

# INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Steven Reddy

**Graduation Year:** 2017

**Major:** Criminal Justice & Psychology (Dual Major)

**Minor:** None

**Hometown:** Irwin, PA

**Hobbies:** Reading fiction and nonfiction, catching up on Netflix and other shows, spending time with friends and family, occasional research, videogames every now and then, and writing fiction and research papers

**Campus Activities:** Criminal Justice Club for 4 years, Judicial Board member since second semester of my freshman year, Academic Standards Committee for one semester, Member of Psi Chi, Alpha Phi Sigma, and Phi Kappa Phi

**Future Plans:** Plans to attend Duquesne Law in Fall 2017 to earn JD

- **Internship (company/your title):**

**Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas Judicial Intern for the Honorable Debra A. Pezze  
(November 2014 – May 2015)**

In this internship I was able to observe plea bargains, motions hearings, status conferences for upcoming trials, criminal trials ranging from aggravated assault to first-degree murder, and sentencing hearings. I was also able to construct a bench memo for Judge Pezze to assist her in ruling on a motion to suppress evidence. To construct this memo I was given actual evidence from the crime and transcripts of the previous proceedings, as well as use Pennsylvania precedent cases via legal research. I was also able to shadow an ADA for an afternoon thanks to Her Honor's connections in the courthouse, which was very beneficial since that is the profession I desire.

- I enjoyed watching the actual criminal trials and constructing the bench memo the most about the internship. The bench memo actually allowed me to perform legal research and actively assist Her Honor in her duties, which I found especially interesting. The trials were interesting as well, since they are absolutely *nothing* like television and so few people were watching them. For the first-degree murder trial there was maybe 7 people besides myself in the audience. Talking about this experience also surprised me since most people thought they were not allowed to watch a trial when they are specified as public proceedings in the Constitution.
- The most difficult part of the internship was in the beginning, learning to navigate the courthouse and also understand the proceedings I was watching. Since I have had no formal legal education yet, some of what was happening was foreign to me. Luckily the judge was very attentive and accommodating to help me learn.

**Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General - Medicaid Fraud and Control Division, Investigative Intern  
(May 2015 – September 2015)**

In this internship I was able to view both sides of the criminal investigation with both the Special Agents and the Deputy Attorney Generals as they performed their duties. My duties here ranged from assisting an agent in data entry to identify fraudulent financial patterns to helping another agent construct an affidavit for a search warrant. I also helped the agents digitally transfer evidence via a new scanner, attended a meeting between the agents from the AG, the FBI, and the US Attorney regarding a joint investigation, witness an arrest and arraignment, and helped execute a search warrant.

- The best part of this internship was helping to construct and then witnessing the execution of the search warrant. I helped the agent in charge of the case identify the amount of opiates that were being prescribed by helping him verify the prescriptions on a state database and then witnessing the agents execute the warrant a few days later. That was exciting because I was required to wear a bulletproof vest and help catalog the evidence mentioned in the warrant. It was also interesting to see the various offices involved in the search ranging from the state police to the FBI and DEA. It was also interesting to me since I knew what specific files we needed to obtain from helping write the affidavit, so I was able to help the other agents locate certain pieces of evidence.

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- There was really nothing too difficult in this internship, though there were some long stretches of downtime involved with the investigations as agents followed leads, attended meetings, and waited for people to call back so they could talk to them. Again, an actual investigation is nothing like television. However I was able to occupy myself with other work so the downtime was not all bad. It also let me get to know a Deputy Attorney General very well and he was able to tell me more about the legal profession and education. He was even kind enough to write me a letter of recommendation for law school.

- **How did your experience at UPG and in the (name of your department/major) department prepare you for your internship?**

I felt that UPG prepared me very well for the internships since I was already used to working diligently and researching thoroughly from my classes. Getting to know the professors well also helped as I was able to establish connections. For example, I never would have met Judge Pezze if Dr. Marciniak did not hold a lecture on sentencing in Pennsylvania that Her Honor attended.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**

I feel very prepared for my career from these internships as I was able to see both sides of the criminal process and was able to ask any question I wanted to about job opportunities and law school. The internships also showed me the day-to-day duties of the professions involved, which gives me a much better idea of what to expect.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

My advice would be to start looking early and contact anyone and everyone, you never know where a cool opportunity will appear. If you have an inkling of the kind of career you want to pursue as well, I would recommend interning in that field first to make sure it is what you want to do, and if not then there is time to find another field you may enjoy more. Interning in both the judicial and investigative sides allowed me to verify my preference for the legal side of criminal justice, and I am much more confident in my decision because of it.