

## **Research Assessment #20**

**Date:** April 23, 2024

**Subject:** ISM Reflection/Self Growth

**Word Count:** 724

### **Assessment:**

This ISM program has been such an amazing experience for me and there is no way to overemphasize how grateful I am to have discovered this program. As I explained in my speech, ISM has provided me with the opportunity to structure my own learning and dive deep into a topic of my choosing. But in addition it has also had an impact on me as an individual and as a student. Throughout ISM I have learned invaluable lessons through challenges that I have faced and I feel that this has only been possible because the work that I was putting in was towards topics and causes that I was invested in and towards learning about a career that I would like to pursue in the future. Throughout ISM we have been told time and time again that you get out what you put in. This means that the success we find and the experience that we gain from this program comes as a result of the work that we put into the course and the amount of time and energy we are willing to dedicate to our work. And in many ways I feel that this concept acted as the highest form of inspiration we could have. This class and this course were ours and was more than just checking off boxes but was an opportunity to learn what we wanted and gain exposure into our respective topics.

This has been a journey for me in terms of both discovering and exploring new areas in law and also in learning how to do research and try to create meaningful projects and presentations. At the beginning of the year I don't think I could have imagined my focus on the

appellate field of law but that is where I ended up. I often talk about the fact that ISM is not a straight path and often has many winding side streets and alleyways that we must explore in order to find our way through. I shifted gears completely in the second semester of the course. I changed topics and began a late process of searching for a mentor. Because of this, I feel that I was really pushed in the second semester and feel that I was really able to accomplish a lot more than I would have if I had only focused on one issue. Because I was starting fresh in appellate law, there was a completely new area of research I was able to conduct and dive into and a completely new set of topics and ideas for a final product. While my mission statement was relatively vague, I really relied on my quote this year to guide me through the year. This quote was by Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore who stated “you cannot cross the sea by merely standing and staring at the water.” I feel that throughout this year, so many of us have seized this opportunity that ISM has provided us with and have put in the work to “cross the sea” throughout this year. The experience I have gained from ISM and from my mentorship and from the interviews I have had has put me a leg ahead in the game and has been an opportunity that as my father said “was not something he had available to him in school.”

I also want to personally thank you, Mr. Green. From what I heard from students of previous years, you had some big shoes to fill with Coach Goff’s departure and there was inherently a level of nervousness from us about who was taking the reins. But I can assure you that you have surpassed all expectations we have had and have been such an excellent role model and resource for all of us. I want to thank you for your dedication in providing us with messages and suggestions on our research throughout the year, helping us find mentors and interview opportunities, and helping guide us through our work this year. Especially for me as a prospective law student, your experience in the field has been such a huge boost to my work and

to my focus throughout the year and I can't thank you enough for your constant work, effort, and energy into this course. It has been a pleasure to be your student throughout this program.