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PA 493, 3 credits

Pima County Superior Court Pretrial Services

Option #3 a-c

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After reading my initial reflection that I wrote in February, I noticed a few changes that have developed since then. I no longer work at the intake office in the adult detention center since I cut back on my hours, therefore I am no longer interviewing defendants face to face. There have also been new pre-trial officer hires in the downtown supervision office so I no longer am needed to retrieve and complete the indictment list or retrieve pre trial paperwork from services of the court. I also have been doing less filing of case folders lately. I realize that these changes of me no longer working intake at the jail and fetching paperwork from the superior court, have made me limited to the confines of my cubicle lately. However, in my initial reflection, I mentioned beginning to sit in on court staffings and trials, and now I do that every week. It has been a great way to get to know the pre-trial officers since I spend about two hours with them. I get to see how they debrief judges on their defendants they are supervising, what their recommendations and reasoning for release or supervision are, how they interact with judges, and how they act in the court room. I am still shadowing pre-trial officers to see how Supervised Pretrial Reports (SPRs) and Noncompliance to Conditions Reports (NCRs) are written and submitted. Along with these changes to my experience at pre-trial services, I have been able to complete more verification calls. This means I get to call a verification source of the defendant when their lawyer has filed a motion to modify the conditions of their release, and use the source to verify their personal information, especially pertaining to mental health, addiction, employment, and current residence. My general feelings towards the internship are still just as positive. I am still enlightened by everything I have learned at the court, and I still enjoy the teamwork between the officers.

Some steps I have taken to improve my internship have been asking for more responsibilities and getting to know everyone at the office better. Because of this, I have been entrusted with more paperwork responsibilities and I have gained exposure to many different types of documents that have to be processed through pre-trial services. This has taught me some helpful court terminology and different possibilities of court proceedings. I think I could still grow professionally by using the network I have developed at pre-trial to get recommendations and opportunities at different court fields. I am going to accomplish this strong network by returning to pre-trial services for the fall semester my senior year. Some other professional skills I want to develop at pre-trial services next year include preparing me for the work force out of college. In order to do this, I intend to meet with my supervisors and create a game plan for developing my skills and knowledge on pretrial officer work so that I am best prepared to become a pretrial officer at any court after graduation. I hope that these skills will make me valuable and easier to train in other departments, states, and counties.

Most of the connections between my internship and my coursework involves my classes in criminal justice administration, criminal justice ethics, forensic psychology, abnormal psychology, and SPGG 300A. These connections are direct translations between reading and learning about the criminal justice system in these classes and seeing it unfold first hand at the jail, office, or court room. A lot of these classes lecture about crime models and how to reactively or proactively attack crime. The pretrial assessments the office develops are direct translations of that. Pretrial assessment looks at the history and nature of a defendant's crimes and makes a recommendation

as to whether or not they should be released, put on probation, or held in jail. I have been able to see how these reports are developed and the graph that is used to calculate the defendant's risk level.

My internship has influenced my career path more than I thought it would. I came in thinking that this would just be a way to fulfill the internship credit for my major, but it ended up meaning so much more to me. The people I have worked with at pretrial services were so kind, attentive, and supportive of my education and work there. I expected to be treated as a less accredited intern, but all the officers there made me feel so valued each day that I felt like a part of the team. A couple of my supervisors and the director have actually helped me to decide on continuing gaining valuable experience by interning at the Legal Defender's office this summer. My experience at pretrial services has made me come to the decision that I want to become a pretrial officer after graduating college.