

## Student Testimonials - Summer Fellowship 2021



**Name:** Ryan Mosoff

**Year and Program:** 3L, English Common Law

**Fellowship:** Public Interest (InfoLaw) funded by Professor Teresa Scassa

**Host Placement:** Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner's office

### **Testimonial**

The Fellowship at Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner's office was fantastic. Each lawyer I worked with took a genuine interest in my well-being, education, and career. They mentored me in their own way, and I was pleasantly surprised at how invested they were in my journey as a legal professional. My supervising lawyer made time in her schedule on multiple occasions over the summer to have conversations with me about life and law. I was even offered an articling position! I highly recommend applying for Fellowships.



**Name:** Hailey Berge

**Year and Program:** 2L, English Common Law

**Fellowship:** Public Interest funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario

**Host Placement:** Prisoners' Legal Services

### **Testimonial**

A highlight of my Summer Fellowship experience with Prisoners' Legal Services, was being able to attend a client's Parole Hearing as their legal assistant. I had worked with this client leading up to their hearing and submitted a written submission to the Parole Board of Canada on their behalf. Being entrusted with representing both the client, and Prisoners' Legal Services in this capacity was very rewarding – especially since the client was granted parole!

By completing a Summer Fellowship, you can demonstrate that you possess various transferable skills which are invaluable in the legal profession. For example, some skills that I gained as a fellow with Prisoners' Legal Services include file management, client interaction such as interviewing, and written and oral advocacy. Additionally, it shows employers that you took initiative to explore your interests and passions while also gaining practical experience that will serve you well in your future career.



**Name:** Anneka Oh

**Year and Program:** 3L, English Common Law

**Fellowship:** Law Commission of Ontario

**Host Placement:** Law Commission of Ontario (LCO)

### **Testimonial**

The highlight of my summer fellowship was working on a special project assessing the impact of LCO law reform recommendations on legal policy conversations and the law. Given that I was the first student assigned to this pilot project, I was tasked with developing a format for the assessment and figuring out a research strategy. This aspect of my fellowship was very different from anything that I had ever done before in law school, and I am very grateful for this experience.

One of my best days of my Summer Fellowship at the LCO was getting to sit in on a stakeholder meeting with the Auditor General of Ontario about the LCO's environmental accountability project. Not only did I get to experience the first stages of the law reform process in Ontario, but I also gained first-hand insight into how the LCO consults with stakeholders in making its recommendations.

I think that the amount of responsibility I was given at the LCO definitely helps me stand out to potential employers. The LCO team is very collegial, and I was given many opportunities to take initiative and try new things. While I worked independently for the most part, my mentor also gave excellent, thorough feedback on all my work and supported me the whole time.



**Name:** Brigitte Kutin Nuamah

**Year and Program:** 2L, French Common Law Program

**Fellowship:** Fonds Nicole LaViolette

**Host Placement:** Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes (AOcVF)

### **Testimonial**

Je considère mon stage d'été comme l'une des meilleures occasions de formation juridique. Comme je suis passionnée par le droit public et la défense des droits des femmes, mon stage m'a fait prendre conscience du fait que certains groupes au Canada ont un accès disproportionné au système de justice. Mon expérience de stage m'a permis de mieux comprendre le droit de la famille, la violence sexuelle et le traumatisme. Je suis aussi devenue plus consciente de l'importance de démystifier le pouvoir professionnel, en tant que future avocate.

I consider my summer internship as one of the best opportunities to have as part of legal education. Being passionate about public law and women's advocacy, my internship exposed me to the realities to how disproportionately some groups in Canada have access to our justice system. My internship experience afforded me useful insight in Family law, sexual violence, and trauma. I have also become more aware of the importance of demystifying professional power, as a future lawyer.



**Name:** Natalie Oleksinski

**Year and Program:** 2L, English Common Law

**Fellowship:** Public Interest funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario

**Host Placement:** Level

### **Testimonial**

Creating my own summer Fellowship was a great way to improve my networking skills when looking for the fellowship. I chose to work with Level and use my previous education and work experience to help them create a new Environmental Justice Program for schools across Canada. It was a great experience to work on my research skills and use my creativity to create educational programming, social media posts and a mock trial.

Through this position, I was able to further work with Level after the summer. The Environmental Justice Program will be piloted in a few schools this year and I will take lead with the presentations. I also took the role of Chapter President for Level, which has chapters across Canada. In this position, I am leading a team of dedicated law students to tackle Environmental injustice by presenting workshops, pushing Bill C-28 and planning a community event.



**Student Name:** Brittany Singh  
**Year and Program:** 3L, English Common Law  
**Fellowship:** Hennick Entrepreneurial Fellowship  
**Host Placement:** The Mobile Lawyer

### **Testimonial**

I highly recommend creating your own Summer Fellowship because it allows you to focus on specific areas of law that you are passionate about and to work for a firm or organization that you are interested in. Moreover, a Summer Fellowship provides you with the independence to curate your own legal experience by not only choosing a firm, organization, or area of law to work in, but also choosing the types of tasks you will complete and legal experience you will gain through coordinating with your supervisor. The Summer Fellowship is an enriching experience that provides you with practical legal experience while developing essential skills that are important for you as a young legal professional.

I was awarded the Hennick Entrepreneurial Fellowship and spent the summer working at a sole proprietorship firm called The Mobile Lawyer, which specializes in Real Estate, Wills and Estate, and Commercial Law. I had spotted The Mobile Lawyer a couple of years ago when I had first moved to Ottawa and had always dreamed of working there due to the firm's commitment to improving access to justice by delivering legal services to the client's door. After taking Wills and Estate Law and wanting to learn more about Real Estate Law and Commercial Law, The Mobile Lawyer was the perfect choice for my Summer Fellowship. My Summer Fellowship was very rewarding and remains as one of my highlights of law school, as I learned so much about these three areas of law, what goes into running your own sole proprietorship practice, and became more comfortable with handling client files and interactions.

The highlight of my Summer Fellowship was the point where I became comfortable handling my assigned tasks on my own, which allowed me to feel greater independence. As I worked at a sole

proprietorship firm, it was always quite busy, and I was responsible for handling a variety of tasks. From completing client intake forms, answering the phone, writing cheques, completing banking trips for the firm, and drafting legal documents, I was able to gain ample practical legal experience. I would say about halfway into my Summer Fellowship, I was comfortable handling most of these tasks without having to ask questions and get reassurance from the legal assistant or lawyer. This made me feel more confident in the knowledge that I had gained and my ability to apply it efficiently and correctly. This also allowed me to be quicker in handling the tasks that were assigned and I was then able to take initiative to ask for more tasks or to suggest tasks to my supervisor lawyer that I could complete during any free time I had. This led to me filing 3 years' worth of client files for the office which was a great help to the lawyer and legal assistant and was a task I had come up with all on my own.

I think a Summer Fellowship makes you stand out to potential employers by showing them that you have gained practical legal experience in a workplace environment and that you have developed skills that make you employable. Telling employers about the types of tasks that you completed or the initiative that you have taken during your Summer Fellowship will differentiate you from other applicants who have not yet gained this type of practical legal experience. Moreover, if you gained practical legal experience in an area of law that a potential employer practices in, this would convey that you have specialized knowledge and experience and will certainly set you apart. Regardless of the area of law that you focused on during your Summer Fellowship, skills such as legal research, legal writing, communication, teamwork, ability to handle tasks independently, and client service skills, will make you stand out to potential employers.

My Summer Fellowship led to me being employed afterward at The Mobile Lawyer. I worked full-time during the remainder of the summer. When school started, I worked at the office once a week and brought files home to work on during the week when I had time. I have developed a great relationship with both the lawyer and legal assistant at the office. I am able to learn so much from them and have even led a client meeting. I am very grateful for the Summer Fellowship and the opportunities that it has led to and would recommend applying to any student.

**Name:** Taylor Bain

**Year and Program:** 3L, English Common Law

**Fellowship:** Feminist Public Interest funded by the Shirley Greenberg Chair

**Host Placement:** Gillian Hnatiw & Co

### **Testimonial**

During my feminist public interest fellowship with Gillian Hnatiw & Co. I had the opportunity to integrate myself into a civil sexual assault case—I familiarized myself with hundreds of pages of affidavits and case materials, met with the family, attended a cross-examination, helped draft the factum and reply, and attended the hearing. During the hearing, my boss used arguments I wrote to fight for punitive damages for our clients. Working on this case with inspiring colleagues reaffirmed why I wanted to practice law, and I am thrilled to be returning to the firm as their first articling student.