

Meet Our Summers: Nnenna Onwuchekwa

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What made you interested in law as a Career?

When I was about 15 years old, I interned for a small law firm in Brooklyn, NY, where every day, the issues that came through the door were a lot different than what I perceived a career as an attorney entailed. Individuals that looked for guidance on matters to them that were vital made me want to join this community and help those that needed it. My father always says, "A hero is not someone who saves the world but is someone who can change it for at least one person," and that is what I want to do.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

I love to play soccer, travel the world, and experience different cultures and cuisines.

What made you want to apply to Cullen and Dykman's Summer Associate Program?

My interest in applying to Cullen and Dykman's program stemmed from their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. As a Black woman in this career path, you usually do not see women who look like me, as only 3% of attorneys in America are Black women. Their efforts to bridge that gap amongst all underrepresented groups made me want to work for such a forward-looking firm.

What have you enjoyed most about Cullen and Dykman's program so far?

So far, I have enjoyed the cases I have assisted with and some of the interesting issues I have encountered. While winning a case is always gratifying, facing new and evolving issues that do not have precedence or case law on where you find a solution to and win must be the sweetest victory. Experiencing some of these cases during my short time here has been captivating.

What academic/professional achievement are you most proud of?

Getting into law school has so far been the achievement I am most proud of. The journey of getting to law school, being the first in my immediate family to do it, was a challenge, especially amid COVID. But after months of preparation, seeing where my efforts have now brought me still has me in awe.

Favorite Quote?

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." -Nelson Mandela.

What advice do you have for prospective Summer Associates?

Be yourself, ask questions, and be open to getting out of your comfort zone. The experience you get out of this summer is what you make of it. You are here for a reason. Own it!