

Sellmyer, Mary

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Subject: New Form Entry: 20 scholarship ap

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You've just received a new submission to your 20 scholarship ap.

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Submitted Information:

Name

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Birth Date

12/11/1998

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Select One. Second Year or Equivalent

1

[Through Spring 2020]

3.42

Do you intend to practice law in McLean County?

No

Explain your ties to McLean County and/or why you hope to practice law in McLean County

I'm originally from Decatur, but I attended undergrad at Illinois State in Bloomington-Normal and fell in love with the community. I began working at the McLean County State's Attorney's Office as part of an internship for my legal studies degree, and I saw massive systemic inequities. It this experience that led me to join PATH Crisis in Bloomington as a volunteer and eventual trainer. At PATH, I connected members of the community with economic and emotional support-based resources and answered calls for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. I don't intend to practice law in McLean County; instead, I plan to pursue policy work that can make the lives of McLean County residents better.

Community Service/Extra-Curricular Activities

PATH Crisis: I served as both a call center volunteer and a PATHFinder, which is PATH's name for trainers. My job was to answer the phones and connect callers to community resources. For United Way calls, I talked with people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, financial trouble, and a variety of legal problems, and I made referrals to local nonprofits in order to provide help. I also answered for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. For client confidentiality reasons, I cannot discuss my work answering for NSPL in detail, but most of my calls involved people in the McLean, Champaign, and Macon County areas.

Dates: May 2018 - August 2019

Energy and Environmental Law Society (EELS): I currently serve as the Vice President of EELS, which I joined after my organization, the Student Sustainability Coalition, merged with EELS. I formed the Student Sustainability Coalition at the College of Law to help reduce the law building's environmental waste, and this has been my job as the Vice President of EELS.

Dates: October 2019 - Present

Student Legal Relief (SLR): As a regular member of SLR, I spent a week in New Orleans in January of 2020 volunteering for an organization called Green Justice Legal, where I drafted memoranda to support the re-enlistment of the Florida Key Deer and to promote more robust childhood lead screening policies. After this trip, I found ways that we could

help more people and pitched these ideas to the outgoing President. She asked me to run for Vice President and I won that election, so I currently work with local organizations and organizations in New Orleans to provide pro bono legal services to vulnerable populations.

Dates: August 2019 - Present

McLean County State's Attorney: At the State's Attorney's Office, I worked in the Homicide Department under Mary Koll. My job was to sort client files and categorize evidence. I also drafted notices to appear, witness lists, and other documents as requested.

Dates: August 2018 - December 2018

Legal Council for Health Justice (LCHJ): The first 250 hours of work for LCHJ was paid for by a PILI grant, while the next 350 were on a pro bono basis. I worked in the AIDS Legal Council, where I assisted with legal research regarding the AIDS Confidentiality Act, drafted legal memoranda and complaints in preparation for lawsuits, and generated self-help fliers for indigent clients to be posted on the Legal Council website.

Dates: June 2020 - August 2020

Student Government Association (SGA): My role as a Housing Senator in the Illinois State University SGA was to advocate for my constituents and bring up their housing-based needs. I spent the majority of my time trying to get free recycling bins for students at the Cardinal Court Residence Hall.

Dates: October 2017 - May 2019

Journal of Law, Technology, and Policy: As a general member of the Journal, my job is to review student and faculty submissions, proofread citations, and draft my own article for publication.

Dates: August 2020 - Present

Student Bar Association Panel on Sexual Misconduct Prevention: I am currently a member of the panel designed to research prevention of faculty sexual misconduct. Due to COVID, we have only met digitally and our work is mostly delayed.

Dates: March 2020 - Present

Buffalo Journal of Environmental Law: Independent of my law school, I decided to write a submission for the Buffalo Journal of Environmental Law. My note, which concerns the privacy and federalism implications of mandatory recycling programs, is set to be published in December of 2020.

Dates: September 2020 & December 2020

Reference Name:

Emberly Faye

Reference Phone Number

217-433-6690

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Submitted Files

Please attach a current copy of your resume.

resume.pdf

Current Transcript

official_transcript_copy.pdf

Upload Essay

mclean_county_bar_association_scholarship_essay.docx