Reflective Narrative for Job Shadow

As soon as the concept of the job shadow was introduced to me, I knew what occupation I wanted to shadow - a lawyer. I already knew at that point that I wanted to be one myself but hadn't yet decided on an area of concentration. I eventually decided on corporate law, but soon realized that there were not many options out there for me to shadow so I settled for the second best option, someone that was basically a jack-of-all-trades. Mr. Merl Ledford III was essentially an estate planner that dabbled in various other forms of law - from bankruptcy to litigation.

I had the opportunity to shadow Mr. Ledford and his legal assistant Ms. Peggy Fernandes over my spring break. This opportunity had started off as a one-day shadow that ended up becoming a week-long internship after my initial interview. After a day spent simply observing how the firm ran and the types of clients Mr. Ledford serviced, I was allowed to assist Ms. Fernandes with all of the paperwork associated with the clients' cases. Over the course of the first half of my internship, clients came in asking for assistance in filing anything from bankruptcy to various civil lawsuits. Unfortunately, I was not allowed in on these meetings as they were still in the initial stages, but in the second half of my internship, I was allowed to sit in on the making of two wills and a trust. Now this was when things got interesting.

A relatively young couple had come in earlier that day and had been in Mr. Ledford's office for about 10-15 minutes before Ms. Fernandes allowed me to leave my post at the front desk and join them in the conference room. Once there, I realized that the main points of the will had already been gone over and all that remained was the proofreading of it and signing, along with the formation of the trust. Because of confidentiality issues, I was not allowed to be privy to the details of the wills but was able to sign as one of the witnesses. While the trust documents were being proofread, Mr. Ledford described the functionality of a trust and its benefits, and when the time came for the signing, I was once again present.

Throughout my time at Ledford Law Corporation, I especially enjoyed the overall experience, but a couple factors did not sit well with me. The first of these was the staff. I normally dislike being around a large number of people and tend to prefer smaller groups, but the staff at this branch was limited to three people. I need more human contact than that and the pin drop silence at the firm bothered me greatly. Along with the staff size, I was not very taken with their organization system. Certain aspects of their system were really well-organized and easy to comprehend, but others left much to be desired. The majority of my time spent at the firm resulted in me sorting cases papers from a huge pile on the corner of the spare desk. Since I consider myself slightly OCD about paperwork and papers in general, this fact bothered me to no end.

In reflection, I still think I would enjoy the occupation of a corporate lawyer. However, I know now that before I can even consider a job prospect, I will have to take into account the staff size - I will not be able to function without frequent human contact. In regards to the organization side of things, I think if I aim to work for a larger firm, this problem may solve itself, but if it does not, I think I can still work with it. Job shadowing Mr. Ledford, in the end, neither discouraged me nor encouraged my pursual of a career in law.