

I am so grateful to the International Academy of Family Lawyers for allowing me to participate in what turned out to be an entirely fun and educational internship. My experience working with two well-respected firms filled with hospitable and mentoring attorneys is one that has impacted me both personally and professionally. This trip is one that I will not forget.

My three weeks in the United Kingdom started in Edinburgh, Scotland on June 20th. I found my way to Sheehan Kelsey Oswald Family Law Specialists (SKO), my host firm in Edinburgh, where I was introduced to everyone at the office and to the city's hidden gems. During my time at SKO, I learned about the unique Scottish child welfare system, called the Children's Panel. I attended a master class about the Children's Panel where current issues within the system and potential interdisciplinary solutions were discussed. The panel is unique in that it handles child legal matters without actual court proceedings. The panel consists of everyday individuals from the community who volunteer time and undergo intensive training. The panel makes decisions regarding abuse and neglect as well as delinquency matters. In addition to learning about this unique system at SKO, I reviewed and discussed cases and sat in on client consultations at the firm. I also attended a conference hosted by the Law Society of Scotland held specifically for women in the law. The conference was especially enlightening, as many of the issues facing women in the legal field in America are found in the Scottish legal system (and beyond, I am sure).

The firm took me out for dinner on multiple occasions where discussion was nothing short of entertaining. We all had an opportunity to explore the differences between the Scottish and American legal systems (and the accuracy of Law and Order, too). I have to say, though, that the hospitality of Rachael Kelsey truly made my time in Edinburgh enjoyable. Her family allowed me to stay in their home for the week in Edinburgh and I later accompanied Rachael to London, staying in the firm's London flat. I would also like to send a special thanks to Simon Bruce and his family for hosting me throughout my stay in London. I truly appreciated staying in a full, bustling house and I cannot thank all of my hosts (and their very kind and patient families) enough for their generosity during my stay.

Once in London, I attended a round table hosted by the AIRE Centre, an organization focused on promoting human rights for European marginalized individuals. Discussion centred on how to maximize and emphasize the child's voice during international law proceedings. The conference was attended by leaders in the field with expertise in a wide range of disciplines from all over the world. I found the conference especially helpful in terms of its use as a potential model for similar round tables in the states. The next day I attended an interesting conference on the topic of Brexit where presentations focused on the many questions and issues Brexit has created and how those issues might be resolved, though no answers yet exist.

I spent my final two weeks in the U.K. at Kingsley & Napley, a large international firm. My time was split between the Family Department, the Knowledge and Information Services Department, and the Dispute Resolution Department. Over my two weeks, I researched legal issues spanning in topic from surrogacy to procedure, attended multiple client consultations, drafted memos, reviewed cases, and otherwise helped with smaller legal matters as needed. What I found over the course of my assignments was that English substantive family law does not really differ much from that in the United States. Though the terminology took some getting used to, I found that I was able to research

legal issues effectively by the end of my stay in the office. One striking difference, however, was the division of work between barristers and solicitors. The division of research and in-depth client interaction on the solicitor's side and of persuasion and presentation before the court on the barrister's side was interesting to watch. Perhaps one of my favourite "assignments" at the firm was accompanying Leonie, a solicitor who has worked at the firm since its start, on one of his daily court runs, during which he gave me a historical tour of the entire court and its surrounding areas.

The trip, of course, also included a fair share of tourism. In Scotland I visited Fort William, took the West Highlands Line over the "Harry Potter bridge" (also known as the Glenfinnan Viaduct), visited museums, walked High St., toured a castle, ate a traditional Scottish breakfast, and spent the day at Nevis Range. In London, I visited Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Big Ben, the London Eye, Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum, and 221B Baker St. (the Sherlock Holmes Museum), and ate more food than I imagined was possible.

Again, I would like to thank everyone involved for this opportunity and express how meaningful of a trip this has been for me. Not only did I get a chance to leave America for the first time, but I did so with great support. I know many people who have not been mentioned worked in the background to make this possible and for that, I thank them as well.