

Tanasha Jackson, 12th grade student
Edward H. White High School



Because I want to help people, I aspire to become a civil rights attorney. Civil rights attorneys fight for people, and that's what I am very much interested in doing. As a 2021 Award Recipient, I was placed at the Middleton Law Firm; a law firm that focuses primarily on personal injury cases (including auto accidents, slip and falls). Attorney Middleton is an awe-inspiring role model. I learned so much under her supervision. She is an incredible lawyer, teacher and mentor. She gave me so much advice about college, law school, and general life lessons.

During my internship experiences, I learned quite a bit including what takes place during mediations and what's required when filing for an uncontested divorce. I learned things such as how to interact with clients, claims adjusters, hospitals, etc. to obtain necessary information to support court cases. I also sat in on interviews and conference calls with clients, and reviewed demands that were sent for our clients to get the proper justice they deserved. Additionally, I learned administrative tasks such as how to answer phones in a professional manner, how to organize files, how to fax critical documents for court cases, and how to use a label maker.

Even though Attorney Middleton does not handle civil cases, I learned valuable things that helped me realize how my future would look when I become an attorney. One of the things I realized is that one must be extremely knowledgeable to be an effective attorney. Not only must you be able to write, but you must also be good at reading comprehension and have an advanced vocabulary. So much so, one could argue you would have to become a logophile to be able to keep that much information inside of your head. I also learned that attorneys must have patience and must be passionate about their work so that they don't fall short of getting their clients the justice that they deserve. It is very different than what's seen on television or in the media. You must be able to effectively get your point across in order to be taken seriously in this industry.

I feel very blessed to have been selected as a 2021 Award Recipient. The AnnieRuth Foundation has been pivotal in helping me to solidify my decision to become an attorney.