CHARLES J. BEARD, II
DIVERSITY
FELLOWSHIP
FOLEY HOAG LLP

Talking Points: KD Harbeck

2022 CHARLES J. BEARD, II DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Law student KD Harbeck has been selected as one of Foley Hoag's 2022 Charles J. Beard, II Diversity Fellowship recipients. KD graduated from New York University, Gallatin School for Individualized Study with Honors in 2019. He currently attends the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. In this interview, KD shares his journey to a career in law. He has variety of legal assistant experience from the past few years in addition to working with international students on a one-on-one capacity, helping them transition to the U.S.



How would you describe your summer associate experience?

From day one, I could tell it was going to be an extremely worthwhile experience. Within hours of arriving at the Foley Hoag headquarters in Boston, I was off and running and even got to connect with a client directly. The firm does a great job of making you feel welcome and trusted. I've enjoyed the hands-on experiences across the firm including working with the licensing department and working on projects connected to litigation, tax work, global health, global business, human rights and capital markets. I've really enjoyed the flexibility of being able to sink my teeth into anything that piques my interest.

Why did you choose Foley Hoag?

Coming back to Massachusetts for the summer was a win-win for me both professionally and personally. I grew up just outside Boston and I was able to continue developing my career while being able to see family and friends. My connection to Foley Hoag was solidified when I was introduced to one of the partners who was at UC Berkley to speak to the International Law Journal, which I'm a part of. I also really like that Foley Hoag has a New York office because long term, I am interested in pursuing my legal career in New York.

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How did Foley Hoag shape the direction of your legal career?

My time at Foley Hoag has opened my eyes to many additional aspects of the corporate law space. This summer has been a great opportunity for me to gain exposure to different types of law and my experience has confirmed my desire to pursue either business or corporate work. I was also fortunate to work with the licensing practice group at Foley Hoag. The assignments I was given in this area were challenging and intriguing, leading me to potentially pursue a career in licensing law as well. I look forward to continuing legal internships relating to those fields next summer to gain more experience and further explore my passions.

You've been to 40 countries – do you have a favorite?

Traveling the world is one of my favorites things to do and these experiences help build a strong foundation for a career as a lawyer. Some of my most memorable trips have been to Singapore and Sweden. They're obviously very different countries, but I loved them both nonetheless. Each country I visit helps me understand a little bit more about the world and gives me a broader, global perspective. I have gained a tremendous appreciation for diversity and experienced many unexpected but welcomed surprises and cultures.