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HOLLERAN CENTER
PICA JUNIORS IN ACTION



Updates on Ciara Beaulieu '16 interning with the Department of Justice this summer

I am currently interning with the Department of Justice at the Office on Violence Against Women. Specifically, I am working in the Legal Assistance for Victims unit, under the supervision of a grant maker.

The Office on Violence Against Women provides federal grants to non-profits with the goal of enhancing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for victims and survivors of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence and stalking.

My internship is allowing me to understand how policy gets transformed into federal funding, and then is administered on a local level. As my PICA area of interest focuses on women's movements countering violence, in the future I would love the opportunity to do policy-related work in this field. Every day I get to feel surrounded by people who are incredibly passionate about working towards a gender-just world, and it makes me feel hopeful.

The one piece of advice I would give to upcoming juniors, is that you should never be afraid to ask for help from those around you. My internship search was hard. Even after getting accepted at the Department of Justice, it took me three months to pass a basic security clearance. From asking Chris Terry to extend my CELS deadline to calling my Congressman, I used every relevant connection that I have made at Connecticut College in order to make my dream internship a reality. As someone who likes to do things on her own, I know that asking for help is not always easy. Yet, the Holleran Center provides so many important connections, and it would be silly not to take advantage of that!