





Last Wednesday, I got to meet Senator Kirsten Gillibrand at the congressional women's softball game. After the game we got to go on the field and have her sign our posters and take pictures. I was really happy and excited, as you can tell by the pictures, because I look up to her so much. Not only is she trying to make a change for the better as a Senator, she is also a mother and is so devoted to her children. That inspires me because I struggle with finding the balance in life, and she is an example that, as a women, you can be very successful in your field and still balance a family and friends. She truly is an amazing and inspiring women. I'm so lucky to be interning for her and hope that one day I can follow in her footsteps.

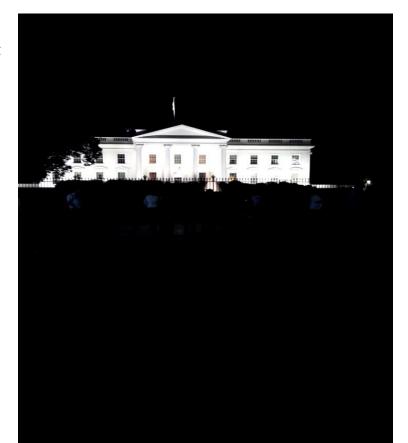
Another amazing thing that happened to me last week was having coffee with a staffer from the Department of Defense. The week before I had been feeling a little lost about

what I wanted to do in life. I wasn't sure if I wanted to go to law school anymore, and I'm the type of person that likes to have a plan. For me, it was really hard to accept the fact that maybe my plan or path is not as clear as I had planned.

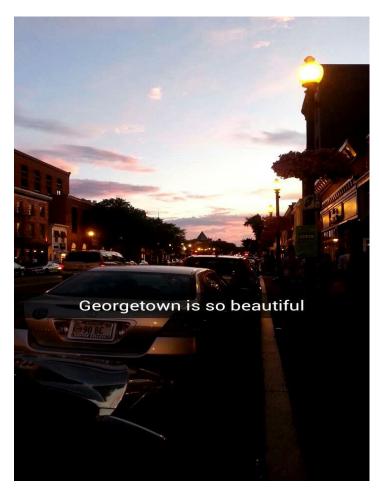
In high school, and in college, I have participated in Mock Trial Club. Participating in these activities have made me realize how much I do like practicing law. It's obviously not the real thing, but it's supposed to be like the real thing, and that excites me and I really do enjoy it. But another part of me really wants to explore opportunities in the State Department, Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Military Affairs.

When I met with Robert Palladino, a staffer from our office at a brown bag lunch, it all clicked to me. Robert is a National Security Fellow for Senator Gillibrand. When he talked he mentioned that he had been a U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps Attorney (JAG). At that moment I just knew I needed to talk to him one on one. A JAG is basically a lawyer but for the military. At our meeting over coffee he informed me of many things that I could do with my career. He told me that I just need to keep an open mind and never pass up an opportunity. Just because I may not think it relates to my field or interests I should still look into it. He also informed me of other internships I could apply for that would point me towards the fields I'm interested in. So even though this summer isn't over I'm looking into my future, and I am much more calm and relaxed that I know everything is going to be okay.

I really am learning more about myself and I'm trying not to focus too much on my future and just enjoy my time being in DC right now.



Everyday I've been trying to go for a run so I run by the White House every day and feel so lucky to be able to do that.



Also just walking through Georgetown when the sun is setting is pretty nice.
All the views are so pretty and I really like DC and everything it has to offer.