



Precautionary Federalism and the Sharing Economy

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With funding by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, I had the honor of working with Professor Light on various projects involving environmental law and federalism issues this past summer. The main goal of the projects was to analyze federalism implications as well as public-private partnerships in the governance of rideshare or transportation network companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft. Later on, we also looked into military energy projects as well as the legal implications of autonomous vehicles.

In general, I gained much experience with searching for and analyzing law review journals. This project introduced me to various legal resources and databases offered by Lippincott Library (e.g. LexisNexis and Hein Online databases). It gave me exposure to proper legal citation as well as legal concepts that I was unfamiliar with such as federal preemption, or the invalidation, of state law under certain conditions. Over the ten weeks of the project, I became more effective in organizing and presenting the information I found to aid my professor with her scholarly work. These projects also gave me insight to the environmental and legal implications of rideshare services and autonomous vehicles in the United States. I had the opportunity to look into how these implications compared to that of such services and vehicles in the European Union as well. Additionally, I learned about the great efforts of the U.S. military to develop solar energy projects on bases across the country. Government funding for such projects may be hindered by partisan politics, so the military has turned to power purchase agreements (PPAs) and public-private contracts to implement their plans.

In my last two years at Penn and Wharton, I look forward to completing my concentration in environmental policy and management. This project only helped to reinforce my interest in this field, and expanded my knowledge of environmental policies and projects. In the future, I hope to pursue more research opportunities involving the integration of the environment, law, economics, and business as well as participate in projects that promote sustainability in both Wharton and Penn.