Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia

Steven Gomez
Class of 2019
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Working as a Research Intern at ACIJ

Main Responsibilities included:

- Creating databases containing relevant information on Public Officials
  
  One database contained information on officials working within the government, and the organizations/companies the officials were affiliated with. This database served to pinpoint conflicts of interest present throughout the different ministries in the Argentine government.

  The Second was a database that contained information on every relevant politician that was running for office in the Argentine Legislative elections. The database was used as a reference tool to contact politicians of interest and ask them about their plans regarding the issue of corruption in the Argentine Government.

- Translating grant applications and other documents pertinent to allowing ACIJ to engage with an English speaking audience.

- Writing a 12 page comparative analysis on campaign finance laws in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay.
My Coworkers

Ana Dutari & Lucia He, my supervisors

Marcelo Giullitti Oliva and Tamara Laznik, my office neighbors
Benefits of Working at ACIJ

• The most rewarding aspect of working at the Asociación Civil was being able to expand my knowledge of the various political issues that are plaguing Latin American countries, Argentina in particular. The benefit of working during the legislative election period allowed me to gain much more knowledge on the political climate of Argentina than I think I ever would have known had it been on an off-year. Almost every conversation at work culminated into a discussion on the political implications of one individual’s or group’s actions on the state of the Argentine Government, and as a result, I felt like I had a better grasp on the Argentine political environment.

Mauricio Macri and Cristina Kirchner,
The President and Former President of Argentina
How My Work Impacted ACIJ

- I felt that the work I did during my time at ACIJ will serve as tools to help further the organization’s effort to strengthen the democratic institutions of the Argentine government. The two databases I worked on will serve to hold public officials and politicians accountable for their actions if they ever engaged in any corrupt activity or have been affiliated with any organizations that could create a conflict of interest with their current position in the government. The comparative analysis I wrote on campaign finance law in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay will serve as a tool to inform the public on proper campaign finance practices, and on what needs to be improved in Argentina in order to make the electoral process more egalitarian.
My experience in ACIJ reinforced the passion I had for Latin American History as well as Human Rights Law. With every passing day working with the organization, I learned more about the history of Argentina and the multitude of struggles they have had to face in the past. With that knowledge, I also began to understand why every single person I saw at ACIJ had such a great passion for the work they were doing. It’s the passion that I saw in my fellow coworkers that has inspired my to learn more about Latin American History, and continue on track to becoming a Human Rights Lawyer.
Cultural Awareness and Personal Growth While In Argentina

Living in Argentina for 8 weeks and immersing myself in the Porteño culture was extremely rewarding and fulfilling. I had an amazing time trying out new foods, seeing new sights, and interacting with the locals in the area, which made me fall in love with the culture and eager to return to the country in the future. While entering a new country was intimidating, I felt I mature a great amount as a traveler and person while I was Argentina, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity that was given to me through IIP.