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Life as an Intern: Working at the Juvenile Public Defenders Office

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Life as an Intern:
Working at the Juvenile Public Defenders Office

Kelly Szymborski
Honors Project 2006



HONORS THESIS

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Date 10/11/06

(Kelly Szymboriski)

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Chapter One: Introduction

When I was freshman at Western I joined the Honors Program for the challenge. I wanted to do something that would help me get the most out of my college experience by pushing me to succeed beyond all my expectations. Today, I feel that I have met that goal through my final project. It has come to symbolize everything I have learned at Western, and everything I hope to become in my future. For my final project I was an investigative intern with the Whatcom County Public Defenders Office. I dedicated over 250 hours of work into reading cases, talking to attorneys, interviewing witnesses, filing for secretaries, and more. As you will read in this paper, it was a challenging experience that took a lot of hard work and dedication, but in the end, helped me discover that I want to become a lawyer. It made my dreams a reality, and has been the most memorable experience of my college career.

The paper that you have before you contains all the work I completed during my internship at the public defenders office. To guide you along while you're reading, I've outlined the chapters for you here to help you understand the material better. Within *Chapter Two* are my journal entries. They talk about my everyday experiences at the public defenders office, and the highlights and challenges of my job. In *Chapter Three* are my reflection papers. These are papers that I was asked to do as part of the internship requirements of the Political Science department. The first reflection paper asks, "What surprises you the most about your internship experience" and "how is it different than what you expected based on what you have read or learned in the classroom?" The second reflection paper asks, "What is the most challenging aspect, positive or negative, of your internship placement?" And finally, the third reflection paper asks, "How has this internship experience influenced your career goal of being a lawyer?" In *Chapter Four* is a scholarly paper I wrote entitled "How Does Violence on Television Affect Juveniles?" While I was at my internship I was surprised by how many juvenile offenders we had, and researched

what factors affected a child's likelihood to commit a crime. I found that the most debated and controversial of these factors was the influence of violence on television. This paper discusses the topic in more detail, while exploring what researchers, studies, and scholars have to say. Next, *Chapter Five* is an evaluation I wrote at the end of my internship. It is a deeper reflection into what I have learned through this experience and how I hope to apply it to my future. Finally, *Appendix A* contains examples of the types of documents I would work on during my internship. Hopefully it will help you understand references I make in other parts of this document. Overall, I hope you enjoy this insight into my life as an intern at the public defenders office. It was truly a rewarding experience that I am proud to share with you now.

Chapter Two: Internship Journal

Wednesday, September 21st, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was my first day at my internship and all my fears are gone! I was so worried about everything yesterday- whether I was going to catch the right bus, if I was going to find the place, what I was going to do, and if I was going to like my internship. I've wanted to be a lawyer for so long, that I was afraid I would have an awful first day and have to re-evaluate my life. Today, however, was great! I was able to find the court house successfully (with a little help from Barbara's directions), and everyone there was especially nice. Michael Sparks, my intern supervisor, did a great job showing me around. I met everyone in his office and everyone across the street at the Juvenile Community Justice Center where I will be working. I also got my background check done at the jail (they know about my speeding ticket now) and my photo ID badge for the courthouse (so I won't have to go through security checks everyday). Tomorrow the real work will begin!

Thursday, September 22nd, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was my first day looking at a case file. It was really exciting because the information is very confidential, and only privileged people get to look at it. It was about a school fight that had happened earlier in the year, and resulted with one girl getting charged with 4th degree assault. Marilyn (my other supervisor) showed me how to call witnesses and ask them for their testimony. I made up a list of questions I needed to ask, called the people and let them explain the events that took place, and then wrote up a memorandum to the lawyer. Although it might seem like a simple process, it was really time consuming. I only worked on this one case all day. I was really nervous about calling the witnesses at first, but in the end it was fine. Since I work in the juvenile department a lot of the people that we talk to are kids, which make it easier. So after doing my first interview I am now what is called an "Investigative Intern" and I'm excited to work on some more cases. I have tomorrow off, but on Monday we are going through orientation (including a jail tour) and my friend Melinda is going to start working with me.

Monday, September 26, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was another exciting day as an intern. This morning I called clients and reminded them about their truancy hearings on Friday and then I headed over to the court house for orientation. Sparks walked us around the office and showed us where everything is. There is one binder dedicated to internships that has a lot of good information in it that we can use, such as a directory, interview tips, and papers we'll need to fill out. Next we got a tour of the jail. I must admit that it was a lot different then I expected. Even the way that jail people dressed with forest green smocks and bright orange sandals surprised me. One thing that I wasn't prepared for was how it all looked. The jail was like an office building from the outside, but on the inside it looked more like a fortress with all these windy hallways, locked doors, video cameras, and small

rooms. I even felt bad for some of the people who lived there. They literally slept on mats, and had nothing to do all day. Their only free time was in this large gym with no equipment. (However, I guess I should remember that they were convicted of something, or they wouldn't be there.) I think if more people saw the prison though, I think they would be less likely to commit a crime.

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was a really exciting day at my internship. I was able to go to my first hearing! The case was a CHINS case, or "children in need of services." On my way to the court room, I was able to talk about the case with Lisa the attorney. Lisa told me about how she was planning on negotiating with the client's father to let him give her grandmother full custody of her. When I was in the courtroom I was able to meet up with my supervisor Marilyn, and she gave me the client's case file so that I could look at previous police reports, witness interviews, and past court hearings. Perhaps the best part of my day, however was when the judge announced that the case would be a "closed case" and everyone in the courtroom had to leave that wasn't a family member or a representative of the court. I got to stay because I represented the client as part of the Public Defender's Office. I felt so official! It was really exciting. Also today Sean, another one of the attorneys, gave me a new case to work on. Our client has been charged on four different accounts, and it is my job to interview all the witnesses and organize the case. I'll be starting all of that work on Friday, and I can't wait. Today was definitely a good day.

Friday, September 30, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I started working on Sean's case. Our client has been convicted on four counts, including assault, theft, property damage, and possession of drugs. The files are very thick, so my job is to go through the cases and summarize them. I read through several police reports, testimonies, witness statements, and legal paper work. I didn't realize how much information was involved in each case. Luckily, Melinda is helping me work on it. She worked here over the summer, so she is showing me the ropes. I also learned how to close cases today. The file system they have is huge! I can't believe all the cases they have already closed already this year! Perhaps my work will help close some more cases.

Monday, October 3, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I worked on another one of Sean's cases. I wrote letters to people who know our client and asked them if they would petition the prosecutor's office to drop the case. (The victim in the case is not pressing charges and wants the case dismissed, and the family has already created their own sort of punishment for our client) It took me a long time to write the letter. I

think I'm still apprehensive about what the lawyers want, and I really want to do a good job. Sean was very helpful though, and proof read what I wrote before I sent it out. Today I also called the complaining witnesses in another one of the cases I was working on for Marilyn. I was expecting her to be very non-compliant and defensive (seeing how we are representing the other side), but she was very helpful. I think it is interesting, because the more people I interview on this case the more I think I understand about the event. Every person seems to fill in just a tiny bit more detail than the last. Anyways, I'm all caught up on the cases the lawyers have given me, so Wednesday will be a new day!

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today Marilyn asked me if I had anything to do, and when I told her no, she gave me three cases to work on. Usually I just work on one case at a time, so it was interesting to have to "task manage" three clients at once. The cases all involved instances of assault at school. I find it amazing that these kids are so young, and already facing serious charges. (When I was their age, I think I was still playing with my Barbie dolls.) Anyways, today I read through their files, wrote up questions, called witnesses, and typed memorandums to their attorneys. It was a very busy day! It was also exciting because another intern was here today, and I was able to explain to her how to do things in the office. To think- I already know how to be an intern and it is only the second full week!

Friday, October 7, 2005

Dear Journal,

As I was walking into work today, Marilyn invited me to go to the jail with her. She had to do what are called "intakes" where she has inmates sign paperwork and answer certain questions the attorneys have for them. When I first went to the jail, I thought it was a very intimidating place. There were all these use blue doors with video cameras, and you have to press a button and wait for someone to let you into each space. Once you get there, you feel like you are in a fish bowl, because people are everywhere staring back at you from behind a thick piece of glass. When we got to our first cell, and called out the inmate's name I was a little scared. There were all these big tattooed guys standing around, and yelling at each other. However, the inmate that we talked to was surprisingly nice. He willingly did everything Marilyn asked, and even thanked her for stopping by. After talking to a few more inmates, I realized that a lot of these people just want to get out of the jail, and are very cooperative. To be honest, if I had to stay in that jail, I think I would want out as soon as possible too. (Although, the jail did smell better than last time I was here)

Monday, October 10, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I did a lot of work for Sean, one of the attorneys at the Public Defender's Office. He had a whole filing cabinet of clients that he needed to contact so that he could tell them that there was a warrant out for their arrest. I called almost all of the people on his client list for about three or four hours. Its amazing some of the responses I got. Some people were surprised to hear that they had an arrest warrant on their name, while other people were cool and said that they would take care of it sometime this week. I think working with the Public Defender's Office has really given me a check on reality. While everything in my own little world seems normal, outside there is a lot of chaos that people are unaware of.

Wednesday, October 12, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I went to the jail by myself to have an inmate sign some paper work. It was really intimidating to go alone and with no clue of what I was doing. I had a jail tour a few weeks ago, but all I remembered were these big blue doors with tiny push buttons and green security men. Luckily Mike gave me really good directions. (I think I must have repeated them to myself about 4 or 5 times.) Once I got there, I was worried about what it would be like to talk to an actual "prisoner." I guess I still had this misconception that inmates are big scary people with tattoos and a "rough" look. Instead, I met this woman who was being released for medical reasons. She was really nice and thankful that I stopped by. I guess I forgot that people in jail are people too. After that I ran a million errands to get the paperwork signed by other important officials including the prison receptionist, the prosecutor, the judge, and the clerk's office. Since today was kind of a slow day, I then got to go watch a superior court trial. It was really interesting. I think my favorite part was watching the prosecutor. She was so smart and witty with everything she said- I couldn't help think that one day I would want to be like her.

Friday, October 14, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was another exciting day in the life of an intern. I started the day by going to court with Alan, one of our attorneys. He is new to the firm, and I've never seen him in court before. Since today was Friday, it was juvenile detention hearings. It was weird to be one of the only people in the audience not called to the stands. I almost wonder if people were asking to themselves- "what is she doing here?" After that I did some arraignment hearing phone calls and other work for the secretaries. I also worked on another case for Sean. This time it was a forgery case in which a minor had tried to cash a stolen check. I did summaries of each of the people in the police report, found out the circumstances before and after the event, and wrote up a report of possible areas to investigate. It took me a long time to do, but I was really happy with what I was able to turn it to Sean. I hope it helps!

Monday, October 17, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was my first slow day as an intern. There was not much to do at all. I made a few Probation Violation phone calls to remind people about their court appearance and our open office hours, and I called some At Risk Youths (ARY) to see if they were following their court orders. Other than that, I also learned how to do a court run today. You have to take all the briefs to a case around to a whole bunch of court officials so they can sign and stamp it. It's a long process, but I feel I have a good grasp on the courthouse now. Since there wasn't a lot of work, I also got to listen to a dependency hearing today. A woman was petitioning the court to dismiss her case so she can have full custody of her children back. I was actually pretty impressed with the lengths she has gone through to meet all of the court's orders. Since she has gone to counseling and taken special parenting classes, the judge dropped all the charges. I think I have heard almost every type of case at the courthouse now.

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today Sean gave me a very important case to work on. It involves a middle school student who is accused of raping one of his female friends. Our job is to gather evidence that she actually consented to the sex and was not raped. Before I worked for the public defender's office, I think I would have looked at the facts and just assumed that our client was guilty. Now, however, after training myself to look at the facts more closely, I believe that there are too many things that just don't add up. For example, it took almost three weeks before her mom filed the police report for the incident. According to one source, the mom believed that the sex was consensual from what her daughter told her. (There are actually other facts too, but since this is such a sensitive case, I can't discuss it here). Anyways, Melinda and I made a list of things that Sean might want to look at, based on the police report. On Friday we are going to investigate the scene of the crime so Sean has a better understanding of the physical area in which the incident took place. I can't wait to play detective!

Friday, October 21, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was a very interesting day. Melinda and I drove out to the area in which the incident took place to take pictures. It was a nice out so I wore crop pants and sandals. Little did I know the "field" we were taking pictures of was really an overgrown meadow. We had to crawl through tons of sticker bushes and trees to get to where we were going. It was crazy! I didn't know it was going to be such a dangerous job. Afterwards, I dropped off Melinda at her cousin's house, and we drew a map of the area for Sean. Then I drove back to drop everything off. No one was there, so I just let everything in the office. Hopefully Sean likes what we did! We took two disks worth of pictures for him to look at on Monday.

Monday, October 24, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I worked on a lot of stuff for Sean. First I helped him identify all the pictures that we took on Friday and showed him where they all fit on this map I drew out. The pictures are going to be printed and labeled later this week. Then I looked up the apartment buildings in the surrounding area, and tried to find an aerial view map of the location. I also tried to find phone numbers for some truancy cases we have, in which our client has no identifying information. Lastly, Sean gave me another case to look at. I read through it, wrote a summary, and stated what I thought the defense would be. Overall, it was a very busy day!

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I did intakes with Marilyn at the jail. It's been awhile since I've gone on a jail run, so it was nice to have someone there to walk me through it. Marilyn explained to me what the documents were that I was having clients sign. For the most part, they were waivers for a speedy trial. In other words, the lawyer feels they need more time to work on the client's case, so they have their clients sign away their rights to have trial within 60 days or less. After that, Marilyn gave me another case to work on. We needed information from Juvenile Detention, so I made several phone calls over there. Sean also gave Melinda and me a huge case to work on. There was a neighborhood fight, and therefore tons of people involved and lots of personal statements to sort through. I learned how to use the computer database system, and did background checks on everyone. I really like working on Wednesdays, because that's when the lawyers get all their new cases. I'm taking the next few days off for finals, but I'll be back again next week!

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was my first day back to my internship now that midterms are over. Even though I only missed a few days, I feel really out of the loop. I had to catch up on one of the cases that Sean gave Melinda and me to work on. The police report is really long and it took me almost an hour to read through it. It is the same case about the fight that I had mentioned last week. After reading through everything Melinda had done, I continued doing our summaries of the events. We were able to turn in a really long and completed report back to Sean by the end of the day. I hope it helps! Today I also tried calling some of a client's friends we have for another case I was working on. No one was home, so I'll have to try again on Friday. I also get to go to the Juvenile Detention with Marilyn on Friday. I'm really excited, because that's where a lot of our clients go before they go to court. It will be really interesting to see how it is like the adult jail, and in which ways it is different. I can't wait!

Friday, November 4, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was a VERY busy day! When I first got into work, Marilyn gave me two of Alan's cases to work on. For the first one, we did back ground checks on the mother in the file, and then I went to the clerk's office and looked up more information on the other cases she has been involved in, including a property dispute and a divorce settlement. After that, I came back and started calling the witnesses in Alan's second case. I was really proud of myself, because we didn't have any phone numbers for the witnesses at first, but I was able to call around and look in other cases to find everyone's information. After calling around, and writing up memorandums for Alan, I also called another court house for Mike to get them to fax over some documents for a case he is working on. It took some work, because they weren't crazy about faxing all those papers, but I was able to talk them into sending it because of the urgency of the case. Right before I left, Sean also gave me a murder case to copy that was HUGE! I'm hoping he'll let Melinda and I work on it with him when we come back on Wednesday!

Monday, November 7, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I started work by cleaning out our intern cubicle. It was a mess! There were all of these old files and paperwork that no one had done anything with. It took me a long time to organize everything, but now everything looks great! There is now a distinct place for the attorneys to put the work they want us to do, and we have a filing cabinet for all the cases we are working on. Today I worked on Alan's cases from Friday. I finished all the work on both of them by calling all the clients and witnesses for each case. I also called some of Marilyn's ARY hearing clients. Most of them weren't home, so I left messages, but I did get a hold of a few people. Next, I wrote a cover letter for a fax that Marilyn Walls needed to send out. I now officially know how to fax documents to different places! Lastly, I copied Sean's murder file for Melinda and I. He wants us to look through it when we have some free time and take notes. The case is HUGE! It's over 300 pages long, so Melinda and I went through it and picked out the most important stuff to copy. I'm really excited to work on it!

Wednesday, November 8, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was an uneventful day. Marilyn had to go to Sumas to interview people, so she gave me two cases to work on before she left. For the first one, there was no phone number for the witness I was supposed to call, so I repeatedly called another person in the police report who I thought might have it. Unfortunately, this person was never home or the phone was always busy. It was really frustrating. Then I worked on the other case Marilyn gave me. I had Alan brief me on what questions he wanted me to ask and the angle I should take in my interview.

Unfortunately when I called this person, their phone was no longer in service, and there were no other numbers I could reach him at. Feeling quite unsuccessful at this point, I decided to contact a witness for another case, but all the phone numbers I was given for this person were also disconnected. So in summary, I didn't get very much accomplished today. I'm kind of excited though that Friday is a holiday for the office. That means that there will be lots to do on Monday!

Monday, November 14, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was a quiet day in the office. Most of the attorneys were in court all day and my advisor Marilyn is in Mexico until Wednesday. Even Melinda is sick and didn't come into work. I spent most of the afternoon trying to fix our computer. For some reason, we are hooked up to a different internet system than the rest of our office, and today it decided not to work. Later in the afternoon, I took Tammy's spot (since she is also out this week) and did secretarial work. For the most part, I talked to people who came in for their appointments and pulled out their files. I also called people that have warrants out for their arrest, and asked them to come into the office and talk to a lawyer. Since I had some extra time, I started reading through the murder paperwork for Sean's case. I'm really glad that I am going to be an intern here again next quarter. I'll be able to see this case develop, and perhaps even get to sit in on trial. I haven't read through all the facts yet, but I've already noticed that this case is complicated. I think I'm going to start taking notes and sorting through all the papers that I have. Hopefully things will be more exciting on Wednesday!

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was another quiet day at the office. Melinda is still sick, and most of the lawyers were out today. Marilyn had me work on a couple cases of hers, but I couldn't get in contact with anybody. I also called some people for Alan, and did ARY (At Risk Youth) sheets for another attorney. At the end of the day I read through the first few police reports in Sean's murder file. I think I'm going to start writing notes for myself on it, because it's really complicated. I wish I could do background checks on some of these people, but our computer is still broken and they have to send people out to fix it. I think next quarter I am going to work mornings instead of the afternoon so I can do more filing and intakes at the jail. I'll have to wait and see what classes I get first though!

Friday, November 17, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today I finally got to start that murder case I was telling you about. I can't believe how huge it is. It took me almost an hour to get through the affidavit. In fact, I typed up a time line

because there were so many different things taking place at once, and I had to sort them all out. It's a pretty interesting case. I'm curious what angle the defense attorneys are going to take because there are at least three strong witnesses against our client right now. Not only that, but our client does not have the best criminal history. I'm only through the first police report so far, but once I get into the witness interviews, I'll know more about the case. Today I left early from work so that I could put our turkey in the oven. We're having Thanksgiving at our apartment tonight!

Monday, November 28, 2005

Dear Journal,

Today was another busy day as an intern. You can tell it was a holiday weekend, because there was so much to do! I started out my day by filing away Lisa's cases. She has all the dependency cases, as well as Children in Need of Services (CHINS) cases. They are pretty big, so it took me awhile to do. Then I read a case that Marilyn gave me. It's another school assault case. (I can't believe all the school violence cases I've seen come through our office.) Sean wanted me to interview all the witnesses, but I couldn't seem to get a hold of our client to get the witness list. It was really frustrating. Before the end of the day, Melinda and I worked on our portfolios. We had to take all the identifying information out of the cases for confidentiality reasons. It took awhile to do, but I'm finally ready to start putting everything together.

Tuesday January 10, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was my first day back at my internship. I was a little worried, because Melinda didn't come back with me this quarter. We worked together a lot last year, and it really made the experience fun. Everyone was glad to see me back, and it felt really inviting. I'm the only one working in the Juvenile Public Defender's Office this quarter, so I feel like they are really going to need me a lot. Marilyn is already talking about four cases she wants me to work on, and how she's really glad I'm driving to work now so that she can send me on errands. Today I was given ten cases to make certified copies for. A certified copy is when you copy a document in a case and get it stamped, signed, and sealed to make it official. It might sound easy, but all of the cases were on microfilm! I had to look each one of them up individually and adjust the focus, size, and color for each screen. Furthermore, this was my first time certifying documents, and I didn't know that you needed every page of each set of information for it to be signed. I ended up having to back track on my progress and redo some of the documents I had done. It was a long process, but overall it really felt good and "official" to be able to go to the Clerk's office, look up files, and have them certified. It wasn't a bad first day back!

Thursday January 12, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today I was really late for my internship. For some reason I didn't wake up on time and was running behind, and when I got to work I had to drive back home to get my badge. When I finally got to the office though, Marilyn gave me my first case to work on. It's an old case of Sean's that hasn't been closed yet. Basically this guy has been bullying our client, and back in November when he was harassing her, she pulled out a knife on him and held it to his throat. She is now charged with second-degree assault. What is the most surprising fact to me about this case is that the kids are so young. Our client is only 13 years old! My job in this case is to contact our client, get the names and phone numbers of the people who witnessed the event, and conduct interviews. Today I wasn't able to work on the case a lot, because I couldn't get in touch with anybody (it was too early in the day), but I'm going to try again tomorrow. For the rest of the day I did some filing for Lisa. She had a huge pile of paperwork and I think I was able to cut it down by half. Maybe I'll work on it more when I come in tomorrow.

Friday January 13, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today I was given more cases to work on. My favorite was a case about an armed robbery, where the suspects were looking for drugs. Our client was supposedly the ring leader of the operation, although he claims that he never possessed a weapon or threatened anyone, he just wanted to know who ripped him off. I think the case should be very interesting. There is a lot of work we are going to have to do on it. When I go back to work on Tuesday I think I am going to make a case outline, so that it's easier to understand. Between the robbers and the complaining victims, there are about 10 people involved in the case. I also made some more phone calls for cases I am already working on. I think everyone was trying to avoid me today, because I didn't get one answer from anyone I called. It's becoming very frustrating! Well, I think that's it for now. I finished early today so I could meet my family. They are spending the weekend with me!

Tuesday January 17, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was a very uneventful day. I went to pull files for Marilyn and noticed that she had a lot of paperwork on her desk. When I asked her if she wanted me to file it for her, she was so excited that I couldn't say no. (Even after she pulled out three more stacks of paper.) I spent all day back in my cubicle sorting out documents and putting them in the appropriate briefs. It was so exhausting! I don't think any of the lawyers have been doing their filing since we left for winter break. Little to say, Marilyn is now all organized again, and I hope I don't have to file again for awhile!

Thursday January 18, 2006

Dear Journal,

I am no longer the only intern in my office. Today we got two new people for me to work with- Stephen and Katie. Both of them seem really nice, but I will admit that it makes me miss Melinda. I can only imagine how she felt with me asking her so many questions all the time. It is definitely different trying to explain everything. This morning I took Stephen to copy a file and it took him forever just to figure out the copier and put everything away. I'm definitely learning how to be patient. Other than that, today I also learned how to do "intakes." Intakes are where we interview people who just came into the jail to find out if they need a public defender or not. We ask them a lot of basic questions, but mostly it's to find out whether or not they have enough connections to Bellingham that they would show up on their court date. During these next few weeks I am going to be doing more of these intakes, and going to the jail more often.

Friday January 19, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was another busy day as an intern. I started the afternoon by finishing work I had started last quarter. I closed cases that were done, cleaned out our desk, sorted through documents, and made us big to do list for next week. I also walked a document over to the Department of Health Services. It was actually an interesting experience, because I got really lost along the way and ended up walking twice as far as I should of. Luckily someone on the streets knew where I was supposed to go, and pointed me in the right direction. I also made quite a few phone calls, but I wasn't able to reach anybody. There's a lot of work to do on Tuesday, and I'm getting a "refresher" tour of the jail. I can't wait!

January 24, 2006

Dear Journal,

I think the most interesting thing that happened today was the tour of the jail. I had already taken the tour last year, but I think it was so intimidating that I forgot a lot about it. Today when I was on the tour I paid close attention to where everything was at. I'm going to be going to the jail more this quarter, and I really want to know what I'm doing. I think it's really interesting, because now that I've seen it for a second time, it's really not that bad. It seems a lot smaller then before, and there were not nearly as many blank stares and comments made to us like last time. (I think it might be because we had more males with us and so the inmates were less likely to comment at the females in the group.) Overall I'm feeling better about my job everyday that I work, and I'm really looking forward to doing more with my internship!

January 26, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was an unbelievable BUSY day! I'm supposed to be working with other interns, but no one showed up and I was all by myself! I started the morning by going over to the other office and doing the "intakes." One of the forms needed to be personally signed by a person in the jail, so I went over there all by myself! It was kind of intimidating, but I handled it like a pro! I also organized our desk. Each of the interns now has their own cases to work on, their own spot to put away files, and their own file folders. I think it will make our work more efficient and productive! I stayed a little later today to do errands for Marilyn and then I went home around 4pm. Tomorrow I'm not going to be in the office, because my club is taking a trip up to Canada and we're leaving earlier than I thought. I can't wait to go!

January 31, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today I ran so many errands! The Public Defender's Office is overseeing a court case in which the client chose to represent himself. Since we have to be there to help him when he needs it, we've basically become his slaves! Yesterday he made Steven and Marilyn do field research and today he wanted them to testify in court what they found. I had to go and have them subpoenaed so that they could appear as witnesses. It took so long to do! What made it worse was that I had to interrupt court to have the client sign the paperwork before I could deliver it. Overall, I surprised by the inefficiency of the court system. There is just so much to do in so little time- and this was just one case!

February 2, 2006

Dear Journal,

Sometimes people ask me why I chose to work for the Public Defender's Office. I always get questions like "why do you like defending criminals?" It's really tough, because people automatically think the people I'm working for are guilty. Today I worked some more on that robbery case I was telling you about. I called one of the witnesses to the crime and asked her about what she saw. It was interesting, because our client is not one of the people she remembers. I also visited our client in jail today. He's just a high school student and very polite (unlike some of the people in the jail). I feel bad for him, because I really do think he wasn't the main instigator in the crime, and just got stuck with the wrong people. Perhaps I care too much, but today was one of those days where I could say I was proud of what I do as a Public Defender.

February 3, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today I couldn't get a hold of any of the people in the cases I was working on, so I went over to the other office and got a domestic violence case from Michael Sparks. I guess domestic violence is one of the most frequent adult crimes in our area. The other interns didn't seem surprised that it was the case I got. My job was to call the friend of our client and see what she said about his overall demeanor and his relationship with his ex-girlfriend in the past. When I couldn't get a hold of her, I called his relatives and his parents. (I thought they might be able to give me other contacts for people in our area.) Since I wasn't able to reach anybody, I'll have to call back on Tuesday. I'm starting to think that this will be a harder case for me to work on. I do have a little bit of a bias, because I'm in a domestic violence class right now and my friend is a victim of abuse. I'll have to see how it goes. I guess I shouldn't assume that our client is the main perpetrator, but it does seem like he's a little crazy from the police report. We'll have to see how it goes!

February 7, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today I got another case! My domestic violence case from last week is more complicated than I originally thought, and there are more investigation requests for it. Today I did background checks on the complaining witness, went through court records, picked up medical records, and attempted to set up an interview for the attorney on the case! It took me almost all day to do, but it is so much fun having my own cases to work on. I also interviewed another witness in my robbery case. She was very nice and cooperative and I was surprised by how many details she gave me. I guess I always assume that witnesses are not going to want to cooperate with us since we represent the defense. Perhaps they think that what they say won't affect the case, or that we already have a lot of the information in the police reports. I think they would be surprised to know that their interviews affects our whole investigation and what we decide to do next!

February 9, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was another exciting day as an investigative intern. I have been working on cases all day! In my domestic violence case, I was able to get in touch with our client's mom and his aunt. It's really interesting, because they both say that our client is harmless, and that his ex-girlfriend is the one that is manipulative and mentally unstable. It makes me feel better about defending our client, because the police report made him seem like a terrible person. The interviews didn't give us much information though! We are going to need more than a statement of his character from family members. I was really hoping that they would give us contact information for other people here in Whatcom County. Oh well, at least I was able to contact

some people! I also went to the jail today to have documents signed, did all the intakes (interviews with jail members), and organized my files. I'm going to start my portfolio this weekend, so I printed out some of my sample work. (It took a while to do, because I had to take out all of the identifying information.) Well I think that's it! I'm taking the next two days off to study for my midterms. (I'm making it up by staying later today and next Thursday!)

February 16, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was an uninteresting day at work. All my files are caught up, and there were not any new cases to work on. Mostly I filed cases, and made a few random errands for people in the office. I think the most exciting thing I did today was go to the 6th floor of the court house and visit juvenile detention. One of the girls up there had got in a fight with her boyfriend last night and was brought in under assault charges. I took pictures of the bruises on her arms. They aren't dark enough yet (they are still yellowish), so they didn't come out very well in the pictures. I think I'm going to take pictures again on Tuesday. Other than that, there's nothing new to report. Hopefully tomorrow will be a more exciting day!

February 17, 2006

Dear Journal,

In a couple of hours I am leaving for Seaside, Oregon! Right now though, I'm busy in the office filing papers, calling witnesses, and writing up interview questions. It's kind of frustrating because none of the other interns seem to be around anymore. Maybe it's judgmental of me to say this, but I feel like they don't take this job seriously, and I'm worried that if they slack off on their cases our clients will be at a disadvantage. The good news is though, with them not here, I get lots of cases to work on. I got another one today in which three guys were driving while intoxicated, got in an accident, and then ran from the cops. What is interesting about it is that none of them speak English and I'm now working with an interpreter to set up interviews with them. It will definitely be a new experience. The court date for that case is in a few weeks, so I hope to get interviews set up soon! That's all for now!

February 21, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was another day as an investigative intern. Since I was the only intern there was a lot for me to do! First, I called clients to remind them of their court appearances tomorrow. All the children I called were "At-Risk-Youth" and had several misdemeanor charges on their record. They have to go to court tomorrow, because they violated the contract they set up with the judges and attorneys, and they need to make a statement as to why they did so. If they don't have a good reason, or if it's really serious, they could go to juvenile detention. I also did a

BUNCH of intakes (jail interviews). There were so many people who got in trouble over the holiday weekend, and needed to be represented in court today. One of the people I was suppose to interview would not get out of bed to talk to me. It's kind of disappointing, because we are trying to help these people, and they act like they want to stay in jail. Other then that, I'm still trying to get in touch with some of the lawyers for the cases I'm working on. Sometimes I feel like they are harder to reach then our clients! I guess I'll try again on Friday.

February 23, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was a very unexciting day. I'm all caught up on my cases and there was no new work to do. I called clients and reminded them about their court appearances, and I did a little bit of filing for the secretaries. I think the highlight of my day was calling the hotel manager at Bay City Motor Inn. One of clients was arrested there, and he didn't get to take any of his belongings with him. Although we can't take all of his stuff, we would like to get him his glasses. Unfortunately, the hotel doesn't want to give us ANYTHING unless we can take it all. I had to do a lot of begging, but I think I'm going to go there later today or tomorrow and try to pick some of his things up. We'll see how it goes!

February 24, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today was a really SLOW day. I think its because I only got a few hours of sleep last night and all I want to do right now is curl up in a ball somewhere. Also, since it is Friday, no one in the office seems to want to work. I started by day off by making several phone calls for my cases, filing paperwork for one of the secretaries, and reading through a new case for Marilyn. The most exciting thing about today was finding out that on Tuesday we're getting a tour of juvenile detention. I have been inside the facility before, but I really haven't really seen where the kids live or what they do during the day. It will be an interesting contrast to the jail! Well I have to get going. Only a few more weeks left!

February 28, 2006

Dear Journal,

I can't believe that my internship is almost over! Time is going by so fast. I need to start putting my profile together and write my final paper. I talked to professor Weir yesterday, I think I'm going to write my about domestic violence. I'm really fascinated with the topic, and I've worked on a couple of DV cases this quarter. Speaking of cases, today I made a lot of phone calls. I got character reference letters for one of our clients, the witnesses for another client, and the property back for another client. If anything, this job has taught me how to speak on the phone and the power of persuasion. Also today, the interns got a tour of detention. I was

surprised by how small it is compared to the jail, and how nice it is. There's a recreation center, a schoolroom, and a gym. There are also less people there, so each kid gets their own cell. As one of the interns said, "its even nicer then my dorm freshman year!" Overall, I was really surprised by all of the differences, and relieved that children do not have to live in the same harsh conditions that are in the jail.

March 2, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today wasn't a very exciting day at work. There are no more cases to work on, and I'm caught up with everything! I ran some errands for different people, and I worked on my internship paper. To be honest, I'm worried about getting everything done. This internship is like having a second job, and I'm falling behind in my classes. Luckily I talked to Professor Weir the other day, and I know what I'm going to write my final paper on. I can't wait until the end of the quarter!

March 3, 2006

Dear Journal,

Today I was on my own because both of my supervisors were gone! I did a LOT of filing for the secretaries. Its unbelievable how many trees are killed everyday in court motions, pleas, and sentencing papers. It took my almost three hours to get all the lawyers caught up again. They are going to miss me when I'm gone! I also looked at a new case today. It's really interesting because the complaining witness in the case says that her ex-boyfriend kidnapped her, when our client says that she asked to be picked up. Anyways, there are a lot of witnesses to interview and it'll be interesting to see how it goes! Well, I think that's about it for now. Next week is my last week as an intern!

Chapter Three: Reflection Papers

Reflection Paper #1

What surprises you most about the internship experience? How is it different than you expected based on what you have read or learned in the classroom?

For my Political Science Administrative Internship (PLSC 444) I am working with the Public Defender's Office as an investigative intern. For this internship I review court cases, interview clients and witnesses, write reports, and help our attorneys prepare for court. It has been a great opportunity so far, and I feel like I have learned a lot about the legal profession.

After taking a few law classes with the political science department, I'm realizing that what you read in the books is not necessarily reality. For example, I was always under the impression that the prosecutor is the person that does a majority of the work in each case. They are the body that brings the case to court, gathers up all the evidence, and has to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of their crimes. However, after working with the Public Defender's Office, I've realized that the defense organizes just as much information before each trial, and works just as hard to create a defense for their clients. One of the cases I worked on was a "Child in Need of Services" case (CHINS) in which a minor was petitioning the state to bring her father to court on child abuse charges. The problem was that none of the abuse charges were on record (such as a police report), and the prosecutor argued that everything was "hearsay." The defense then spent hours working out a plea bargain that both sides could agree on. In the end, the defense attorney was able to find another relative to take custody of the child, in exchange for dropping the abuse charges, and was also able to make a compromise in which father could visit the child as long as he was supervised.

Another class I took last year in criminology was law enforcement. From this class we learned a lot about criminal behavior and crime statistics and how they relate to the police force.

Overtime, after reading my text book and watching police videos in class, I developed this misconception of what it meant to be a criminal. In my mind I pictured this rough looking, middle age man, with lots of tattoos, and scars. I forgot that criminals are people too, with real lives, and family. I think I first realized this when I went to juvenile court. I was done running errands for the day, and my supervisor invited me to go along with her to listen to court hearings. To my surprise, the first person we heard from that afternoon was a small thirteen year old boy in a prison blue uniform and hand cuffs. Even though I knew he was charged with robbery, I still cannot believe today that such a young and innocent person could be charged with such a crime. It is definitely a reality check to see everything in this light.

Furthermore, I think the most surprising part of my internship has been the jail. Very few people in Bellingham know where the jail is, or would even recognize it if they saw it. From the outside it looks like a large office building with tiny slatted windows. As soon as you walk through the doors though, you know you are in a different place. The jail is a complicated maze with huge blue doors to guard the entrances and green security men everywhere. As soon as you enter, you feel like you are in a fish bowl. All kinds of people look back at you from behind glass windows, and will not hesitate to call out to you or make gestures. There are also a lot of procedural rules that you have to follow. For example, you have to show the receptionist all of your documents before bring them inside the jail, someone must know where you are at all times, and you can only speak to inmates in certain areas. Most of the time the officers will unlock a small opening to an inmate's cell so that you can talk through the open slot and ask questions. The most surprising part of the jail, however, is the living conditions. Everyone lives in tiny cement cells with green plastic mats to sleep on. It is overcrowded, has an unpleasant odor, and there are no special facilities such as a gym. It is basically a large holding tank for prisoners to sit

and wait for trial. Personally, I feel that if more people saw what the jail looked like, they would be less likely to commit a crime.

In the end, I feel like I am learning a lot of valuable information from this internship and I hope to continue growing with this experience throughout the quarter.

Reflection Paper #2

What is the most challenging aspect, positive or negative, of your internship placement?

I am now in my sixth week as an Investigative Intern with the Public Defender's Office, and I am starting to realize that there are many challenging aspects of my job. I think the hardest part about my work, is that there is no overall structure to it. From the first day that I started working here, I was told that there was no formal training for interns and that I would have to learn as I go. Since then, everyday has been a new learning experience. Some days I'm sitting at my desk all day writing case summaries and calling clients, and the next I'm running around the court house and delivering documents to the jail. Since I am a very organized person, it has been very hard for me to adapt to an unpredictable work atmosphere. Sometimes it can be really frustrating, because I don't always know what I'm doing and I have to ask a lot of questions. Luckily, however, everyone is really helpful and I have other interns to help me as I go.

While in some aspects, it can be very hard to learn things on the spot, I have also found my internship to be very exciting. Since I do so many different things, I think that I appreciate everything more. One of the random tasks I was asked to do was take pictures of a crime scene. There was a possible rape at a nearby park, and the lawyer was unable to tell what the physical lay out of the area looked like by the police report. Another intern and I traveled out to the location with our high tech cameras, and took pictures of all the surroundings. It was interesting, because what was considered a "field" in the police report was really a huge meadow with very tall grass, and the "forest" was a small grouping of trees near an apartment complex. When I got back, I was asked to draw out a map of the area and make a diagram of all the pictures we took. I also was able to do other investigative work for the case, like find out which buildings were next to the park and how close everyone lived to the incident. Overall, I think it was really exciting to

do field work for my internship, and I don't think I would have been given that opportunity if my job was more structured.

Another part of my internship that is really challenging is being asked for my opinion. There have been several occasions where an attorney will give me a case, ask me to highlight what the most important facts are, and how I would decide to rule. Although I know I'm not expected to have a "legal mind" and understand all the complexities of the law, it is sometimes very challenging to come up with a solid legal answer to some of the cases. Most of the time when I read these real life events, I automatically put my own opinion first, and will assume that our client is guilty. It has taken me a long time to train my mind to be unbiased. Overtime, I think I've realized that whether or not a person is guilty depends on how you look at the facts, whose testimony you read, and how the laws apply to the case.

In the end, I think that there are several challenging aspects to my internship, but I believe I'm ready to learn and adapt to every new opportunity my job offers me.

Reflection Paper #3

How has this internship experience influenced your career goal of being a lawyer?

Ever since high school I knew I wanted to be a lawyer. I think I first realized it when I was on the debate team. I loved to gather evidence, look at policy issues, and argue cases. There was something exhilarating about trying to convince a judge that your argument was better than your opponents. When I went to college I took political science classes to further my interests in this area. As soon as I took my first law class, I knew that it was what I wanted to study. Now that I am a senior in college, I want to make sure my career decision is still a good choice. I decided to take this internship at the Juvenile Public Defender's Office so that I could understand the legal profession more and gain experience in this field.

When I first began my internship I was really intimidated. Reality is a whole different world outside your text books. I didn't know what to expect. I think the hardest aspect of my job was knowing that I would be defending people who were charged with serious crimes. As soon as I saw our clients in jail on our first day of orientation, I became judgmental. I did not look at them as people, but as criminals who most likely deserved their sentences. It wasn't until I started doing investigative work, that I began to look at my job differently. One of my first jobs in the law office was to call clients and ask them about the events that took place in the police report. My first phone call was a high school girl who had been charged with assault. I was really intimidated and reluctant to call the student. I expected her to be confrontational and unhelpful. Instead, she was really grateful that I called and listened to her side of the story. It turned out that the school fight had been misinterpreted, and she was acting in self defense. Over time, instances like this have shown me that being a public defender is not about protecting the guilty, it's about defending the rights of the innocent.

After I settled into my position I really began to enjoy my job as an investigative intern. One of the greatest experiences I have had is my relationship with the attorneys. They have been really patient with helping me understand the legal system. Whether it was debriefing the case with me, or having me sit in on a trial, I have really learned a lot about what it takes to be a lawyer. One of the most important things that I have learned is how to read a case. Throughout my internship I have been responsible for several different case files. I'm in charge of reading everything in the brief, sorting out the evidence, writing up interview questions, calling witnesses, writing reports to the lawyers, and giving my opinion on how the case should be handled. It is a lot of work, but it has helped me understand how much effort goes into each case before trial. Furthermore, being actively involved in each case has given me a greater desire to be a lawyer. I have greatly enjoyed every aspect of my job, and hope to find more ways to gain work experience with my internship.

Next quarter, when I continue my work with the Public Defender's Office, I hope to explore several new aspects of my job. Instead of working in the afternoon, I will be working in the morning. This is an important time during the day, because it is when a lot of paperwork needs to be completed at the juvenile detention center and at the jail. I will have more interaction with our clients, and personally be able to work with them on their cases. Secondly, I will be able to work on more criminal cases. (Currently I have been working on a lot of juvenile misdemeanor and civil cases.) One of our lawyers is currently working on a murder trial, and he would like me to help him with investigative work next quarter. I can't wait to take on new challenges with my internship. I am looking forward to learning as many new skills as I can.

In conclusion, working with the Juvenile Public Defender's Office has helped me decide that I want to be a lawyer. It has given me the first hand experience that I needed to understand

what it takes to work in a law office. Lawyers are strong, dedicated people who work hard to defend the rights of the people they work for, and that is exactly what kind of person I want to be in my future.

Chapter Four: Scholarly Paper

How Does Violence on Television Affect Juveniles?

Introduction

For the past two quarters I have been an investigative intern in the Juvenile Public Defender's Office. I have been involved with several different aspects of working in a law firm, including interviewing witnesses, reviewing briefs, and writing up case opinions. However, no matter what I'm doing, one aspect of my job that always surprises me is the prevalence of juvenile crimes today. Recent statistics estimate that two million youths are taken into custody every year (Kgendorf, 2001). Their charges range from juvenile delinquency offenses, like rape and theft, to status offenses that are only punishable for youth, such as truancy and running away from home. These children are taken away from their home, family, and friends to be diverted into juvenile court, special programs, probation, community treatment, or even juvenile detention. When deciding what to write my research paper on, I chose to look at the different environmental factors psychologists believe have an influence on juvenile crime. While I had heard about several factors before, such as socio-economic status and access to weapons, I was surprised to discover that there is one environmental factor that is still widely debated in our country, and that is the influence of media violence on juvenile crime. My paper is thus an analysis on the different ways in which researchers believe television violence affects children, and how there is still an opportunity to solve for this problem.

Defining the Problem of Media Violence

Whether we choose to believe it or not, television has a major impact on our lives. First of all, it is a common object in every household. Recent statistics show that the average American is more likely to own a television in their house than a telephone or an indoor toilet (Jenson and Rojek, 1992). Secondly, TV is frequently watched. Next to work and sleep, it is the most common activity we do during our day. The average American spends about nine years of their life in front of a television set, or about 24 hours a week (Sagi, Weiner, and Zahn, 1990). Lastly, television programs are very influential. According to psychologists, they function to teach, maintain, stabilize, and reinforce conventional values, beliefs, and behaviors. In other words, they show us how to experience the world around us, and tell us what we should expect from life.

With this in mind, it is important to understand that television is also very violent. A study conducted by the American Psychological Association confirmed that children who watch two to four hours of television violence a day will witness about 8,000 murders and 100,000 other acts of violence before finishing elementary school (Roberts, 2004). That's about 45 acts of violence a day. If you add this to the fact that children are more likely than any other age group to watch television, and the fact that as they grow up children learn a considerable amount from what they observe, there is reason to believe that television violence is a very big problem. This research paper attempts to identify more specifically the different ways in which television violence affects children.

A Brief History

The concern about media violence and the effect that it has on children has been around since the 1950s. Known as the “delinquency scare,” it was a period in our history in which the American people believed that children were out of control and needed national guidance. According to author James Gilbert, the delinquency scare stemmed from a seamless web of culture, centered on high schools, souped-up cars, teen magazines, new dating customs, drive-in theaters, hair cuts, and clothes marked “inaccessible” to unsympathetic adults (Gilbert, 1986). Elvis was shaking his pelvis, women were become sexually promiscuous in their zootsuits, and rebel movies were popular weekend attractions. It is no wonder why parents seemed alarmed by this sudden change in culture. Needing someone to blame, they quickly attacked the media for its explicit content.

Concern about television violence officially made its debut in 1952 with a congressional hearing in the House of Representatives before the Commerce Committee. The American people wanted to know if “juvenile delinquent” programming was contributing to the increase in youth crimes. At the time, this suspicion was supported by the fact that “juvenile delinquent” films, like “Wild Ones” or “Rebel Without a Cause,” had a popular youth following and were often imitated by teenagers (Bruno, 1999). The following year a Senate hearing was held before the subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency. After a long discussion on the topic, it was decided that the Senate would conduct research of its own and investigate the causes of delinquency, and how to put it under control. The committee is still operating today.

Since the 1950s, the issue of violence on television has become a very fascinating and controversial subject. It has lead to several modern changes in television programming, including the adoption of voluntary guidelines on TV violence in 1992, parental advisory labels in 1993,

and rating codes similar to the motion picture industry in 1997 (Bruno, 1999). Although it is recognized that violence is not necessarily the best form of entertainment on TV, it is ignored how much violence is in programming, and the adverse effects it had on children. Several studies have been conducted over the years, and the results are not only surprising, but alarming.

Identifying the Problem

The following research shows how violence on television promotes aggression, teaches children that violence is an acceptable solution to life's problems, and fosters a fearful attitude by showing viewers that the world is more violent than it is.

Section 1: Aggression

The first effect that violence on television has on children is an increase in aggressive behavior. When children continuously see violence in the media they see this behavior has typical, and therefore an appropriate way to solve life's problems. Accordingly, they start to imitate this behavior and become more violent themselves. This is known as the "copy cat" effect. Children at a young age are especially susceptible to learning social and cognitive skills by watching the behavior of others in social situations and copying that behavior (Bucht and Feilitzen, 2001). Therefore, it should not be ignored that television influences the way a child behaves. It shows young people how to define, interpret, and confront the situations they deal with everyday.

The Social Learning Theory tries to explain the relationship between aggressive behavior and violence on television. It is based on the idea that environmental factors, not the individual's internal character, contributes to their level of aggression. The amount of aggression a child will exhibit depends on four distinct factors, including how well the child pays attention to the model, how much information is retained, whether or not the children reenacts what was observed, and whether or not reinforcement or motivation was used (Potter, 1997). The following famous study was done by psychologist Albert Bandura to test aspects of the Social Learning Theory.

When Bandura conducted his experiment on television violence in 1960, he was looking for what are called "priming effects." In other words, he wanted to see if short term effects of

exposure to representations of violence produce strong aggressive impulses in a person's behavior. To test this theory he gathered a group of elementary students and divided them into four groups. Three of the groups witnessed aggressive behavior for 20 minutes against a plastic Bobo doll. One group saw the demonstration in person, another on film, and the last one saw it as a cartoon. The fourth group was a control, and no aggressive models were shown at all. Afterwards, the children were given toys to play with. In every experiment, those who had been exposed to violence imitated the exact same aggressive behavior that they had seen. After discovering these results, Bandura furthered the experiment to see if children would behave the same way if violence was rewarded. In his second experiment, students either saw a person receive candy and soda after they acted aggressively, or a warning and a spanking. After the demonstration, Bandura noticed that considerably more children acted aggressively if they had seen those same actions rewarded in the demonstration, compared to those that had seen it punished. Overall, from his research Bandura was able to conclude that violence worked at two levels to encourage violence in its viewers. First it weakened their inhibitions to aggressive actions, and second, it taught viewers new ways to act violently towards each other (Binder, Dickson, Geis, 1997).

People are attracted to aggressive characters in television because they are interesting, exciting, and add a new dimension to the plotline. However, aggressive behavior also has an opposite affect for some viewers and that is fear. Studies have shown that heavy concentrations of violence in the media tend to induce uncertainty about future events and can frequently cause sleep disturbances, fright, anxiety, and secondary traumatization. For example, children are often frightened or horror struck by entertainment violence. A survey of 500 children between ages eight and twelve by USA Today and the Nickelodeon Channel concluded that almost two thirds

of children have been scared or upset by violence on news shows or reality based programs. Furthermore, fear is reinforced when one identifies with the victim of the violence, feels that violence is not justified, sees the violence as too graphic, or experiences the violence as realistic (Kgenndorf, 2001). Overall, when considering the adverse effects that television violence has on children, it is important to consider that aggression and fear are equal results of this kind of programming.

Section 2: Desensitization

The second effect television violence has on children is the concept of desensitization, or the lack of concern for others. Children are not sensitive to the pain and suffering people endure when they are the victims of violent crimes, and thus, they are more willing to tolerate violence in society. Perhaps the best example of this on TV is the concept of “happy violence.” When a child wakes up on Saturday morning and watches cartoons they will most likely see half of the characters on television commit a violent act. This averages out to about five acts of violence every 20-25 minute show (Leone, 1999). What makes this violence even more disturbing is that it is often painless and even humorous. Known as “happy violence” it is swift, cool, effective, and always leads to a perfect ending. There is no sense of tragedy to balance out the violence with some kind of regret or remorse. In the end, children learn that violence is not only acceptable, but that it doesn’t have any consequences.

Unfortunately, this same result is not only found in cartoons, but also in everyday programming. In 1994, the National Television Violence Study conducted a three year research project with the largest and most representative sample of TV content ever examined. Their goal was to see if violence on television was common, and if it was presented in ways that would be harmful to viewers. The study considered three different aspects of possible violence in a

program. They looked at how the characters interacted with each other, how they interacted as a group (such as in a violent scene), and how violence was presented overall. Violence was defined as “any overt depiction of the use of physical force intended to physically harm an animate being or group of beings.” The study randomly selected 23 channels to look at over 30 weeks and monitored each station from 6 am to 11 pm, or 17 hours a day. Approximately 2,693 programs were watched, with an average of 119 hours per channel (Leone, 1999).

All three years of the study, the group found alarming results. Not only way violence frequent on television, but it was often shown without any negative consequences. Perpetrators would go unpunished in about 73% of all violent crimes, and 75% of the time they would have no remorse for their actions, showing viewers that crimes could be “successful” and even glamorized. Only 4% of violent programs showed the characters suffering from long term psychological, financial, physical and emotional pain (Leone, 1999).

The problem, however, does not end here. Today the most popular form of entertainment on TV is playing video games. Unlike a normal passive television program, video games are an interactive way of participating in aggressive acts. Players are often encouraged to hurt and even kill other players to gain power and control in the game. Although it is still fantasy, it nonetheless teaches children a lack of sympathy for others. There is a common disregard for pain and suffering, and the human life seems almost trivial. As psychiatrist Susan Baily remarks, “Violent video games provide a forum for learning and practicing aggressive solutions to conflict situations. The effect appears to be cognitive in the short term, but leaves children primarily aggressive in the long term, leading to changes in everyday social interactions” (Roberts, 2004). Overall, how much a child is exposed to video games and how much they perceive the violence in those games as appropriate could have an overwhelming negative affects on their lives.

In 2001, there was a huge controversial debate on whether or not video games contained too much violence. As a result, the United States launched a study to examine the content of major gaming systems, including Nintendo, Play Station, and Sega Dreamcast. They wanted to see if E-rated games for “everyone” were appropriate for children. Out of the 672 E-rated games that year, 55 games were randomly selected to test. Each game was played until their conclusion or for at least 90 minutes. The primary goal in each study was to count the amount of violent acts each game had in which the “aggressor intentionally caused or attempted to cause physical injury or death to another character.” (It did not include unintentional physical harm, natural disasters, dangerous obstacles, or damage objects.) While E-rated games by the United States Entertainment Software Rating Board were described to contain “limited or no violence,” researchers were alarmed to discover that aggressive behavior was often the main theme. In fact, intentional violence averaged out to 30.7% of game play, with over 60% of the violence being rewarded or required of players (Bucht and Feilitzen, 2001). In the end, this study shows that children who play video games are actively learning that violence is an appropriate and rewarding way to deal with the problems they encounter. When playing, they no longer consider the pain they are causing their victims, or the results they would incur if these violent acts occurred in real life.

Section 3: Mean World Syndrome

The last affect that television violence has on children is the “mean world syndrome,” or a strong and exaggerated sense of vulnerability. When children watch too much television, they begin to associate the TV world with reality. Violence is seen as a common phenomenon, and an inescapable part of life. Slowly, after watching several acts of violence on TV, children will develop a fear of being victimized, and a general distrust of the other people around them. The

greatest amount of fear and distrust is created by the portrayal of minorities on television. The following two examples show how women and African Americans alike are the victims of media violence.

In 1992, the APA Task Force on Television and Society conducted a study to see what the implications were from increasing sexually violent material in R rated cable programming. To their surprise, they found that the violence against women in television shows was not only common, but explicit. Whether it was murder, rape, torture, or even mutilation, women were often the victims of violent male crimes. Furthermore, the abuse of women in these shows was considered acceptable by men. Common responses were that “the woman was willing to be raped” or “deserved abuse” (Kgendorf, 2001). This study shows two major implications of violent programming. First of all, if male youths are exposed to this kind of material they will develop a sort of callousness towards females, and will most likely view them as easy victims who are weak and defenseless. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, women will develop a sense of fear against men. Males will be seen as the perpetrators of violence, and women will be terrified of being the victims of the crimes they watch them commit on television.

Another group who is often misrepresented in television is African Americans. Ironically, they are misrepresented in the part of television that is supposed to be the most factual and up to date- the news. As communications professor Christopher Campbell once wrote, “Television news relies on visual imagery for story telling, even if the images may contribute to the kind of stereotypical beliefs that advance racism and discrimination” (Eribaum, Hilt, and Schultz, 2001). This stereotypical reporting is best seen in two ways. First, the news rarely shows African Americans in their normal day to day lives in their communities. As a result, viewers are left to believe that these people are not average American citizens, and that they are somehow outside

the realm of normal social behavior. Second, this stereotype is reinforced by the fact that African Americans are often portrayed as the perpetrators of crime. In a year long study of large market television in 1995, researchers found that news coverage often distorted crime to make it appear that all criminals were black, even though statistics show that white people account for more than half of all the arrests for violent crimes. In fact, while the percentage of African American crime has decreased over the years, crimes by Caucasian Americans have increased to 57% of all crimes (Eribaum, Hilt, and Schultz, 2002). Since crime is perceived by the public as one of the most important problems facing the country today, it is important to understand the effects this has on African Americans. When this group is continually portrayed as the “law breakers” in society, and perpetrators of violent crime, racism is enforced. It becomes justified to look down on this race and assume that they are being victimized by other groups, who misjudge them, and wrongly accuse them of these actions. Overall, we can see how television news is another example of how the “mean world syndrome” affects viewers.

Solutions

Although television violence has been shown to have several harmful effects on its viewers, there are still ways in which parents can actively decide what material their children watch. The first thing that parents can do is limit the amount of inappropriate television that is on their TV. One example is the use of a high tech “V-chip.” V-chips allow the television to be programmed to block shows that are rated high in violence, sex, or other material not suited for young viewers. If a parent decided not to purchase this kind of device, there are also many cable companies that offer the option of “locking out” channels on request. The second step parents can take is watching television with their children. Often time children will watch television and misunderstand the message in the program. For example, if a child watches a violent program they may decide that aggressive behavior is an appropriate way to confront difficult situations. If a parent was with them, however, he or she could explain to them that aggressive behavior is not acceptable, and that the victim in the show was seriously hurt because of someone else’s wrongful actions. The last way in which parents can help their children is through the concept of “media literacy.” According to author Elizabeth Thoman, media literacy is learning how to manage or balance our “media diet.” Just as we teach our children good eating habits, we must teach our children good viewing habits, so that they understand why some programs are better than others to watch (Leone, 1999). It involves educating young adults about television, and encouraging them to choose for themselves less aggressive shows. If a child is not able to determine for themselves what is best, they will never learn to become responsible TV viewers.

Although it is the parent’s responsibility to monitor what their children watch, it is also the responsibility of every American citizen to make sure that we live in a culturally healthy environment. According to George Gerbner, there are three main ways to which we should be

doing this. First, we should be educating our youth on how to critically understand what is on television. If children comprehend how shows affected them everyday, they will be less likely to associate what they see on television with reality. Second, we should create a national commission to look at the solutions that other nations have developed worldwide. In Australia, for example, they have a Young Media Association that is responsible for maintaining public interest in providing suitable film and television programs for children and young people. Last, we should develop an overview committee to watch the effects of violence on children (Sagi, Weiner, and Zahn, 1990). Like our energy, health, and education committees, media is also an important policy issue that should be monitored.

Overall, whether it is parental guidance or national support, we should be trying to find active solutions to combat the problem of violence on television today.

Conclusion

In conclusion, violence on television should be considered one of the environmental causes for juvenile delinquency. Based on the studies that have been shown, violence contributes to aggressive behavior, a desensitization of emotions, and a misunderstanding of real crime. Furthermore, if children learn these behaviors from television, when they encounter a threatening situation in real life, they are only going to know how to respond based on what they watched. To protect our children we must start now and teach the nation what is appropriate television. Whether it is showing parents how to watch television with their children, or developing a national subcommittee to supervise television violence, we must begin taking active steps to end this problem. If we fail to act in this mission, and do not acknowledge that violence in television is affecting our youth, then we are allowing our children to model these behaviors in their own lives, and perhaps one day become juvenile delinquents themselves.

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Chapter 5: Final Evaluation

For the last two quarters I have been an investigative intern with the Whatcom County Public Defenders Office. It has been an awarding experience tat I am very thankful to have had. I have learned about what it takes to work in a lawyer's office, how to do investigative work on cases, and how to work with people I wouldn't normally interact with. Most importantly, however, this internship has helped me realize that I want to pursue a career in the legal field.

For my internship I have learned how to do a wide variety of tasks at once. Whether it was investigating cases for the lawyers, or putting together files for the secretaries, there was never a dull moment in the office! I've realized that it takes a lot of hard work to be a public defender. During my experience, I was given several of my own cases to work on and investigate. It was unbelievable how a simple phone call could lead to interviewing several witnesses, writing case reports, going to the jail, having court orders signed, copying files, and even sometimes taking pictures of crime scenes and injuries. I couldn't believe how much work went into each case *before* it even went to trial. Furthermore, I often saw the lawyers work really hard for their clients, even after our work was done! On a few occasions, I was invited to watch the cases I had worked on go to trial. The lawyers would frantically bargain with the prosecutors office to get the best deal for their clients, make sure their clients knew what was expected of them under the law, and always had their best interests at heart. It was really rewarding to see these attorneys genuinely care about these people's well being. They didn't judge them, or see them as criminals. They treated their clients as normal people who needed the protection of the law.

It took awhile for me to view our clients in the same way. I still remember the first time that I went to the jail and how scared I was. The prison seemed like a maze of long hallways, huge blue doors, and green suited officers. Prisoners would stare at me through the large

windows, and I felt like I was in a fish bowl. Even the smell was unbearable, and there was no sunlight or even the hint of the outside world. After my first tour, I was shocked to hear that they wanted me to go back and do regular client interviews. To my surprise, however, the experience was completely different than I anticipated.

I still remember my first interview that I did by myself in the jail. It was really simple and easy. I had to fill out an “intake” form and ask our client some background questions before he went to court. (The intake form helps the court decide whether or not our client would return to court for their trial, and thus, whether or not they should qualify for bail. It asks questions like do you have family in Whatcom County, are you married, did you graduate, are you employed?) The person I interviewed was in the main holding area in the jail on the second floor. As I walked down the hallway, I remember trying to avoid eye contact with all of the men looking at me through the clear glass. I wanted to talk to our client and leave as fast as I could. I went straight to our client’s cell and called out his name. Patiently I waited for someone to yell out obscenities at me, or even ignore the fact that I was there. Instead, a really young man, who was still in high school, came out of the crowd to talk to me. Although I don’t remember any details about our conversation, I remember how thankful he was that I was there, and how much respect he seemed to have for me. After doing more interviews at the jail I realized how true this was for most of our clients. The jail was just as much of an intimidating place for me to be in as it was for them, and they were appreciative for my help.

This however, was not the first time I was judgmental of our clients. When I did investigative work it was really hard to read police reports, do background checks, and interview witnesses without assuming that our client was guilty. In my head I kept thinking, why would our clients be arrested and prosecuted if there wasn’t a strong belief that they did the crime?

Even in our office it was impossible to talk about my dilemma. They lawyers and investigators had a very serious views that our clients were defendants, not criminals, and the person who was hurt was not a victim, but the complaining witness. From the very beginning I had to wrap my head around this mindset, without knowing whether or not I believed it. It wasn't until I started interviewing our clients, that I had a better understanding of why they needed representation. Probably the greatest example of this was a juvenile case of second degree assault that I investigated. In the police report a 12 year old girl was arrested for assaulting a younger boy in her neighborhood, after she pulled knife out on him and held it to his throat. (The boy was able to get away, and did not suffer injuries.) What is not said in the police report, however, was the background that led up to the event. The girl had been constantly bullied by this boy in their neighborhood. Him and his friends attacked her when she walked down the street, and would jump on her back and beat her up. The problems became so bad, that she had to seek medical attention and her family moved to a different neighborhood. On the day of that event, the boy followed her and her friend home and threatened to hurt her again. As he approached her, she threw him on the ground, pulled out a knife, and told him to leave her alone. She had acted in self defense and out of fear, but in the end, she was arrested in the situation. When I was working on this case, I realized that there was a reason for public defenders. They are here to protect people, give them a legal voice, and make sure that they know their rights under the law. Most importantly, they are here to represent a different point of view in the situation, and make sure that our clients are truly innocent until proven guilty.

One of the best parts of being an investigative intern and working on cases such as these has been the experience of working in a law office. Ever since I was in high school, I've always wanted to be a lawyer. I love reading about Supreme Court cases, debating new public laws, and

learning about the legal system. It has been really rewarding to experience all of this first hand and live out my dreams. I feel like I have developed as close relationship with the people in my office, and an appreciation for all the work that they do. I truly admire how much effort they put into their cases, and how much their clients value them. In the future I hope to go to law school and perhaps become a public defender one day. I think it would be the best job in the world to guide people through the legal system and get them the help that they need. For now though, I hope that I can get a job in a local law firm as an investigator and continue to develop skills I'll need in the future.

Overall, my internship as a public investigator has been extremely rewarding. Not only has it given me the valuable experience of working in a law office, but it has also helped me to develop my character and the way I look at the law. I have a new appreciation for the legal system, and a rediscovered desire to pursue a career in this field in the future.

Appendix A: Examples of Internship Work

Example Explanations

Case Opinions

“Case Opinions” are documents that I wrote when one of the attorneys asked me for my opinion on a case. This helped the attorney understand how a jury might see the evidence.

Letters

“Letters” are documents I wrote to people outside of the courthouse. For the most part, they were used to request confidential documents for our clients.

Memorandum

“Memorandums” are letters that I wrote to the attorneys after I interviewed the witnesses for their cases.

Summaries

“Summaries” are documents that I wrote for long briefs. An attorney would have me write them so that the case was more streamlined and easier to read. I would take all the important information in the case, and I rewrite it in my own words.

Warrant Phone Calls

“Warrant Phone Calls” are calls that I made to our clients to tell them that they have a warrant out for their arrest. If we were able to get in contact with them, we tried to set up an appointment for them at the courthouse to have their warrant “quashed.”

Witness Interview

“Witness Interviews” are questions I wrote for each of my interviews. They outline important information that the attorneys need before they go to trial.

Client

Case# 00-0-00000-0

Interview With Witness

1. How do you know *Client* or *Complaining Witness*? Are you friends with either of them? How close are you?
2. Do you have 4th period class with *Client* or *Complaining Witness*?
3. When did *Client* give you the I Pod?
 - a. Why did *Client* give you the I Pod?
 - b. What did he tell you when he gave it to you?
 - c. Did he tell you where it came from?
 - d. Did you ask him where it came from?
 - e. Did he ask you to sell it? For how much?
 - f. Did you discuss when you would give it back to him?
4. Why did you joke around about selling an I Pod if you didn't intend to sell it?
 - a. Why were you joking around about selling your "cousin's" I Pod
 - b. Did anyone appear interested?
 - c. How much were you asking for it?
5. Why did you deny having the I Pod in the first place?
6. What happened to the I Pod?
 - a. Did you give it back to *Client*?
 - b. What do you think *Client* did with it?

Other Questions to Think About?

1. Why did *Client* not deny stealing the I Pod?
2. What time and where did he give it back to him?
3. If he gave it back to *Client*, what did *Client* do with it?
4. Why did *Complaining Witness* have an I Pod at school?
5. Did other people know he had it out?
6. If *Witness* knew that *Client* had a history of stealing things, why did he lend it to him?

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Kimberly B. Schuster

MEMORANDUM

To: Attorney
From: Kelly Szyborski and Melinda Assink
Date: October 19, 2005
Re: "Rape" Case

Undecided... *Who do you believe?*

Reasons Why We Don't Believe the Rape Happened

- In August, Victim reported being raped and the case was "unfounded." Perhaps she thought nothing would happen in this case either, so that's why she called it "rape." (According to the police report, she even told Friend not to discuss it with anybody because "nothing happened" with the last rape investigation.) Later, when the police officer asked her to provide a written statement she told him that she didn't want to-TWICE.
- Her mom was not initially concerned with the incident. She did not report the incident to the school. The counselor found out about the "rape" after hearing rumors and talking to Victim. When the counselor asked Mother about the incident, she claimed that she reported the rape to the police and it was "being taken care of." The counselor then assumed that the investigation was taking place. (From what I read however, it seems like the police weren't contacted until a week or two later when Victim had told a staff member what had happened) Furthermore, according to Client's dad, when he talked to Victim's mother about what happened, she told him that she "did not feel it was rape and that Client just simply talked Victim into having sex and that the sex was consensual." (Police report)
- Victim had an opportunity to escape/get help, if she was being raped. In the police report she told the officer that Client had pinned her arms down above her head and pulled down her pants and her underwear. Next, she said that Client put on a condom- hence, he was no longer restraining her. (Perhaps here, she could of run away) Furthermore, her friend was only "40 feet away" and could have heard her scream if she felt she was in danger. (Her friend also knew relatively where they went, and could of located her fairly easily)

- From the police reports, it seems like Victim liked Client a lot. Perhaps this is reason to believe that she consented to having sex with him. Also, since Client has a girl friend and says that he doesn't like Victim like that, perhaps there was a motive for her to spread rumors about him that she had been raped.
- According to the police report, Victim says that she does not have a good knowledge of sex. However, she was sexually active for four months before this event with at least 2 other people. (Perhaps this shows that she was more likely to have consented to sex... because she is active)

Reasons Why We Believe the Rape Did Happened

- If the sex was consensual, why did Client originally lie to the police officers about the event on more than one occasion? (During investigation for attempted assault case and after his arrest) Note: During the interrogation, the police noticed that Client was very nervous after learning about the evidence.
- There are inconsistencies with Client's testimony and that of Victim/Friend.
 - o Client says that he was walking away when Victim followed him and asked him to have sex with him. (Victim and Friend say that Client was pulling/pushing on Victim so that she would follow him.)
 - o Client says that he walked home by himself after it happened, whereas Victim and Friend say that he went with them to Victim's house, and Victim told him he couldn't come in.
 - o Client said that Victim was giving him a "look" like she wanted to go with him whereas Friend says that Victim gave him a "look" like she wanted help
 - o During questioning, Client denied skipping school with Victim/Friend, going into the woods behind the bar, and having sex with Victim.
- Friend said that Victim did not seem like her usual self after the incident. In fact, when he found out that she had been raped, he thought she seemed "traumatized."
- Client has engaged in sex with another person before, where the person did not consent? (Top of Page 9 on the Police Report)

Example #1
Letter

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SOCIAL SERVICES
Kimberly B. Schuster

October 3, 2005

To Whom This May Concern,

Deputy Public Defender is representing Client on matters pending in the Whatcom County Juvenile Court. On March 6, 2005, Client and his brother were playing "touch" football at Sumas Elementary School. When brother went to tackle Client, he broke Client's necklace, causing the two boys to get into a fight. Although neither of the boys were hurt, a neighbor across the street called the police when the fighting began. Client is now charged in Juvenile Court with an assault.

As the representative of our client, we believe that this matter should not be taken to court. The family has already established their own punishment for their children and Client does not wish to press charges against his brother.

We are therefore asking you to write to the Prosecutor's Office on behalf of Client, with your thoughts on how this case should be resolved. Any insight you could give on your relationship with these boys or their family would be greatly appreciated. Please send your letter to the address printed below as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Kelly Szyborski and Melinda Assink
Investigative Interns

Cc: Attorney

Please Write To:
Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office
311 Grand Ave, Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Kimberly B. Schuster

MEMORANDUM

To: Attorney
From: Kelly Szyborski
Date: 9/22/05, 3:30
Re: Client

I spoke to *Witness #1* today (she is one of the witnesses *Client* provided). *Witness* says that she used to be friends with both *Client* and *CW* before, but at the time of the fight was only friends with *Client*. Her and *CW* stopped being friends last year when *CW* kept "talking a lot of crap" about her. *Witness* and I, however, have been friends for the last 3 years. *Witness* describes their friendship as being "cousins" because their families are really close to each other.

On the day of the fight, *Witness* was around the corner talking to some people when she heard that there was a fight involving *Client* and *CW*. She went to see what was going on, and saw *CW* throw *Client* against the bus. *Client* then went to fight back, but the fight was broke up by some teachers. *Witness* had to go walk home, but once she was there she called *Client's* mom and then the vice principal to tell them what had happened.

Although is unsure of what the fight was about, she said that her and *CW* were not getting along, and that perhaps *Client* went to go confront *CW* about all the rumors and trash-talking that were going on.

Witness also remarked that there is currently a lot of tension between *CW* and *Client*, and although they haven't physically fought again, they still make comments at each other in the hall, spread rumors, and call each other. *Witness* also remarked that this has been going on for about a year.

Kelly Szyborski
Intern Investigator

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SOCIAL SERVICES
Kimberly B. Schuster

MEMORANDUM

To: Attorney
From: Kelly Szyborski
Date: 10/14/05
Re: Client, Case #00-0-00000-0

Summaries of Witness Statements

-Complaining Witness:

This person is the CW in this case. It was her checks that were forged by our client. In the police report it states that her account had been closed, and that is how the bank was able to verify that the checks were stolen (hence why they called the police). CW does not make any personal statements in the police report, because she wasn't there when the forgery was committed.

-Officer #1:

Officer #1 talked to the teller during the incident. She verified that the account was closed and that the checks were stolen. The officer also took possession of the checks. They were booked into evidence (photocopies are in this file).

-Officer #2:

Officer #2 looked into the claim that there was another person involved in the crime. According to Client, Friend was waiting outside in a white car parked near the bank. Officer #2 attempted to find the car in the parking lot, but did not find any vehicles matching that description.

-Officer #3:

Officer #3 is the main officer in this case. He responded to a police call at the bank for a stolen checks complaint. He was given a description of the suspect, and when he got there, the teller pointed out Client. He approached Client and told him to put his hands behind his back. He then handcuffed Client, and told him he was not under arrest, but that he was being detained. Officer #3 then brought him to an office inside the bank. He read Client his Miranda Rights (including the juvenile portion) verbatim from the "Department Issued Miranda Rights Card."

Client
Case #00-0-00000-0

Client told the officer that he understood his rights and was willing to talk about the incident. Later, the Officer #3 asked Client if he was willing to give a written statement detailing the incident. Client said he would. The officer advised Client that he was under arrest for the Possession of Stolen Property in the 2nd Degree and Forgery. The officer then transported Client to the Whatcom County Juvenile Detention Facility where he was booked. The officer also called his mom and told her that her son was in custody.

-Detective:

Detective is investigating this case and two other forgery cases in which Friend is involved. In August, Friend attempted to open a bank account at the bank with a stolen check. The amount was also for \$800 dollars and it had "house cleaning" written on the front- just like in this case. Furthermore, Friend and two other people are suspected for multiple transactions on this person's stolen credit cards as well. The other case, in which Friend is a suspect in, includes a stolen purse and several forged checks. (There are three other people that are suspects in this case as well.)

-Teller:

This person is the bank teller during this incident. She told Client to sign the back of the checks, and then wait for a minute. A short time later, the police came into the bank and detained him. (It is unclear in the police reports whether or not she was the person who actually made this dispatch call) Later, she verified that the checks were stolen and gave them to the police officers.

What were the circumstances of the confession?

- The police were given an identity of the suspect, and when they arrive, the bank teller told them the person was Client.
- Officer #3 asked Client to put his hands behind his back and then put him in handcuffs.
- He told Client that he was not under arrest, but that they were detaining him
- Officer #3 brought Client to an office within the bank
- He read Client his Miranda Rights (including the juvenile portion) verbatim from his department issued Miranda Rights Card.
- Client verbally said that he understood his rights and that he was willing to talk to the officer regarding the incident.
- Later, Officer #3 asked Client if he was willing to give a written statement detailing the incident- Client said he would.
- Once again, the officer read Client his Miranda Rights (including the juvenile portion) that was printed on the Voluntary Statement Form.
- Client signed his name indicating that he understood his rights.
- Officer #3 advised Client that he was under arrest for Possession of Stolen Property in the 2nd Degree and Forgery.
- The officer transported Client to the Whatcom County Juvenile Detention facility where he was booked.
- Officer #3 then called Client's mother and advised her that her son was in custody.

Client's Voluntary Statement

Client's Voluntary Statement states that on that day Friend came to his house and asked him to cash some of his checks because he didn't have his ID on him. In return, Friend said that he would give Client \$50. Friend told him that the checks were "good," and according to Client, they were completely filled out when he saw them. When Client was in the bathroom, Friend added his name to the "pay to the order of" section.

Friend then drove him to the bank, which is Client's normal bank. While Client went in, Friend waited in the car. The teller asked Client to sign the back of the check, and then wait for a minute. A short while later, the police showed up.

Interesting Circumstances

-Client told the police officers that his Friend came to his house and asked him to cash his two checks because he did not have ID on him. In return, Friend told Client that he would give him \$50. Client asked Friend if the checks were "good" and he told him they were.

-According to Client, the checks were completely filled out before he saw them. When he was in the bathroom, Friend filled out the last "pay of the order" section in Client's name.

-According to the police report, Client voluntarily said, "I didn't know that they were stolen. I was just trying to cash them."

-Client told the officers in the police report that he did not know CW, and that he had no idea that the checks were stolen.

-Detective (see report) is currently investigating two other stolen checks/forgery cases in which Friend is involved. In one of the cases (August 8, 2005), Friend tried to cash a stolen check for \$800 with the words "house cleaning" printed on the front of the check- just like in this case.

Example #1
Warrant Phone Calls

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Kimberly B. Schuster

To: Attorney
From: Kelly Szyborski
Date: November 14, 2005
Re: Warrant Phone Calls

-Client, Case #00-0-00000-0, #00-0-00000-0

I called Client at his home phone number and it was disconnected, so I tried calling the number in the police report (000) 000-0000. (I found out later that this is his mom's cell phone number) His mom answered, and gave the phone to her son. Client said that he missed his last court appearance because he didn't know about it. He is going to come in Thursday December 1st at 1:30. He wants someone to call and remind him to come in. I'm going to make myself a note to do this

-Client, Case #00-0-00000-0

I called Client's home phone number and it was disconnected. I called her mother's cell phone number in the police report and the number was barred. I looked did a reverse search on her address and was unable to find another phone number. I also looked in the Whatcom Defender Files and was unable to find any more information.

-Client, Case #00-0-00000-0

I called the phone number for Client on her information sheet, and the number was disconnected. There are no other numbers in the brief that I could contact her at. I did a reverse search on her address and did not find a different phone number. I called Witness #1 (her friend listed in the police report) and she said that she did not have a contact number for Client.

-Client, Case #00-0-00000-0, #00-0-00000-0

I called Client at his house phone and left a message telling him that he needed to call the office back as soon as possible. I also called his mom's work number (in the police report), but was unable to reach her (I did not leave a message).

-Client, Case #00-0-00000-0

I called Client at the contact phone number in the brief and it was disconnected. I then tried to call the phone number he had listed in the police report, it was also disconnected. I then tried to call him at the phone number he had listed on the "Court Referral Form." The phone number was (000) 000-0000. Client was not there, but I talked to his "uncle." (It sounded like a younger voice). I left a message with him and told him that Client needed to call our office as soon as possible. I left him our phone number. (Another phone call might be necessary to make sure that Client received the message)

-Client, Case #00-0-00000-0

I called Client at her home phone number and talked to her personally. She is going to talk to her mom about which day would be best to make a court appearance and will call back. I left her with our phone number.