



# SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## 2020



Serving the St. Louis Bi-state Region

# Introduction

from Program Supervisor

## Scott Miller Program Supervisor

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as supervisor of this year's VLAA summer law student internship program, particularly as we've all managed to overcome certain restrictions associated with the Coronavirus. The pros have included **working with more students than usual, all of high caliber, from around the country** this time and not just the St. Louis area, albeit virtually. **This summer's projects have also been more varied in nature**; besides the usual individual writing of pertinent **blog articles** there has been the **drafting of legal papers** on different subjects and the team creation and/or modification of **sample agreements for use by VLAA clients** and attorneys, both with the help of outside attorney/mentors. In addition, there was the **team orchestration of a multi-part copyright fair use webinar**, some quick research and advice in connection with possible changes to the City of St. Louis ordinances relating to graffiti and murals in the aftermath of recent social justice protests and team assistance with a VLAA client referral relating to copyright infringement. The only real con may have been the inability to have in-person contact so far with and between the students, but that's par for the course these days...and it probably wouldn't have worked with our more physically-distant interns anyway.

# Meet the Interns

## Lucy Soyinka

Memphis, TN  
Washington University School of  
Law



## Nan Shen

St. Louis, MO  
St. Louis University School of Law



## Conlan Wilson

Washington, D.C.  
The George Washington  
University Law School



## Parham Golestanian

San Fransisco, CA  
Penn State Law



## Sabrina Siddiqui

Newark, NJ  
Rutgers Law School



## Alec Williams

Washington, D.C.  
Georgetown University Law Center

## Elaine Kim

St. Louis, MO  
Washington University in St. Louis

## Spenser Jaenichen

Goshen, IN  
University of Illinois College of Law

## Collin McCabe

St. Louis, MO  
St. Louis University School of Law

## Jonnae Miller

Baton Rouge, LA  
Southern University Law Center

# Program Structure

## virtual communication

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the VLAA's summer 2020 internship program was hosted entirely **virtually**. The program's leaders utilized digital tools and software like **Zoom** and **Google Drive** to create an internship experience that encouraged **leadership**, facilitated **teamwork**, and fostered **personal growth**.



## Google Drive

Interns met once a week through Zoom to discuss **blog post** ideas, sample **contracts**, client **cases**, and other artist-related legal news. Outside of weekly meetings, smaller groups of interns worked together on Zoom to **create and amend agreements** and prepare a Google Slides presentation to serve as a **legal seminar**.

# Program Structure

## virtual communication

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The virtual internship has certainly been interesting. As an extrovert, I thrive off the little conversations that regularly happen at a normal workplace. However, **had things not been virtual, I would not have had the opportunity to work with the art/entertainment law community in St. Louis.** Hence, while this has certainly been a dramatic departure from anything I have done for prior internships, there are many **silver linings for which I'm thankful.**

- Alec Williams, Georgetown University Law Center

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With everything happening in our world right now, it was really **interesting to hear people from across the country and what they were experiencing.** I feel as though it brought a **unique perspective** to the group; something that likely doesn't occur most years.

- Spenser Jaenichen, University of Illinois School of Law

# Working with Professionals

## preparing legal writing samples

With the mentorship of law professors and lawyers from both the St. Louis area and other parts of the country, interns prepared writing samples (memos, contracts, briefs, etc.) relating to intellectual property and tax law.



Interns Nan Shen, Collin McCabe, and Alec Williams worked with lawyer **David Kim** of **Stinson LLP** (Kansas City, MO) and **Rochelle Skolnick** from the **American Federation of Musicians** (New York, NY) to draft performance, collaboration and permission agreements that could be used by VLAA clients.

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We met through Zoom meetings and they offered **insightful suggestions and tips**. We really appreciated their contributions and their precious time. The on-line summer experience has been **unique**, and it allowed our team to **collaborate** with lawyers and professors not only from the St. Louis area but from all over the United States.

- Nan Shen, St. Louis University School of Law



# Applied Experience

real client project

Interns were provided with the opportunity to work with a VLAA client and gain **hands-on experience** in copyright and trademark law.

Students Lucy Soyinka, Nan Shen, Sabrina Siddiqui, and Alec Williams worked closely with supervising attorney Scott Miller on a copyright matter that a client brought to VLAA in hopes of resolving.

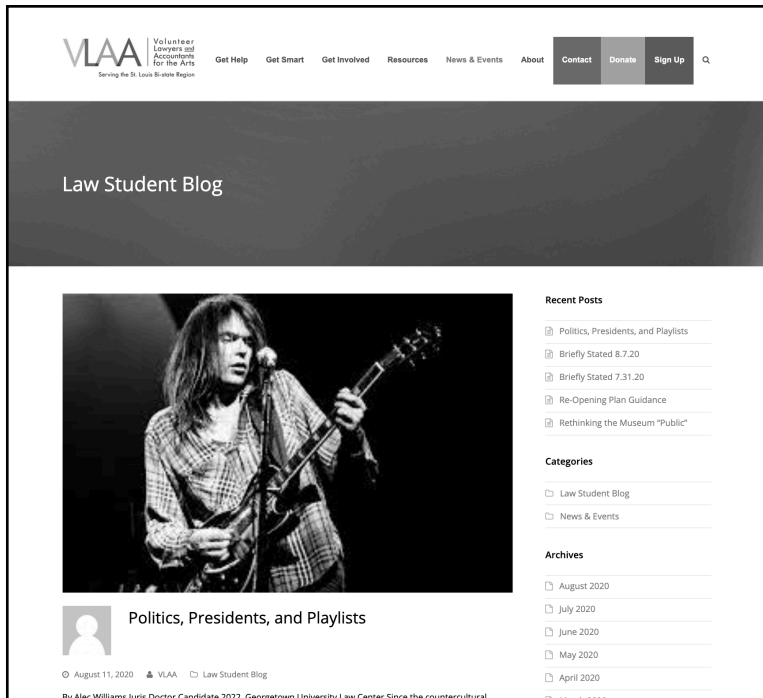
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I and my fellow interns have been able to tackle different issues related to our client's specific legal problem, and we have all been able to **communicate and work closely together**. [...] Our process for doing research and communicating with our client has been well-organized, thoughtful, and strategic. Our client has been a pleasure to work with, and it feels great to have expert guidance and be able to **use my legal knowledge to apply in the real world** to help clients. Before VLAA, I had no practical experience in the Intellectual Property field of law. In fact, I've often been advised and have come to understand that opportunities to gain experience in IP law can be quite difficult to come by early in your legal career, and especially if you're a student, so I will certainly look back at this opportunity with as **much gratitude** as I had **excitement** when looking forward to it.

- Sabrina Siddiqui, Rutgers Law School

# Law Student Blog

writing blog post articles



The interns worked with program leader Scott Miller to write at least **two articles** on artist-related law topics of their choosing.

Final blog articles were **published** on the **VLAA's Law Student Blog**:  
<https://vlaa.org/category/law-student-blog/>

## Blog Article Examples

### ***Politics, Presidents, and Playlists***

By: Alec Williams

### ***We Need to Talk about Unauthorized Trademark Use***

By: Lucy Soyinka

### ***How to File a DMCA Takedown Notice***

By: Nan Shen

### ***Rethinking the Museum "Public"***

By: Elaine Kim

### ***Social Influencers: Short and Simple Legal Considerations***

By: Spencer Jaenichen

### ***How Can Small Fashion Entrepreneurs Seek IP Protection?***

By: Nan Shen



# Final Reflections

## closing statement and takeaways

### Sue Greenberg VLAA Executive Director

This was an unusual summer, of course. Pre-pandemic, our small group of St. Louis-based interns gathered weekly over coffee. Because we met on Zoom this year, we were able to include **11 students from both coasts** (and in between) — value added for them and for us. The students worked hard. They **learned about how the law relates to the unique issues raised in the arts** and were introduced to pro bono service. So we're proudly declaring **2020 a smashing success!** Finally, we're beyond grateful to Scott Miller, a retired attorney, who has run our program for several years. He's a gem.

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The entire experience was significant because it helped me export my knowledge into practical blogs and legal tools for artists and the VLAA. Law school is a good venue for teaching knowledge but it seldom teaches students how to use those in daily life. The experience in VLAA helped me prepare for this journey and should be beneficial for my future legal career.

- Nan Shen, SLU Law

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Prior to my internship with VLAA, I had little experience with music-based legal work. Now, nearing the end of my experience, I've researched complex copyright law disputes, edited sample performance agreements, and even worked with a client. It has been an incredibly impactful, diverse, and fulfilling opportunity. I hope to make music law a permanent fixture in my legal career.

- Alec Williams, Georgetown Law

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I was able to learn more about copyright and trademark law issues specifically relevant to the arts community. I wrote blog articles about issues in copyright and trademark law that affect artists. I worked with fellow law students to create a webinar on fair use in film, visual arts, and poetry and I had the opportunity to work with a VLAA client. Interning with the VLAA reaffirmed my interest in intellectual property.

- Lucy Soyinka, WashU Law