

DANYELLE R. CLARK-GUTIERREZ

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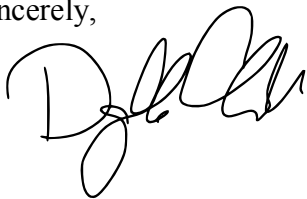
I am truly grateful for the financial support provided by The Flag and General Officers' Network, the Admiral Carey Foundation, the Aurora Foundation, and The George Washington University Law School. As an Admiral McGrail Scholarship recipient, I was able to engage in an internship at the Office of the Public Defender for The City of Alexandria, an experience which allowed me to participate in all of the different levels of criminal trial adjudication.

I spent my summer split between the criminal traffic docket and the domestic relations docket. My assignments touched on a wide variety of legal issues, including Fourth Amendment violations, mitigating factors in sentencing, and the impact of Virginia Statutes which directly conflict with constitutional provisions. The experience afforded me the opportunity to write a motion to suppress evidence obtained in violation of Fourth Amendment search and seizure protections. Within 24 hours of submitting the motion, the prosecution completely dropped two of the three felony charges and reduced the remaining charge to a misdemeanor; maintaining a criminal record without a felony conviction.

In addition to giving me substantive assignments on legal issues, my supervising attorneys also worked with me on the skills necessary for trial preparation and execution. Working with seasoned attorneys throughout the summer allowed me to obtain a complete picture of day-to-day life as a litigator, something that cannot be obtained through a classroom experience. Most importantly, my experience this summer gave me a clearer picture of the true impact that race and financial status has in the criminal justice system. No matter the direction that my legal education leads, I know that I want to use my newly obtained skills and perspective to benefit those who have been disadvantaged by the criminal justice system.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danyelle R. Clark-Gutierrez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danyelle" being the most prominent part.