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My virtual internship at the African American Policy Forum (AAPF) officially ends today. For the past ten weeks, I have served as an administrative intern at the AAPF, a think tank that collaborates with scholars, activists and policy makers to research and discuss contemporary social issues such as racism and inequality through an intersectional lens. My internship has provided me with experience in event planning, working collaboratively, and qualitative research.

During my first few weeks at the AAPF, I assisted the organization to host its virtual webinar series *Under the Blacklight* (UTB). UTB is a bi-weekly virtual event where AAPF co-founder Dr Kimberlé Crenshaw and other distinguished speakers discuss the impact of the health pandemic on racial minorities. Additionally, I helped to publicize the series by putting together social media assets which were posted on AAPF's social media accounts. During this first part of my internship I learned a lot about hosting virtual events, marketing virtual events to target audiences, and working with the team to achieve set goals.

For the second half of my internship I started working on two different projects for the AAPF. The first project was a collaborative project between the AAPF and another organization to create a publication. For this first project I helped to research and nominate social justice advocates to contribute their work to the publication. My second was an oral history project that required me to interview African Americans who lived through the civil rights era. For this project I used and improved upon my strong qualitative skills and background to collect data, analyze it, and write a multiple-page paper that described history through the life experiences of the person I interviewed.

I would like to express my appreciation for the financial support the Jennifer Jessica Cohen Foundation provided me to pursue my internship at the African American Policy Forum (AAPF), a social justice nonprofit organization housed in the same building as the Columbia University Law School . At the AAPF, I served as an administrative intern. In this role, I supported the organization to host its bi-weekly webinar series "Under the Blacklight," I also

helped to reach out to AAPF's donors to thank them for their support. Furthermore, I contributed to the organization's ongoing projects by researching and contacting activists and racial justice advocates. My work at the AAPF taught me about how nonprofits work with donors, seek partnerships, organize their staff, and engage with the public.

In addition to hard skills I picked up while at AAPF, my time there has taught me to be a better advocate. As a Black person who was raised outside of the United States, I knew it was important for me to contribute to the contemporary civil rights movement that was sparked by the killing of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Indeed, doing the work every day at AAPF to create the change I want to see has taught me to be bolder, more sympathetic and a teachable human being. For instance, I have had to put my own experiences, feelings, and thoughts aside to sympathize with others as they share their painful experiences. Moreover, I have started the process of unlearning certain stereotypes that were taught to me through the media about being Black in America. Finally, I have started having conversations with my own community about the discriminatory experiences of Black people in the United States.

This internship has been personally and professionally fulfilling, and I am very grateful to JJCF for providing me with the financial resources to afford it.