



Through the Pro Bono Society, I managed to secure 2 internships in San Francisco, California, USA for about 2 months. One of the internships was with the Catholic Church of East Bay (CCEB) while the other was with the Eviction Defence Collaboration (EDC).

CCEB immigration legal services aim to help low-income immigrant families, crime victims, applicants for citizenship and undocumented children. Interning at CCEB immigration department was a fantastic, superb and awesome experience! I got the opportunity to volunteer in naturalisation workshops where we volunteers get to help the less-privileged community to apply for their US citizenships. I also had the opportunity to attend Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) training. DACA is a new immigration policy that allows certain undocumented immigrants to be exempt from deportation. There are too many undocumented/ illegal immigrants in the Bay area and what CCEB is doing is remarkable. It changes the life of a person.

Interning at the EDC was also an eye-opener experience for me. The EDC is the principal organisation in San Francisco that helps low-income tenants to respond to eviction lawsuits, levelling the playing field. I had the opportunity to interview clients to understand their cases. From there, we would prepare the relevant documents for the clients to bring it to court. If necessary, EDC's lawyer may represent the client during trial. However, most cases were resolved during mediation. Through this internship with EDC, I understand the process of eviction and the reality of eviction situations in the Bay area.

Both of these internships made me realise that I am really fortunate and blessed to not have to worry about having no roof over my head or not having a sense of belonging and rights in my country. It also made me appreciate my life more and not to take things for granted. Both of these invaluable experiences also inspire me to wanting to work in a non-profit organisations rather than taking the typical legal route after my graduation.



My stay in the USA can never be completed without visiting the tourist attractions.

The number one tourist attraction would be the San Francisco Gate. I cycled up and along the San Francisco golden gate. It was a tough journey up there but the experience was



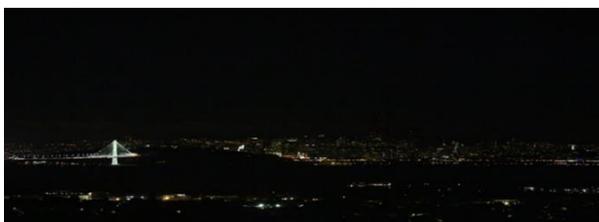
I also visited the San Francisco Zoo. One thing I love about the San Francisco Zoo is how the visitors are able to go near the animals, the tame ones of course, to touch and pet them. They even allow a peacock to roam freely in the zoo!



Another place I would recommend visitors to go to would be the Ocean beach which is situated just beside the zoo. People walk their dogs, surf in the sea and sun-bathing there. The combination of the long stretched of beach, the blowing winds, the bright sun and the calming waves is perfect for relaxation especially for people living a hustle and bustle life.



Berkeley's Indian Rock Park is another place I had visited. As its location is on the top of a hill, I went there to watch the sunset as well as the night scenery of San Francisco. The view was spectacular! It can be chilly while enjoying the view but it was all worth it.



All of those experiences I encountered in the USA would not have happened without receiving the Queen Mary University of London Expeditions fund. The fund had definitely helped me offsetting some of the hefty costs and expenditures of this trip. To sum up, I really enjoyed myself there and am looking forward my next visit to the USA.