

KIMAP Internship Report / KIMAPインターンシップ報告書

No. 2024-03

I. Basic information / 基本情報

- 1) **Name / 名前 : Wong Kwok Tung**
- 2) **Enrolled year / 入学年 : 2023**
- 3) **Period of internship / インターン期間 : August 12 – 23, 2024**
- 4) **Place of internship / インターン場所 : King’s County District Attorney’s Office**
- 5) **Person who accepted your internship / インターン受入担当者 : Mr. Kin Ng, deputy Department Head**
- 6) **Content of work in your internship / インターン中の作業内容**
 - Observed live court trials and proceedings at the King’s County District Court
 - Worked closely with prosecutors, learning trial strategies and case preparation techniques
 - Reviewed Criminal Law Handbook of New York to understand the classification and prosecution of criminal cases (felonies vs. misdemeanors)
 - Gained insight into various types of crimes specific to the county
 - Engaged in discussions with prosecutors about legal tactics and the process of pursuing criminal justice in the U.S.

II. Details and impressions / 詳細と感想

I. Basic Information

I am grateful to have the privilege of interning at the King’s County District Attorney’s Office in New York City. Reporting directly to Mr. Kin Ng, the deputy department head, I was given the opportunity to observe the criminal justice system in one of the busiest and most dynamic district attorney’s offices in the country. My working hours were from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., but most of my days were spent in the nearby supreme court (which is the court of first instance in New York) observing live trials and interacting with prosecutors.

II. Internship Tasks and Learning Experiences

During my time at the office, I gained significant insight into the American legal system, especially in terms of how evidence is collected, the importance of police cameras in crime scenes, the use of footage to track down suspects, pre-bargaining tactics, and the decisions on how to proceed with an offense. Possession of firearms is a big issue in New York. To deter such offenses, the New York Police Department (“NYPD”) and prosecutors often obtain search warrants to search for illegally acquired firearms in suspicious premises, which requires full cooperation between the NYPD and the prosecution department. Drafting and preparing affidavits for search warrants have become routine works for the prosecutors. I see the cordial working relationships between the NYPD and the prosecution sector. My observation of courtroom proceedings and the opportunity to learn about case strategies from experienced prosecutors allow me to gain a deeper understanding of how criminal justice achieves in this big apple - New York.

The court trials I observed provided me with valuable exposure to the strategies and tactics in the American criminal system. I was able to see firsthand how prosecutors present evidence, examine witnesses, and construct arguments before the jury, which is present in all felony criminal trials in the US. In America, all felony cases must first be approved by the Grand Jury before proceeding to trial. If cases are rejected by the Grand Jury, the prosecutor will not appeal. I also experienced the friendly atmosphere in court. After trial, judges would talk to counsels about chores and everyday life which is rather uncommon in other jurisdictions.

I was also given the opportunity to study a variety of criminal cases ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. By studying these cases, I was able to understand how different crimes are categorized and pursued under New York law. I learned about the legal definitions and processes for both felonies and misdemeanors, gaining insight into the types of crimes in the county, such as drug offenses, assault, and gun violence.

In addition to observing trials, I also had the chance to talk to fellow prosecutors and defense counsels before and after trials. These informal discussions gave me a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes work that goes into building and defending a case. I was impressed by their attention to detail, and the careful planning involved in pursuing criminal justice.

III. Personal Reflections

My internship experience was invaluable in broadening my knowledge of criminal law and

courtroom procedure in the United States. I was able to learn a great deal about how to effectively manage criminal cases and prepare for trial in the US. One of the most memorable aspects of my internship was observing the passion and dedication of the prosecutors at work. The commitment to justice and the protection of the community was evident in every case they handled. They are truly the guardian of the city.

IV. Exploring New York

In addition to my professional experience, I also had the chance to explore New York City over the weekends. I visited Manhattan, walked across the iconic Manhattan Bridge, and toured the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET), which was a cultural highlight. I also enjoyed dining in Chinatown, experiencing the city's vibrant diversity. This personal exploration of the city added a rich cultural dimension to my internship and made my time in New York even more memorable.

V. Conclusion

Overall, my two weeks at the King's County District Attorney's Office were incredibly rewarding. The opportunity to learn from experienced prosecutors, observe live trials, and immerse myself in the American legal system has enriched my legal knowledge and provided me with invaluable experiences. I am grateful to Mr. Ng and the entire team for their mentorship and guidance during this internship.





(Date / 記載日 : September 4, 2024)