

Spotlight on Our Summer Associates

Hanna Cho

Boston College Law School

Growing up, Hanna Cho was exposed to both ends of the career spectrum. Her mother was a microbiologist; her father, a writer on religion and politics. Perhaps this was the reason that Hanna excelled in both. While most people have a leaning towards either the sciences or the liberal arts, Hanna explored both in her academics as well as her career, starting with gene cloning and ultimately ending up at Boston College Law School.

Hanna grew up outside Portland, Oregon where she was a competitive swimmer, an accomplished violinist and an editor for her school newspaper. She went to college at Cornell University where she double majored in Biology and Economics. During her college summers, she worked at the Oregon Health Sciences University on Fanconi anemia research. Fanconi anemia is a genetic disease in which patients have a high likelihood of various cancers, bone marrow failure and congenital defects. In her research, Hanna worked on gene cloning and was part of a team that developed full-length gene products that help researchers understand the protein paths of the disease.

During her research, Hanna was in frequent contact with patent attorneys to help patent the team's gene products. It was this exposure that developed her interest in law, noting that she found the legal



elements of the research more interesting than the research itself. In addition, her extracurricular activities at Cornell – including student advising and orientation – developed a desire to help and counsel others. By the time she graduated from Cornell with two science-related degrees, she had decided to follow a much different path and go into law.

From genetic cloning in Oregon to law school in Boston, Hanna's academic and career path are certainly leading her to great success.