

## Courtney Brown



My name is Courtney Brown, and I am a rising senior at Stanton College Preparatory school. I participated in the AnnieRuth Foundation's Summer Internship program with the hope that I would be able to further pursue my career aspiration. I hope to pursue a career in the legal field and wanted the opportunity to better expose myself to that area of work. The program placed me with the Middleton Law Firm under the direction of Atty. Lafonda Middleton. The firm, which specializes in personal injury claims, gave me very specialized attention and many opportunities for one-on-one conversations that allowed me the space and comfort to ask any questions that I had.

I greatly appreciated how I was incorporated into the firm. I wasn't simply put to the side to take notes, but I was properly integrated into the workflow and was actively contributing to the success of the firm. I was given my own desk and computer that was logged into all the possible resources I would need. During my first few days, I was instructed as to what their processes were and was able to sit in on consultations and listen in on meetings. Attorney Middleton also allowed me "in the field" as I accompanied her to house calls and was able to sit in on some hearings that were taking place at the courthouse. I have also become proficient in CORE, which is a public resource that allows you to look up information on cases. On top of learning the terminology that I will encounter in this field, I also learned proper etiquette; appropriate work attire and professional email responses are just a few. One of the best pieces of advice that I received during this time was that the connections you make and the actions you take will greatly impact your life and career going forward, so treat everyone with respect and kindness, even this early in my career because you never know who could be in the position to help you.

Participating in the AnnieRuth Foundation's summer internship program has not only given me invaluable work experience but doing so has also imparted upon me vital life lessons taught by people already having gone through the mistakes to ensure that I don't make the same ones. The foundation prepared me for any challenges I might face and helped engrain these lessons within me while I still have the time to learn. I can't thank this foundation enough and for that, I will always have overwhelming gratitude!