

ALB SUMMER INTERNSHIP

This summer I worked at the law firm of Adam Leitman Bailey. As a rising senior in high school, I knew the chances of landing an internship at a select firm were slim. Nevertheless, I took it upon myself to e-mail the top firms in New York City about employment opportunities. After several days of checking my barren inbox the situation looked grim. If I received a response at all it was of the automated, thank-you-for-contacting-us nature. For some reason nobody wanted to hire a seventeen year old with zero office experience. On the verge of calling it quits, I received an e-mail from Adam Leitman Bailey, P.C inquiring my availability for the scheduling of an interview. I promptly responded and within a week I had abandoned the coddled lifestyle of a jobless summer for the daily grind of a nine to five.

In order to avoid disappointment, I prepared myself for the worst; I fully expected to step into a lonely environment made up of solitary, narcissistic attorneys holed up in their individual offices, buried under paperwork and surrounded by tremendous tomes. I imagined that the typical firm operated in this fashion, however; ALB, aside from the overflowing paperwork bit, could not have been more different.

From the very first day, I sensed my time at ALB would be a life-changing experience. I was welcomed warmly and the staff made it a point to get me acclimated. There was a strong sense of adhesiveness, and the great chemistry made my tenure at ALB truly enjoyable. It was evident from the start that the staff worked for a common goal, and did so

with unforced cooperation. From nine until five (sometimes even well past five), there was a steady stream of communication as the firm operated like a sports team, proficiently employing each individual's strengths to achieve the ultimate goal of success for the firm.

In the business realms of New York City, large companies boasting exorbitant bank accounts and manpower rivaling the likes of the Roman Empire, usually triumph over more modestly sized businesses. However in the Law division, ALB, wielding only fifteen attorneys, a small firm by today's standards, bears no handicap skirmishing versus corporate firms while reaping the benefits of maintaining a personal environment. ALB's size provided me with a candid perspective of the inner-workings of a law firm, and enabled me to see the everyday life of an attorney and a paralegal. It also proved advantageous when developing close relationships with the great staff; all of whom I am certain will serve as invaluable contacts should I ever need them in the future.

ALB's aforementioned success has been an inspiration and an achievement I can healthily envy. Having worked among the accomplished staff at ALB, I have raised the expectations I set for myself, which in turn has made me a better person. As a result, I have become more ambitious and unwilling to settle for anything less than the full extent of my potential. Each member of the staff has made a positive impression on me. Whether it is Miguel's pursuit of a real estate license (while working full-time), or Peter's mission to strengthen his physical condition through 6 AM gym sessions, Adam's staff is known to go above and beyond. In an interview for Real Estate weekly, Adam Leitman Bailey acknowledged the quality of his staff

when he said, "The firm culture is amazing. At every interview we tell candidates that this is a firm for great people, that the good and average shouldn't apply." The endless chase for self-improvement is an ALB staple, and undoubtedly stems from the remarkable credo of its founder, Adam Leitman Bailey.

Aside from being one of New York's premier real-estate attorneys, Adam Bailey is an overwhelmingly influential individual. He holds himself to the highest of expectations and approaches each day with tremendous enthusiasm. This charisma lends itself to Adam's innate and interminable can-do attitude, which serves to not only motivate himself, but those around him. Adam has said that he begins each day with a resounding clap of his hands as he prepares himself to seize the day and all the opportunities that it may bear. His approach to life is one I have tried to emulate during my summer at ALB. Having seen what he manages to accomplish daily, I no longer receive a task and question my capabilities.

Evidently, Adam's hard work has paid dividends and many would be content to settle into his current situation. Adam himself, however, is not. He is constantly seeking to better his firm and is always trying to reach that "next plateau". It is worth noting, however, that Adam's ongoing efforts are not restricted to his business. Adam is a firm believer in the importance of education and he cements this value by teaching at NYU, and giving grants to needy college-bound youths. He has managed to use his position of power to give back to the community. He is a man of great moral fiber, and I could not have hand picked a better educator and role model to work for.

Adam Leitman Bailey, P.C. had everything I was looking

for. As an elite firm located in the thick of the professional world, ALB's allowed me to observe what it takes to succeed in such a demanding field. With amazing colleagues, always readily available for support, I was able to nurture my interest in law. As my senior year of high-school approaches, I will be taking A.P Government and a Constitutional Law course. The firm has prepared me tremendously for these classes by giving me a firsthand look at the practice of law and how it is applied in everyday situations. In fact, the firm has prepared me not just for school, but also for life. I have grown by leaps and bounds this summer, and I credit Adam and his magnificent staff for instilling me with the qualities necessary to excel in all my future endeavors. They have taught me life's most important lesson: succeeding is not fortuitous; it is something that must be worked for with diligence, discipline, and endurance.