

## **Mogel Internship (Summer 2018)**

*Mitchell Lovett*

This summer I was afforded the opportunity to work as legal intern alongside Congressman Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma in his service as a member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. As the 2018 Mogel Intern, I experienced the intersection where energy law and policy meet. The work greatly broadened my awareness of the challenges and intricacies that must be taken into consideration when working in energy law.

The Mogel Internship surpassed my expectations of a legal internship. For committee hearings, I was often tasked with researching proposed legislation to provide an analysis, show a clear nexus, and postulate on legislative consequences. I worked to understand and brief Congressman Mullin for congressional hearings on energy issues such as the hydropower licensing process, the geopolitics of oil and gas, and tax reform's effects on the energy sector. Performing my duties in Congress challenged me to develop a knowledge base in new and unfolding areas of energy policy. Congressman Mullin and his office had no shortage of compelling work and utilized me fully to aid in complex tasks. For instance, in congressional hearings, such as the modernizing of nuclear energy policies, I reviewed congressional testimony to seek gaps or omissions. I was entrusted to draft committee questions to fill those gaps and enable Congressman Mullin to effectively legislate.



Advocacy is an incredible part of a lawyer's duty to a client; in Congress I learned advocacy's relationship with legislation. For example, with the Natural Gas Parity Act, I penned colleague letters to legislators advocating for support of the proposed legislation.

Working in Congress afforded me the opportunity to work in energy law and explore other sectors of interest. I experienced how the need for strong energy policies is integral across numerous national sectors. For instance, I had the pleasure of working alongside Congressman Markwayne Mullin's office in researching and analyzing the National Defense Authorization Act, including the bill's attached provisions. As a veteran I feel energy policy and national security policy share a strong interdependence and I appreciated the opportunity to work on issues involving that relationship.

Separately, working in Washington, D.C., presented me with the benefit of endless professional networking opportunities. As consequence, I connected with professionals in energy law and was permitted attendance to events that will lead to future opportunities. One such event was a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hiring seminar, which touched on the breadth of the agency's reach and the FERC's hiring process.

Overall, the Mogel Internship allowed me to work in a dynamic and challenging workplace where the efforts of my labor had real impact and truly afforded a learning opportunity unlike any other. Finally, I encourage others interested in energy law and energy policy to seek out similar opportunities.