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- Yusin Anastasia Mok (Psychology, History, 2016)
- Asian Outreach Unit Intern; Full-time, 35 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
My main responsibility is to complete weekly intakes at partnering organizations in Chinatown for clients who come to us with legal issues. After the intake, I present each new case to attorneys. Sometimes I am assigned to do brief services, such as delivering our attorneys' legal advice to clients in Chinese, following up to investigate for some cases, referring clients to other agencies, and helping them apply for benefits. Since the Asian Outreach Unit serves mainly low-income Asian American clients who have limited English proficiency, I have also worked on translation assignments and attended meetings as an interpreter/bilingual advocate. There are other writing and research assignments, as well as outreach projects to educate and enhance awareness of legal issues in our community.

How did you find your internship?
I first learned about this internship through an upperclassman at the Tufts Internship Grant Poster Session. I kept in touch throughout the year and got really great advice about the application process and skills required for the position. She also referred me to her supervisor at the Asian Outreach Unit.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I enjoy the sense of community at the organization. All the staff work closely to provide the best services for clients. They also partner with other organizations to support and make change for the Asian American community. For example, we went to the state house to witness Governor Patrick sign the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, and our attorneys have pushed for bilingual ballots legislation to support voting rights. I have become more politically aware of the legal issues faced by low-income individuals with immigrant backgrounds, and I am more involved in the community's organizing effort.

What do you find challenging?
As one of the few undergraduate interns working here, it is challenging to do this type of work with limited legal knowledge. There was a lot to learn, memorize, and get used to at the beginning of my internship. Sometimes individuals who come to our intake sessions are victims who are traumatized by terrible situations. It is important for me to understand the full picture of the clients' stories and get to the heart of the legal issues. This requires asking the right questions, being able to detect any oddities in the information, and looking out for any emergencies. Since I am the first person of contact during intakes, I need to present myself as a professional and trustworthy advocate to get the client's trust.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Be proactive in seeking out new assignments. The attorneys are busy and do not always remember which assignments are passed on to interns. Therefore, it is up to the interns to keep supervisors updated about the status of cases and to actively follow up when needed. It is also important to speak to your supervisor about the specific type of cases or projects that interest you. When you have the chance, talk to as many attorneys and staff as possible because they all have unique experiences.

About the Organization
Greater Boston Legal Services; Boston, MA

GBLS provides free civil legal services and representation to low-income individuals in the areas of housing, employment, family, immigration, and benefits law. The Asian Outreach Unit of GBLS especially focuses on working within the Asian immigration communities in Boston.