

4-1-2015

Sheriff featured as part of UGA's "15 from 2015" campaign

Office of Communications and Public Relations
University of Georgia School of Law, lawcomm@uga.edu

Repository Citation

Communications and Public Relations, Office of, "Sheriff featured as part of UGA's "15 from 2015" campaign" (2015). *Other Law School Publications*. 403.
https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/lectures_pre_arch_archives_other/403

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives at Digital Commons @ Georgia Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Other Law School Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Georgia Law. [Please share how you have benefited from this access](#) For more information, please contact tstriepe@uga.edu.



Stephany Sheriff

Hometown/high school: Queens, New York/Gwinnett County at Grayson High School

Share a little bit about your time interning for Tamkeen and working for the Criminal Defense Clinic.

Among many of the things I have done in law school, working for Tamkeen in Amman, Jordan, was outstanding. I assisted migrant workers in their claims against their employers, recruitment agencies and embassies. Some migrant workers were duped into coming to Jordan. They were led to believe they were going to do domestic work in another country, but the recruitment agencies brought them to Jordan instead. Other workers had their passports confiscated when they got to Jordan.

I currently work for the Criminal Defense Clinic at Georgia Law. Through this clinic, I am able to intern at the Athens Public Defender's Office. I work in the juvenile court. The attorney I am paired with, Gray Reilly, represents the child in each case he is assigned to.

How did those experiences fit into your academic interests or major? How did a UGA faculty member help you with it?

I came to law school to pursue a career in international human rights and humanitarian law. Along the way I became interested in domestic public defense work because it has a human rights aspect to it. One UGA faculty member who really helped me was professor Diane Marie Amann. She has continuously helped me with networking, joining organizations so that I could meet like-minded people, and provided advice tailored to my interests.

How did your internships help clarify your future plans?

They helped solidify my dream of working for the underprivileged. I came to law school motivated by a moral duty to help those who cannot help themselves. Georgia Law has provided me numerous opportunities to do so and helped set the foundation for a future career in helping people living below the poverty line.

Traveling to the Middle East helped me realize that what we see in the media is only a snippet of what is really happening. I learned so much about Jordanian culture, Islam and Jordanian history. This trip opened the door to many more future trips. I hope to visit all 22 Arab countries.

What were the benefits of doing that work and internship?

My internship with Tamkeen was particularly rewarding because I met colleagues who have the same interests as me, and we are still good friends. Working locally, I feel like I have created a network of family. I see clients who I have worked with all the time, and I enjoy listening to them talk about their lives even if we are talking about nonlegal matters.

How did these experiences change you?

They taught me to be patient. Working with clients means I have to work around their schedules. Some clients are always in touch with me, and others are harder to track down when I need to get information from them. Being patient and understanding of what my clients are going through is an important skill.

What are your plans after graduation?

I intend to take classes to sharpen my Arabic skills, take the New York bar exam, continue working as a research assistant for my professor and look for an international human rights or humanitarian law nonprofit or nongovernmental organization job.