



IE Alumni Receive Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School

June 1, 2019



On May 31, 2019, two of the University of Texas at Austin (UT) Intellectual Entrepreneurship Consortium (IE) Pre Grad School Internship alumni (Samuel Garcia-2014 and Joseph Gallardo-2013) received their Juris Doctorate degree

from Harvard Law School. They join 6 other former IE students who earned a law degree from Harvard in the past six years. Over 80 IE Pre Grad interns have already received law degrees following graduation from UT. They attended such prestigious law schools as Yale, Chicago, Virginia, UT, Stanford, UCLA, Berkeley, NYU, Georgetown, Duke and others.

“We are proud of all of them,” notes IE founding director Rick Cherwitz, “and look forward to what these IE citizen scholars will accomplish in the years to come.”

“We are also proud of the fact that approximately 70% of these IE alumni are either the first in their family to graduate from college, come from economically-challenging backgrounds or are underrepresented minorities.”

Following enrollment in IE, Gallardo observed: “To say the Intellectual Entrepreneurship internship was an amazing experience for me would be such an understatement. I’ve always been very interested in pursuing Law, but not everyone agrees; the Intellectual Entrepreneurship program provided enough insight for me to know that, despite the opinions of others, Law is in fact what I want to do and there are no doubts about it.” “Looking back at where I was before IE,” said Gallardo, “I was completely clueless on the route I wanted to take after graduation. Pursuing law school was simply one possibility out of many. Now, after being blessed enough to participate in the IE Pre-Grad Internship, I know exactly what I want to do and why I want to do it; I have absolutely no doubts about Law School. The IE Pre-Grad Internship has not only made me a more knowledgeable and organized student, it’s made me a better person.”

Learn more about what students from over 50 academic disciplines say about their IE experience:

<http://www.ut-ie.com/testimonials.html>

These are just a few of the reflections offered by IE students who enrolled in and graduated from law school:

“I participated in the IE program as a sophomore; this was an important part of my journey, enabling me to make my dream come true. My mentor Tyler Ames was extremely helpful, showing me what the everyday life of a law student is like. Thanks to him and the IE program, I learned that attending law school was a reachable goal. I am thankful for all the resources I was able to access through IE.

For everyone out here thinking they are not good enough, take my story as a testament that with hard work and drive, anything is possible!"

"The Intellectual Entrepreneurship program is truly unique and has already begun to make its impact felt within my life and academic career. The knowledge and exposure gained through this program is demonstrably indelible and inimitable. This program has proven itself to be a defining experience with profound implications for not only me but hopefully society at large. It has inspired me to pursue a career in law with an eye towards enriching and improving the society in which I was produced. It is an experience that years later I will look back on and be forever grateful has inspired me to pursue a career in law with an eye towards enriching and improving the society in which I was produced. It is an experience that years later I will look back on and be forever grateful."

"As a first-generation college student, I never had the guidance of a parent or older relative to help me through the decisions I've made thus far in my academic career. From the application process to universities, deciding where to go and finding the best fit for me, I felt that I have gone through this short journey so far a bit blind-sighted. Fortunately for me, I decided to read through one of my pre-law emails and came across an event for an information meeting about a law undergraduate mentorship program called the IE Pre Grad Internship. Within a few short days, I realized that this program was going to offer me an opportunity unlike what I had ever received before. Nobody ever wants to admit that they don't have it all together, and I believe this is where the IE mentorship program really stands apart from the rest. Many of the IE graduate students mentors with whom we undergraduates are paired, have dealt with some of the same issues we currently are facing, and can in turn share with us their wisdom and advice based on their experiences so far. Overall, I am very thankful for the opportunity this mentorship program has granted me. It did in fact help me decide if law school was going to be the right fit for me, and that it is just as important to find out what I don't want as it is important to find what I do. I was also thankful to have received surprising advice I otherwise would have never had expected that I will take with me-the most important being not to make school my entire life and identity; balance of "me" time is key to staying sane."

"Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) is one of the best things that happened to me during my time at the University of Texas. Sometimes my aspirations get the best of me and I do not know how to accomplish them. I am thankful for the IE program because I have learned so much about myself, my capabilities, and the value of going outside of your comfort zone and networking. My mentor is an amazing person who really cares about my success. She inspires me more than she will ever know. Actually seeing someone who is where you want to be is a phenomenal feeling. The best thing about this internship was having someone to look up to. I have decided that law school is somewhere I want to be in the future after graduating and working."

"The IE experience has changed my life in many ways. I was terrified about even applying to law school but now that I have spent so much time with my mentor and many attorneys I feel a lot more confident than I did before. Going into this program I was a little unsure of whether I truly wanted to pursue law. My goal in life is to help as many people as I can by changing their life in some way. I thought that I could only do this through social work but now that I know that I can also live my dream as an attorney, I am more motivated and determined to pursue my dreams. IE is an experience that everyone interested in graduate school should have. One might feel like they are sure of what they want to do. But this program taught me that the only way to be sure of what you want to do is to experience it first hand and have someone guide you."

"The IE Pre Graduate Internship Program is the most interesting and helpful class I could have hoped to take as a senior graduating from UT. This class has provided a smooth transition from undergraduate school to law school, and I feel so much more confident and excited about my decision to enter law school this fall."

"Thanks to the Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Pre Grad Internship, I was given the unique opportunity to see if law school was right for me. After going through the law school application process, participating in law school classes, and attempting writing assignments geared toward first-year law students, I feel confident that I am, in fact, ready for the next level."

"I always knew I wanted to go to law school but could never supplement that conclusion with a strong reason as to why. Being a Government major or having people tell me I'd make a good lawyer just weren't sufficient reasons. I needed to

know for myself why law school was a good fit, and the IE program has afforded me such an opportunity. In essence, my internship experience gave me a chance to take law school for a test drive and discover if it was right for me. As the semester comes to a close, I've concluded that law school does in fact fit me well, and I can affirm that statement as a result of the IE Internship."

"The IE Pre Grad Internship program helped bring a new level of clarity and perspective. The experience convinced me that I am Law School material. As a minority student and someone who is the first to graduate in my family, I sometimes doubted my ability to succeed at a graduate level or if I am smart enough to get in. But during this internship, the different mentors and students at the meetings encouraged me that it is possible and that everyone has something to offer. Sitting in law classes and seeing only a few minorities represented in the class room motivated me to help increase the numbers and provide a different perspective for law schools and future clientele. Because of the IE internship I am no longer doubtful of my ability but excited about the challenges and successes I will have on the road to Law School as well as those in Law School."

"This semester has presented me with the opportunity to dive straight into the life of a law student. The IE pre-graduate school internship has opened my eyes to several different aspects of what it takes to get into law school, succeed there, graduate and practice in the field. The highlight of my internship was when I was able to get a travel grant that allowed me to attend a law student conference in March for black law students. I was very impressed with how many black students there were, and how many wanted to get into the law field. I got to see black men and women who were top lawyers in their field and at their firms; there were also distinguished judges who were African-American also."

"While I was enthusiastic about graduate school, I was now with the problem of figuring it all out in terms of what I wanted to do and how I was to get there. Beyond this, I needed to convince my parents that it was a good idea. As a first generation college student I've needed to convince my family that today more than just a four-year college experience is needed. I understand them because it can seem like I am stagnant for years after high school with no sign of moving forward. However, as other first generation students may understand, convincing the incredulous and unhopeful is something that I have been made accustomed

to and learned to do effectively. To my rescue came the IE program. As I have now gone through the IE program, I feel as certain as ever that I not only need but also want to pursue an education in law. The IE mentorship has made me realize the possibilities that exist after earning a legitimacy that comes with a law degree."

"I strongly believe that my participation in the IE Program has made a considerable impact on my decision about whether to pursue a career in law. Through IE, I gained a backstage pass to the inner workings of a prestigious law school, acquired hands on experience in a growing law firm, and attended a pre-law conference."

"The past three years I have been in a constant battle with myself questioning whether or not going to law school is something that I truly want to pursue. I had come to doubt whether I was willing to commit to being a law student and if practicing law was even a profession I was interested in doing for the rest of my life. Fortunately, the IE Pre Grad Internship program has given me the opportunity to shadow a law student as well as work with an attorney allowing me to confront my concerns."

"When thinking about the IE Program, words can't even describe how beneficial this experience has been for me. I came into this opportunity with very little knowledge of the field (Law) I aspired to pursue. Through the IE Program, I have learned a lot that will help me in following the Law career path. I truly learned a lot this semester; not only about law, but also about myself. I have grown to be more cautious of my academic standing, and how to balance it and my personal life. I've watched firsthand how it is to be a student taking courses at the graduate level. After seeing this, it only makes me want to go to law school even more. In a sense, I can't wait!! Just witnessing the networking opportunities as well as the helpful and friendly people is enough to outweigh the amount of work it would take me to succeed."

"Having the opportunity to participate in the Intellectual Entrepreneurship internship has been one of the most hands on and useful classes I have taken at this university. From weekly meetings and law society activities, to interning at a law firm and also attending conferences, I was able to see all sides of not only what law school would be like, but also the different aspects and areas of practice

a law degree can be applied to. This class was really helpful to me as a 1st generation college student and an African American female, showing me why I should continue higher education past my bachelors. With this class I was able to gain a lot of very important information about what I need to do to become a better law school candidate."

"Overall the Pre Graduate Internship Program has been a great benefit to my personal growth not only as a prospective law school student but as a person. Through this program I have been able to assess some of my fears when it comes to my future and also explore the myth that is law school. This has been especially beneficial to me because I come from a home where neither one of my parents attended graduate school programs and thus were not a resource to me when it came to advising."

http://www.ut-ie.com/g-i/hurtado_change.htm

"Although I'm embarrassed to admit it, I began this internship with a myth I had embraced for a long time--that of my biased expectations of what lawyers were like as people. In fact, for many years, this fallacious image of who lawyers really were had been one of the main reasons that I remained wary of choosing a career in law. All I knew was that, whether because of the media, society's opinions, or my own erroneous biases, I thought most lawyers ended up compromising their integrity and ethical principles due to the nature of their job. More importantly, I knew I didn't want to become that kind of person.

Fortunately, it was with great relief that I was proved wrong this summer at the CRC. I happened to have worked with two wonderful attorneys, Bree Buchanan and Tiffany Roper, who not only showed me that being an ethical lawyer wasn't an oxymoron, but that one could continue to be a down-to-earth, likeable individual who respected others and maintained their virtue. Furthermore, the Children's Rights Clinic showed me that there do exist law settings that don't practice superfluous billing and always remain focused on their goal to serve their clients well, many of whom come from underrepresented and indigent backgrounds. The realization that this kind of setting was available for me to explore greatly appealed to me, and I hope to one day continue to serve these communities through non-profit or pro-bono work.

Before this internship, I had been bouncing around with ambivalence in terms of which graduate program, and ultimately career, I would pursue. I had explored so many of them, always hoping to find my vocation like my older sisters had managed to find. This internship through the Children's Rights Clinic has given me that feeling that I longed for but never got after attending all the other career-related programs. I still can't quite wipe the smile off my face, one which clearly reads, "EUREKA! I've finally found it!" It's helped me dispel many myths I had for many years and has helped me finally find a career that I can be passionate about. I hope that through my dedication as a mother and soon-to-be law student and then lawyer, I will be the instrument to guide my own children's futures just as my parents bent mightily so that my sisters and I could fly swift and far."

http://www.ut-ie.com/g-i/hurtado_dmn.html