

Education and Workforce Development

Student Researchers

This project employed two student researchers. One, Nijm Ramsey, worked during his second and third years as a law student at Texas A&M University Law School. The other, Jayson Stibbe, was a master's student in engineering at Texas A&M University. Each participated in the guided interviews that served as our primary data gathering exercise and were both equal contributors in the debriefings that followed. This was a very important part of our process because it was in these conversations that we identified issues to address and started the important process of converting experiences into research questions.

Once interviews were completed Jayson synthesized our multiple sets of interview notes into one summary document that now serves as our main data source. From these notes, we created an outline and formulated specific questions. Once these questions were formulated, Nijm conducted the legal research for the report. This consisted of both the legal background for the topic of our report as well as a document review of relevant contractual instruments shaping the work of our subjects.

Student Comments

Both student researchers report that their educations were enriched by this project. Each encountered new approaches to inquiry in their respective fields and anticipate that the experience will set them apart from competition in the job market.

Nijm Ramsey: Juris Doctor, Texas A&M Law School, 2019

“Plainly stated, I found my experience at TTI to be rewarding. When I began the project, my goal was to assist the project lead by researching relevant legal considerations while improving my analytic writing skills. Mission accomplished. Also, and not so plainly stated, I felt as if I were an integral part of the process, and my thoughts were valued. I received clear guidance and candidly productive feedback. I believe I took part in meaningful work that pertains to emerging law.

Moreover, I was fortunate to wrestle with and distill complex and often ambiguous legal and policy-based concepts for a non-legal audience. I've developed a new found respect for this segment of research. I would highly recommend a TAMU Law Student's participation in this program next summer.”

Jayson Stibbe, Masters in Engineering, Texas A&M University, 2019:

“Working on this project has given me a new perspective on the field of transportation research. I have not had much experience with qualitative research, but this project shown me some of the value (and difficulty) in answering questions with no definitive answer. I went into this project with some fear of qualitative research and of personal data privacy and now retain only the latter.”

Presentations

Our written work is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2019. In addition, we made panel presentations at the Texas A&M University Law School and at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in March 2019.

At the TTI presentation, the panelists were PI Gretchen Stoeltje, law student researcher Nijm Ramsey, and Safe-D Program Director for TTI Sue Chrysler. This presentation focused exclusively on the Safe-D project and was offered as a live-streamed webinar. Attendees included approximately 10 people in person and 30 online for a total of roughly 40.

The project presentation at the law school was part of a larger presentation about ongoing legal research at TTI. Panelists for this presentation included PI Gretchen Stoeltje, law student Nijm Ramsey, law student Alex Antonio (who supported an earlier project), and TTI Executive Director and transportation attorney Greg Winfree. Attendance at this event consisted of approximately 30 law students and faculty members.

