

August 2022

Newsletter

Project SELF was implemented in 1995 in order to expose high school students to legal careers. This year we celebrate twenty-seven years of success with over 1,100 high school student interns having participated in this amazing summer program which consists of paid work experience at law firms and law-related companies throughout Orange County.

"Internships aren't just for college students - Project SELF sets high school students on the road to successful futures." *Nancy Garcia, Associate Director*



Summer of 2022

Back to in-person internships

We were grateful to have thirty-seven law firms and law related businesses partner with Project Youth OC's Project SELF program which provided **47 high school students** with law related internship placements. Our students had summer work experience opportunities that included exposure to professional work environments, career exploration, meaningful relationships with professional mentors, and a field trip to Chapman Law School.



At the conclusion of the eight-week internship we celebrated our interns by hosting a recognition reception which included college scholarships for selected students.

Project SELF Intern Spotlight

Claudia Coleman, Esq.



Claudia participated in Project SELF 2002 interning at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP. She graduated from the University of California, Irvine in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree and later attended the University of San Diego School of Law. Claudia now is an attorney at Lewis Brisbois in Costa Mesa.

Interview with Claudia on her Project Self Experience

Why did you participate in Project SELF?

I was encouraged to apply by my English teacher. He believed I had great writing skills that would lead me to many potential career choices. He especially thought I would benefit from the Project SELF program that could lead me to consider law school.

Who influenced you most during your internship?

Dora Moran who was my Supervisor at the records department at Gibson Dunn. She was always so encouraging with every project I was assigned. She pushed me to do better and rewarded my hard work. She was incredibly compassionate and caring, which I really appreciated.

How did Project SELF prepare you for what you are doing today?

It provided a lot of insight into what I do now, practice law. Most importantly, however, it taught me the value of support staff. I went from a Project SELF intern to a Records Clerk to Project Assistant to Paralegal. I climbed the ladder appreciating what each job does to support attorneys. I can also do a lot of that work for myself now that I am a lawyer.

What advice would you give a current Project SELF intern or recent Project SELF participant?

Do your best, put your best foot forward and show people that you gave it your all. Not only does this make a good impression, but it lets you grow as a person. Keep in touch with anyone you connected with, and if you're remotely interested in law, pursue that interest until you decide if it's for you. Whether or not you end up in law school, you'll be a better person for your efforts, you'll learn more about yourself along the way.

Share your best Project SELF memory.

Speaking with the attorneys about their cases, watching the amount of work they had to do in preparation for trial...I found it to be very fascinating.

Reading the pleadings and motions was like reading books which took me to places and circumstances I only imagined existed in movies.

Thank You to all the law firms and businesses that participated with us this summer and helped make the program a success.

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Special Appreciation to our donors who made Project SELF 2022 possible through financial support.

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Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law (OCCDL)
Robinson Calcagnie, Inc.
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Project SELF works in partnership with the OC-Association of Legal Administrators and SAUSD Career Technical Education Program (CTE program).



Participating High Schools



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