



Dartmouth Lawyers Association Internship Fund INTERN PROFILE



John Cho '22 Department of Justice

John Cho is a '22 from Austin, Texas, graduating from the IB program at Westwood High School. He is a double political philosophy and quantitative social sciences major, along with a music minor. During his time at Dartmouth, he has done extensive research with various members of the Department of Government as a Politics and Law Fellow and Undergraduate Research Assistant. John was recently selected as a Stamps Scholar, a two year experiential learning program, to conduct research on AAPI political behavior in the United States. On campus, John is active with the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra and the Office of Pluralism and Leadership. In his previous off terms, John has worked for an immigration legal nonprofit and a political consulting/survey research firm.


John was funded by the Rockefeller Center for a Spring 2021 internship, with generous support from the Dartmouth Lawyers Association Internship Fund.

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Executive Summary from John's final report:

During the Spring term of 2021, I completed an internship with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, under the supervision of the Deputy Chief, Tim Mellett. The Civil Rights Division was established to protect the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. Although there are 11 sections that carry out the Division's work, the Voting Section is tasked with preserving the right to vote, which includes upholding the Voting Rights Act.

As the only undergraduate intern during my time in the Voting Section, I worked on three main projects – a Voting Rights Bill Tracker, the Redistricting Project, and the Georgia Project. The Voting Rights Bill Tracker was my long-term project for the entire course of the internship. I was tasked with tracking

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every single voting rights legislation introduced in state legislatures around the country in the aftermath of the 2020 General Election to present to the Chief. I learned a lot about the legislative process in every single state in the process of doing so. For the Redistricting Project, I helped identify which census jurisdictions had been previously marked for pre-clearance under Section 5 and conducted data preparation for racial block voting analysis. For the Georgia Project, I was the main data analyst assistant, conducting all the data collection, preparation, and analysis needs. I was the only undergraduate in the team that sued the State of Georgia for passing SB 202 in *United States vs. Georgia*. In my role with this team, I conducted analysis in R on absentee ballot rejection by race, voter turnout by race in the November General and January Runoff elections in Georgia, and absentee ballot return rates by date.

This internship was especially helpful because voting rights work is at the intersection of both political science and law. This allowed me to learn more about both of my interests, as I am interested in going to either graduate school for political science or law school, or both. I am interested in continuing to work to protect voting rights in the future and would love to return to the DOJ as a Voting Section Trial Attorney after attending law school.