

Learning objectives

This summer, I want to understand current cases in courts about transgender issues and important legal precedents for transgender individuals; the legal issues that transgender people generally face in prisons, the health care system, and other relevant areas; current events and legislation addressing queer people; how public interest law offices run and operate. In the office, I want to think more like a policymaker or lawyer and find a way to strengthen that type of thinking. I also want to gain a greater appreciation for the struggles that others face and deepen my commitment to fighting for queer justice.

To turn these broader goals into “SMART” goals, I want to:

- Read all the supporting documents that were sent to me to understand the resources, precedents, and policies that affect transgender people in the Bay Area
- Be able to tell a friend or classmate about at least two relevant legal precedents and two ongoing court cases by the end of the summer
- Sit in on a meeting where attorneys are discussing a case and push myself to have some involvement (even if it’s minor) in the litigation process
- For the prison letter writing project, I want to send at least 200 letters by the end of the summer to inmates in the prison
- Significantly update the know-your-rights database that the TLC operates so that each state has at least one new addition/revision
- Operate the legal helpline at least two times a week to remain grounded and connected to the issues
- Get lunch or coffee with an attorney at the office to understand how they got to where they are

Accomplishing my objectives

(a) On-the-job activities

In my day-to-day work, I want to remain flexible and able to do any work needed of me. Working on the assignments that I’ve been given – the prison mailing project, know-your-rights data base, and helpline – will help me stay on track with these goals. I imagine my day-to-day work being diverse and manageable, and what I already plan on doing will be in-line with my goals.

(b) Off-the-job activities

To accomplish this goal, I want to attend SF Pride and at least one community-centered event that the TLC holds outside of the office in environment. In that regard, I can deepen my understanding of queer issues in Bay Area context and engage with community members.

Plan for assessing progress

To make sure I’m holding myself accountable to my goals, I will have a biweekly check-in with my on-site advisor, Ian, to make sure that I am on track both with what I imagine getting out of this summer and what the organization wants out of me during the summer. Moreover, I will make a commitment once a week to reflect on my previous week and monitor my progress to make sure I am meeting my objectives.

Feedback

If there is anything else that should be revised or included, please let me know!