

Internship Report

Introduction

The present report will give an overview of the internship I did from June 24th 2024 to July 19th 2024 in Ocean Law Office in Tokyo, Japan. I was supervised by M. Yunokuchi, who is a lawyer in the law firm.

Tasks and Observations

When I stayed at the office, my principal task was to research topics of French law such as matters of family law, company law or the different Visa types in France. Going through the different legislation and case law, I was able to write reports that I sent by email to M. Yunokuchi.

I also had the chance to follow the lawyers as they had business outside of the office. Here is the details of the place I visited :

- June, 24th : visit to the detention center for an interview with a client.
- June, 25th : visit to Tokyo District Court for the interview of a witness before the Court.
- June, 27th : visit to the house of a client.
- June, 28th : visit to the District Court for the cross-examination of a client.
- July, 4th : visit to the Immigration Office.
- July, 5th : visit to Yokohama District Court for the interview of a witness before the Court.
- July, 9th : visit to Tokyo District Court for the interview of a witness before the Court.
- July, 10th : visit to Kawagoe for preliminary inquiry.

I discovered a lot about a lawyer's work on and off the Court and I learned that working in a law firm is very challenging. I was surprised at how much a lawyer has to move during the day : from a client's house, to the different Courts, to the Immigration Office... It requires a lot of strength and composure. I also was able to learn about the legal system of Japan and the history of the Japanese Civil Code.

Technical Skills and Difficulties

The internship required several skills to use and develop. The first one would be a capacity to search for information and to be able to summarize it in a concise way. I had to learn to be more to the point when writing the reports which was difficult sometimes.

The second is being able to adapt and observe. First of all, Japan has its own way of doing things which is sometimes different from France. Second, as the law firm deals with international cases, we met clients from different countries and it was important to know how to behave accordingly. Especially in the field of law, knowing when to stand in the judge's presence and bow was an important part of the learning process.

Conclusion

This internship was my first time in a law firm and will certainly leave a permanent mark on me. It enabled me to see how the law is applied, not just in the books at university, but in the real work of a lawyer. I am now extremely motivated to continue to study law, and have a clearer goal regarding my expectations for the future.