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I would like to thank The Flag and General Officers' Network, the Aurora Foundation, the Admiral Carey Foundation, and The George Washington University Law School for their continued support of the Admiral McGrail Memorial Scholarship Program. Without the assistance of this program, I would not have been able to work as a law clerk for the Office of the Public Defender for the City of Alexandria; an experience which has been of immeasurable benefit to my legal education.

On first arrival at the Public Defenders' Office, I was assigned to the Traffic and Criminal Docket where my focus has been primarily on researching relevant case law regarding the impact of Virginia Criminal Statutes on Fourth Amendment protections. From client intake counseling to sentencing mitigation; the magnitude and diversity of criminal cases the Public Defenders' Office is tasked with has afforded me the opportunity to participate in almost every aspect of criminal proceedings.

Even more notably, I have had the opportunity to participate in an exceptional summer-long mock-trial program taught through lecture and extensive trial simulation supervised by senior attorneys. This summer has been the most fulfilling and enlightening professional experience of my life. I have always thought that I wanted to work in public defense, but now that I've been able to do the work first-hand, I know that this is what I was meant to do.

My sincerest gratitude,



Danyelle Renay Clark-Gutierrez