

## How did you spend your COVID Summer 2020?

Whether you had a summer job, a rescinded offer, did research with a professor or short-term projects, took summer classes, or found other creative ways to gain “experience”, you’ll want to think about HOW to articulate to employers HOW you spent your COVID summer 2020 in a valuable way. Use the questions below to inspire your story telling.

- How did you demonstrate your resilience and adapt to your unexpected summer plans?
- How did you expand your network and increase your connections in your practice area(s) of interest?
- How did you bridge a skill gap or educate yourself through online training, webinars, and / or virtual workshops?
- How did you develop new skills that may have nothing to do with your practice area(s) of interest?
- How were you able to further develop your research and writing skills?

### Sample responses:

1. Unfortunately, I had my summer job offer from an immigration firm rescinded. While it was disappointing, I didn’t let it get me down. I was able to find two short-term projects working on immigration issues with a non-profit organization. I was able to interview and translate critical information to families using my Spanish speaking skills. I increased my confidence working with clients and learned that I am really good at staying calm during emotionally charged situations. I am actually grateful things worked out the way they did as I was able to make some really good connections and solidify my desire to work with families in crisis.
2. My initial plan of course was to get a summer internship for my 1L summer but that didn’t quite work out. So I decided to take Advocacy and IP Survey. I also decided to use my time to educate myself on IP law. I found some interesting blogs and webinars to follow. One series I particularly found useful was on Perkins Coie’s website, Understanding the Legal Implications of IP in China. I started writing summaries of what I was learning and practiced getting to my main points in 700 words or less. It turned out to be great practice and I learned so much more about IP.
3. I had a position with a small law firm in my hometown but it got rescinded when shelter in place happened. After that, I started contacting people in my network to see if anyone needed free help this summer with projects. I was willing to do anything really. I just wanted to do something in the legal field. I was able to pick up some projects doing research for a busy attorney. I really enjoyed it. I was able to improve my research skills, learn something new, and make a great connection. We now have monthly virtual meetings just to check in and he has turned out to be a great mentor.
4. I signed up for two summer courses. I took Advocacy as a requirement to get it out of the way and I took a Negotiations course which I loved! It was great practice on developing my listening and observation skills as well as my own communication and negotiation capabilities. I feel so much more confident. It has inspired me to consider litigation as a practice area. I also found free Harvard Law courses online. I took a 10-week course on Introduction to Computer Science. It was tough, but it definitely expanded my knowledge of the challenges intersecting law and tech and I learned very basic programming languages. I’d say all and all, my summer turned out to be quite productive.