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When I entered the summer internship program in 2019, I was torn between wanting to become a Cardiologist and wanting to become an attorney. During the summer of 2020, I found out that I had been selected as an award recipient and made the decision to move forward with the thought of becoming a Cardiologist. Due to the pandemic, I completed a virtual internship experience hosted by the First Coast Black Nurses Association.

The weekly virtual sessions enabled me to meet medical professionals from various fields. I also created a vision board (that I presented to the group) and learned a lot about common illnesses/diseases that plague the African American community (e.g., diabetes, hypertension and mental health).

Because the virtual experience did not exhaust my total award hours, I was able to complete my internship experience during the summer of 2021. This time, I opted to pursue my desire to become an attorney. Because of this, I was placed in the law office of The Middleton Law Firm. My mentor was none other than, attorney LaFonda Middleton, Esquire. At the firm, I learned valuable life lessons that I will never forget. Attorney Middleton is a seasoned attorney; she knows the ins and outs of the field and treats her clients, as well as her staff, with dignity and respect.

While at the firm, I worked on different cases, learned how to communicate with clients, requested medical records, communicated with insurance adjusters, and helped with attorney Middleton's schedule. The team was very transparent; the questions that I asked were answered honestly and to the best of their ability. While I worked under attorney Middleton, I also worked with her paralegal Ms. Savannah and her law clerk Ms. Paige. They all shared information that will be beneficial during law school and they all helped me with the dos and don'ts of the law field. This internship has truly inspired me.

This internship experience helped me to examine my career aspiration and allowed me to be sure that this is what I wanted to do. I am still in between which field of law I'd like to pursue but the program has open doors and to limit myself. I have been given good insight of my field and will forever be grateful.

The AnnieRuth Foundation's Summer Internship Program has greatly impacted my future and has helped me immensely. They have given me the time to evaluate myself on a professional level as well as on a personal level. I thank the Annie Ruth Foundation for their help in helping me with my future and also the Middleton Law Firm.