

**Office of Senator Tom Harman
Spring 2009**

I interned in the office of Senator Tom Harman. Senator Harman is a Republican representing California's 35th District, comprised of sections of central and south Orange County including Irvine, Costa Mesa, and Huntington Beach. His office is rather small for a Senator, so things can get somewhat cramped. There were 5 staff members besides myself, all of which are female and all of which are very friendly. I did not have an office of my own, but I did have my own desk and computer to work with.

A student looking to intern in Senator Harman's office should know that a large part of his or her daily workload will consist of responding to requests for information from constituents and lobbyists. I also worked on researching projects for the Senator or other staff members, composing Op-Eds, meeting in person and on the phone with constituents and lobbyists, and performing other clerical duties. This variety offers the student an opportunity to truly experience the multifaceted, fast-paced, and personally challenging work environment that exists within legislative offices. Most importantly, the interested person should understand that the capitol is driven by politics, and as such the needs of constituents, lobbyists, and party affiliations weigh heavily on the schedules and responsibilities of legislators, staff, and interns alike.