

Grace Watkins

Graduation Year: Senior

College: Arts & Letters

Major(s): Philosophy

Minors(s): PPE

Scholar Group Membership: Sorin Scholars, Kellogg International Scholars

Did you received other funding for this project?: No

Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No

More details on CUSE funding assistance?

Project Title: Attendance of the Rebellious Lawyering Conference

Project Location: Yale University

ND Faculty Mentor: Ricky Herbst

Project Type: Conference - Attendance

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Research/experience necessary for senior thesis or capstone project, Prepare for graduate school (MA or PhD), Prepare for professional school (MD, MBA, JD), Career discernment and/or preparation

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much

[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Very Much

[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Very Much

[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Very Much

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Very Much

Tell us about your experience.

I had an incredible experience at RebLaw held at Yale University. I was struck by the wide variety of panels at the conference, and was introduced to new ideas about public defense in the midwest, sexual and domestic violence as a tort, and the increasing criminalization of pregnancy (regarding miscarriage and drug use).

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.

I was inspired by the people I met at RebLaw and the new ideas I was exposed to -- especially the idea of small, pro bono lawyer collectives. I had never heard of such entities. They function like clinics do at law school. In addition to being motivated to apply to Yale Law school, I am now interested in the promotion of such lawyer collectives. I was also deeply struck by the idea of expanding tort options to victims of sexual violence. I had not heard much about this option before, but it was the most compelling of all of the ideas I heard expressed on a panel regarding non-carceral responses to gender-based violence.

Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.

I am currently writing a thesis on theories of punishment related to sexual violence. Never have I attended talks in college as specific to my (highly specialized) area of interest than at RebLaw. What was even more exciting was how many other interested and engaged people were also in attendance. At one panel I had to sit in a window sill because they ran out of room. I was able to do research to add to my thesis on the practice of judicial recall and restorative conferencing, in addition to making professional contacts for law school through Know Your IX.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

I would strongly recommend RebLaw to other undergraduates. I worried that a law conference would be inhospitable or inaccessible to undergraduates, but I found it to be quite the opposite. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.

cwatkin1@nd.edu
