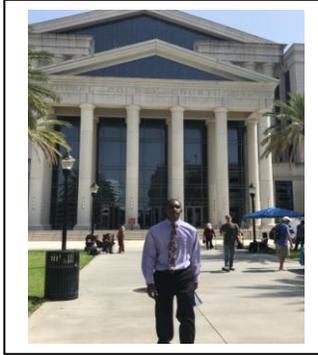


Raleigh Burney

Aspiring Attorney



My internship experience was located at the Law Office of Rhonda People-Waters. The person that I shadowed and learned from was Defense Attorney, Rhonda People-Waters. I was able to go to court on several occasions; attending both hearings and trials. A few things I learned included: court etiquette (e.g., standing up whenever the jury and the judge enters and exits the courtroom), different abbreviations and what they mean such as NCD (Next Court Date) and PT (Pretrial). During the trials, I was able to interact with all of the courtroom personnel, prosecutors, and judges.

During the experience, I was able to listen to tapes and videos connected to criminal cases and notate important statements. I worked on criminal, personal injury, family law and probate matters. I was also able to participate in several client interviews and was able to provide valuable insight.

I was able to sharpen my computer skills by writing motions for the firm, completing legal documents, performing legal research, scheduling appointments making NCD letters; I learned the process of mailing NCSs so that the defendant would know when they would have to show up to court and I also learned that in order to become a judge you have to be a lawyer first in order to know and understand the law.

The internship experience taught me that being a lawyer is not always how it is portrayed on TV and that it is not always just being in a courtroom fighting to prove someone's guilt or innocence. Lawyers oftentimes deal with multiple cases at one time which can be quite stressful.

Having this experience has caused me to change my goal of wanting to become an attorney to wanting to pursue becoming a judge. I am truly thankful for this experience and will keep all of the things that I learned in mind as I will continue to progress and get closer to reaching my ultimate goal.