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Oregon Law Center (summer 2010)
Portland, Oregon

Thanks to the Alumni Funded Fellowship provided by the Notre Dame Club of Portland, I was able to work at the Oregon Law Center. I am so honored and grateful to have spent my first-year summer there.

I'd have to say the most valuable part of my experience has been all of the hands-on research assignments they gave me. I conducted research on federal and state employment regulations, wage and hour disputes, and discrimination and harassment issues. I also researched various class action issues. This experience strengthened the writing skills acquired through my coursework at Notre Dame. I was given almost NO "busy work," a claim that many of my classmates cannot make about their summer experiences. Since they exposed me to various areas of employment law, I feel like I have a much better grasp on the field than I did before.

The opportunities for client interaction have been amazing, too - between intake over the phone and outreach to the migrant worker housing camps, I really had the opportunity to develop my Spanish legal vocabulary.

The experience is amazing, the people are wonderful, and the work is fulfilling and meaningful. Due to the Alumni of the Notre Dame Club of Portland, I had the opportunity to be engaged in meaningful public interest work while gaining valuable employment experience. I've also fallen in love with Oregon, and hope to return to practice law after graduation. I am so thankful for this experience.

Laura Ewan