Entrepreneurship Experience

After shadowing different attorneys and personnel at the Rochester Court of the Monroe County, I was able to endeavor an entrepreneur experience by helping to create a new data set. The goal of this new data set is to attempt to change the policy that currently exists in Rochester with regards to evictions. It was very challenging, but through team work we were able to come up with a random sample of the court cases and analyze them. Our end product was the creation of a website that can help not only policy makers, but also anyone who needs information on how the eviction process is. One of my roles in this was to look into the law and make it understandable to anyone who doesn’t know anything about law. This was very challenging, especially taking into account that English is not my first language, but it was great to see how with a different word you could turn something into understandable by anyone. I was also in charge of some of the sections and had the opportunity to look into the gender difference between people who were evicted.

Global Challenges

My first experience with global challenges was this past summer, when I had the opportunity to go to the UN in Bangkok, Thailand. There I had the opportunity to learn about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), I was especially impacted by the mixture of goals number 9 and number 16. The goal number 16 this goal focuses partially in ‘building resilient infrastructure’, goal number 19: ‘industry, innovation and infrastructure’, it focuses on ‘peace, justice and strong institutions’, talking about the importance of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and providing access to justice for all. I think that the combination of these two goals and the conversations that I had with different delegates allowed me to realize how important the legal area is to property rights and how many people are affected by it especially in developing countries.

One of the conversations that I thought really helped me realize the importance of urban infrastructure was talking about the current state of the world. We discussed how more people continue to move to cities, and areas that used to be considered rural are not urban. We analyzed the importance of having and improving urban infrastructure in order to provide with adequate space for our population. I started with my studies in political science, and this conversation led me to realize the importance that the industry and infrastructure development in countries. Moreover, I also thought something worth highlighting was how peaceful and strong institutions are together. In other words, in order to accomplish worldwide peace, one of the key factors would be to achieve institutions with strong structures that are able to protect citizens’ property rights. I believe that it is very important to see how these issues in Asia differ from the ones in the US faces. But also, to be able to look at other continents such as Latin America, in order to be able to have a more global perspective. In this way my journey in realizing ways in which I am able to restore and improve urban infrastructure started.

Research

I think it’s safe to say that all countries want to ultimately have prosperity. In order for this to happen there is a mixture between the incentives, the institutions and the culture, luck, geographic location and history that play a large role into it. Taking one step at a time I decided to focus on the institutions having property rights and political stability as the two core areas: When looking in more detail into property rights I realized the large role they play in providing security for the countries and more importantly for its citizens. In this way, looking into how to improve property rights could lead us to find better ways to restore and improve urban infrastructure.

As every single country has property rights, I decided to focus in Latin America, a foreign place for which I was highly interested in. I started by taking some classes, focusing on ‘How Countries Become Rich’. These two classes thank you to one of my majors, Political Science, and to my minor in International Relations, were the starting point for my drive and interest in Latin America. This interest lead me to carry research for Professor Goemans in the Political Science department. I did research for him looking at Latin American countries and how geography was taught to them, and the possible relationship between the education received and the willingness to go to war for their country. After doing research for him for a year I was highly motivated to pursue my senior honor thesis and continue doing research.

When it came to my research, I continued with my passion regarding Latin America, combining it with my other passion on property rights. This allowed me to come up with my current research about Property Rights in Dominican Republic. However, there is more research to be done on property rights, but none that looks at the court cases. Therefore, I decided to do so and look into different ways in which looking through different lenses such as the gender, as well as the the legal aid that could allow us to observe the same research with different perspectives. This is allowing me to merge the interdisciplinary of my curriculum.