

Assembly Education Committee Summer 2007

As an intern at the Assembly Education Committee I came to understand the legislative process, learn to analyze bills, use the Inquiry system, and make contacts within the State Government. Working across the street from the Capitol, at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) not initially my ideal internship location. Once I began working, I didn't think twice about this. I still got to spend plenty of time in the capital, got to know people at the desk (people that work on the floor of the assembly chambers), and interacted with my assemblywoman. The LOB was a perfect environment to introduce me to Sacramento Politics. Other duties of my internship were staffing meetings my boss could not attend, running amendments to the capital, contacting stakeholders about various bills, filing, answering phones and questions, creating committee recommendation sheets for weekly hearings, and bill tracking. I attended three training workshops and received a huge binder at each one. Needless to say I had plenty of resources to be a successful intern.

My favorite part of the job was the people. Aside from what they taught me daily, I saw the sacrifices public servants make. For example, during the last few hearings the chief consultant in my office worked until 9pm during the week and put in approximately 20 hours over the weekend. Still when I mentioned that they deserved a raise he modestly said "they pay us pretty well." Walking into my internship, I was admittedly intimidated, never having any "professional" employment experience. I didn't even know how to make a fax when they hired me. Now after six weeks in the office I am a more confident candidate for any job. In my office I saw state jobs, do allow hard workers to work their way up.