Later, we sat down to conference with the judge and clerks before the case and she asked me how I thought the case should turn out. Again, I felt under qualified to give my opinion, but it was definitely an honor. I loved my time there.”

After a month at the Utah Supreme Court, Hardman flew to London to work at a firm called Devonshires Solicitors, who are also the LDS Church’s attorney for the United Kingdom.

“I personally handled some visa problems Chinese missionaries were having,” Hardman said. “The UK had recently revised their visa policy, making it a lot harder to get people into the country and stay there.”

Hardman especially enjoyed going to the barrister’s chambers and following the costumed and wigged [barristers](#) all day in court.

After her experience in London, Hardman moved to the storybook-feeling town of Oxford to work with Dr. Stefan Talmon, Professor of Public International Law and Fellow of St Anne’s College. Hardman and another BYU Law student assisted Talmon with his research on the United States’ application of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties for an upcoming Oxford publication.

“I remember sitting in his office once as he was talking with us, teaching us... and I thought, I’m studying at Oxford. This is amazing. How did this happen?” Hardman said.

The most important part of her externship experience was figuring out what she wanted to do for her career, Hardman said. Originally, Hardman went to law school thinking she wanted to become a law professor.

“To become a law professor requires you to clerk with a judge, work at a big firm, and do a lot of research,” Hardman said. “Incidentally, I was given all three opportunities in one summer. But after the summer, even though it was the most perfect summer of my life, I realized that’s not what I want to do.”

As of now, Hardman is more interested in studying policy. She still wants to become a professor, but would prefer teaching government and policy at the undergraduate level.

"I am so grateful for the externship program; to have all those experiences in one summer to show me what I want to do with my life," Hardman said.

Hardman recommends all BYU Law students take advantage of this "once in a lifetime opportunity."

"At every job I've applied for since, these experiences have stood out," Hardman said. "It has opened up so many doors for other opportunities for me. It's something that sets me apart from other applicants."

More information about the externship program and match program is found [here](#).

Written by: Lisa Anderson



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