This summer I was a legal intern at AZB & Partners, a law firm in Mumbai, India. Through the internship program, I was involved in a number of different tasks assigned to me from several different departments of the firm. Through this, I was able to gain a broad-based exposure to several different areas of law within the Indian legal system. The tasks I was assigned varied from analysing and compiling a list of documents for reference on matters to creating notes on Indian banking law to be distributed to our clients. Throughout most of the tasks I completed, there was a continual thread of research and synthesis of relevant legal concepts. Periodically, I also had the opportunity to attend court and experience how Indian law works first-hand, providing an effective contrast with American law. Through these tasks, I was able to accomplish the goals I had set out for myself of gaining the knowledge of what it would be like to work as a lawyer in a larger-sized law firm and to see the contrast of Indian law with American law, both normatively and in practice. Thus, I was able to gain the knowledge and experience I sought after by accepting this internship. For that, I am very grateful.

This experience has been very helpful in building upon my academics. In addition to it often relating to my studies thus far—as is the case with many banking regulations and policies that I researched—but, as I am planning on going to law school after I graduate, it will be extremely applicable in a direct sense to the prospective next stage of my studies. My internship will fit with my academic studies very well in the future, providing the practical and real-world insight to compliment what I learn at school. Moreover, as stated above, learning the workings of Indian law will provide for a strong
comparative base with which to look at any future studies in American law. Thirdly, the skills I have polished in researching and drafting documents and memos on several issues will prove to be invaluable in the continuance of my academic pursuits. Hence, this internship program has been extremely helpful and complimentary to an effective completion of my academics.

Through this experience, I was able to learn a lot about myself as well as about my external goals. Aiding this process was the fact that I was living in a country very different than my own. However, I also learned that there are several lines of similarity as well as the differences in custom and lifestyle. And through this culture shock, I was able to see what type of person I would like to be as well as my own professional and personal preferences—in the types of places I would like to work and live in both content of and approach to work. Moreover, working in a legal internship in India—a country which usually offers law as an undergraduate degree—I was able to gain exposure to the legal profession that I would not have in the United States. I went through the internship program as if I were one of my peers that were in law school, giving me experience that is usually reserved for law students in the United States. Through this, I was able to see what it would be like to work as a lawyer at a much earlier stage than most other American students. Also, I was able to gain and hone in the legal knowledge and research skills necessary to be successful in the legal profession.

Through the first-hand experience and knowledge I obtained at AZB, I was able to learn a lot about the legal industry. Through the work I completed, such as working on actual large-scale cases and going to court to see matters through from time to time, I was able to see the entire process of how the work involved in such a profession comes to
fruition. This was an invaluable set of knowledge to obtain in order to evaluate what a career as a lawyer will truly be like. Moreover, the contrast with how this process occurs in India with how it occurs in America—both with respect to the formal procedure itself and how business is practically conducted on a more general level—will provide a strong context for future reflection and evaluation of my career path, as well as contribute to my success in it. While this was not my first exposure to the legal industry, it was my first time working at a firm of the calibre that AZB is, and my first time working in a position as substantive as this one was. Moreover, it was my first time working in the industry in any capacity outside the United States. Therefore, the experience was a completely new one to me, and thus provided an extreme girth of new learning opportunities that I did not have the ability to take advantage of prior to this summer. While I was expecting the experience to be quite different—both within and outside of the work environment—I was still a bit surprised by the differences initially. The long hours—sometimes working past midnight—and the vastly different environment that Mumbai provides compared to the places I had lived in the past made for a bit of a shock. However, I was able to adjust over the first few weeks and then had a great experience, both professionally and personally. For such a reason, I very much think I would like to continue a career in law, even if perhaps not at a corporate firm.

Overall, the experience has helped me to gain a perspective on what it would really mean to work in a large law firm like AZB. Although there would be some differences working in the United States, as opposed to India, there are many similarities between the industry in the two countries. Thus, this experience has given me a lot of
substance to reflect on in order to better evaluate my career path in the future, and for that I m very grateful.