

My Time at The Way to Justice

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2022-2023 Civic Wolff Fellow



Project & Goals

- Goal 1: Learn more about what it is like to be a lawyer who advocates for those who have been negatively impacted by the justice system
- Goal 2 : Learn more about the Legal System as a whole
- Goal 3: Assist The Way to Justice in any way possible
- Goal 4: Be involved with the community to help those negatively impacted by the

Background & Critical Issue

The Civic Wolff Fellowship was created to help students at Gonzaga University partner with a local organization that assists with social justice issues in the community. Post-conviction relief is vital for those who have felony records to be able to participate in society. While at The Way to Justice, I was to assist the law firm in any way I could. This could be through outreach, attending meetings, assisting with casework, and organizing Justice Night.

Partner Organization

The Way to Justice is a community law firm led and created by women of color. Through direct representation, impact litigation, policy reform, and advocacy work, we address the barriers facing individuals who have been negatively impacted by our justice system.



Outreach at Camp Hope

What I Did

- Collaborate with Camerina Zorrozuza and assist her with casework
- Complete and send pardon files
- Request documents for expungement cases
- Outreach at Camp Hope
- Attend meetings with Cam where other lawyers, judges, and advocates were in attendance to discuss how to make Spokane more just
- Write donor "Thank You" cards
- Go to court with the current lawyers at The Way to Justice to learn how to file motions and see what court is like
- File motions and orders at court on my own
- Create the Agendas for Bake Advisory Board Meetings
- Organize "Justice Night" where free legal services are provided in collaboration with Spokane Volunteer Lawyers Program, Recovery Café, and Spokane United We Stand

What I Learned

- EVERYONE deserves a second chance
- The justice system is VERY complicated
- Having a felony truly impacts you for the rest of your life through finding a job, getting housing, or even visiting your child's school
- Each court system is different
 - This makes it difficult to request court records from different counties
- The pardoning, expungement, and vacating process takes a LONG time
- It requires many documents of support, as well as exhausting all other potential options
- How to file a motion and orders at court
- It takes a lot of coordinating to get an event up and running with different community partners
- A small victory is a victory nonetheless
- It is important to have boundaries and be aware of how this type of work is impacting you outside of the job
- Spokane has a beautiful network of activists trying to make this community, and the world, a more just place for ALL peoples



First Blake Advisory Board Meeting



Outreach at Camp Hope

What is Next

- Begin a Masters in Psychology program Fall 2023 in order to begin my journey to become a therapist
- Potentially go to Law School after my first few years practicing as a therapist
- Clientele will be underserved populations, specifically those impacted by the carceral system, crime, and substance misuse
- Continue to advocate for those who have been impacted by our justice system

Civic Perspective

- This experience helped me understand that EVERYONE deserves a second chance no matter what they have done in the past
- Outreach at Camp Hope helped me understand how much those who are houseless are treated horribly in Spokane and need more help
- Legal casework takes so much effort and time to take on and complete, this is a

Project & Goals

- The legal system can be unfair and rigid in its ways
- Being arrested once can change your life forever
- While punishment seems like it is helpful, it is often good works that really makes a change
- Doing casework has truly helped me understand that everyone has a story

Project & Goals

- Organization was very important
- Empathy and listening skills vital
- Had to become more aware of my own boundaries while doing outreach and filling out intake forms with potential clients
- Learn that each person has a story
- One act does not define who you are



Flyer for Justice Night