

## Yiyang Wang -- National Women's Law Center

### **EDUCATION**

**Wesleyan University;** Middletown, CT May 2015

- Bachelor of Arts Candidate, Government Studies.
- Significant Coursework: Congressional Policymaking, International Relations, Mandarin Chinese, Soviet History, Gender in Chinese Literature

**John Handley High School;** Winchester, VA Class of 2011

- Student Body President, National Art Honor Society President

**Virginia Girls State;** Farmville, VA Summer. 2010

- Studied the Virginia State Legislature and Speaker in the mock Senate

### **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

*Conference Organizer, "The Cold War of the Middle East: Iran – Saudi Arabian Relations";* Middletown, CT Fall 2012

- Designed the layout and proof-read the pamphlet and poster

*Intern, EMILY's List; Washington, DC* Summer 2012

- Managed news clips
- Curated press list

*Interviewer, Wesleyan Media Project;* Middletown, CT Spring 2012

- Collected information for an opinion research project pertaining to perceptions of foreign policy issues in the Middle East.

*Gallery Monitor, Zilkha Gallery;* Middletown, CT 2010-2011

- Coordinated gallery tours and helped with the organization of gallery openings

*Intern, The Office of Virginia Congressman Frank R. Wolf;* Winchester, VA Summer 2010

- Organized the Congressional Art Competition for the 10th district of Virginia.
- Handled constituent calls and letters.

*Volunteer, National Art Honor Society; Winchester, VA*

- Designed and painted murals in the Handley Public Library and the local SPCA

### **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

- Member, **Brighter Dawns, Wesleyan Run Club, Take Back the Night**
- Student Athlete, **John Handley Cross Country**
- Student, **Performance & Visual Arts, Northwest**
  - Studied sculpture, figure drawing, bookbinding, art history
  -

## SKILLS

- **Microsoft Office** (Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint); **Google Analytics, Design Tools: Adobe Photoshop; TV Eyes**
- **Experience writing press releases**
- **Fluent in Mandarin Chinese**

## Summer Program

1. Provide a brief overview of the organization for which you will intern or program/project you are developing.

The National Women's Law Center, formed in 1972, has helped women advance in all areas of life through lobbying legislators to fight for pro-women laws, as a watchdog for gender equality in the workplace, and by educating the public on important issues. In addition to this, the team of lawyers at NWLC have litigated cases all the way to the Supreme Court. Today, the NWLC continue to fight for equal pay, reproductive health, education, women in the military, childcare, poverty support, and retirement policy.

2. Briefly provide details of the internship or experience, including responsibilities and tasks.

As the Online Outreach/Media Intern, I will be keeping tabs on all the current events that are relevant to NWLC's interests and write blog posts, tweets, and press releases about them. In addition to this, I will compile the most important women's rights issues each week and condense them into one easily digestible newsletter to email subscribers. I will also be monitoring mentions of the Center on social media outlets such as Tumblr, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram and helping the New Media team create targeted ads to attract younger, college aged feminists.

3. How have you communicated with the employer and determined mutual interest? I have already undergone a rigorous application and interview process and I was informed of my employment status on April 10th.

4. How will this experience enhance or broaden your career goals?

As a girl growing up in Beijing, the term "feminism" or "nǚ xìng zhǔ yì" was not often heard. And this is speaking as someone brought up by parents who belonged to the class of the educated liberal elites. Women's issues simply weren't at the front of everyone's minds when there were other problems such as starvation in the streets and blatant political corruption. But even as a preschooler, I understood that women simply weren't treated equally as men in almost every single situation; I just didn't have the terms or the outlets to speak up. It was when my family moved to the States in 1999 that I finally learned about feminism and started experiencing the impact it currently has on my life.

I was lucky enough that when I was ten years old my next-door neighbor and my first mentor Patricia was a second wave feminist who in her younger years attended rallies all over the United States to fight for reproductive rights and equal pay. She faced bitter discrimination from her community in rural Alabama when she wrote heartfelt columns in the local newspaper in support of feminism and volunteered countless hours with EMILY's List, a political action committee which helps elect pro-choice Democratic candidates to office. I knew from an early age that even though equality for me in this current time came much easier than it did for Patricia during her time, there were still massive disparities in areas such as hiring policies, equal pay, and access to health care. In addition to this, I have been living in Virginia for the last six years of my life, a state with a legislature that is doing everything within its power to take away the right to choice from women. This is why I decided to dedicate my life to studying policy with the goal of improving the quality of life for females all over the country.

Last summer, I was fortunate enough to intern at the very place my mentor Patricia had volunteered: EMILY's List. I worked as the press intern writing press releases, copy-editing, conducting research, and curating press inboxes. I worked on many rewarding campaigns such as that of Tammy Duckworth, Elizabeth Warren, Grace Meng, and Tammy Baldwin. It was there that I fell in love with immersing myself in research and filtering it into easily digestible pieces for the thousands of people who subscribe to the candidates' newsletters. Needless to say, the last election was a whirlwind as I watched the multitudes of strong, wonderful EMILY's List women win their races. I was so incredibly lucky to have been able to contribute to their campaigns and to learn from knowledgeable policy experts on the hill.

I am applying for the Wesleyan Summer Experience Grant to hopefully extend my experience fighting for the rights of women all over the United States. While my time at EMILY's List was exceptionally rewarding, I would love to be able to have more freedom to explore the issues I am interested in without giving up the research oriented portion which I so enjoy. This is why I am so excited to work at the National Women's Law Center this summer as it would give me the chance to continue researching legislation while allowing me more freedom to write about whatever most interests me. Not only would I be getting valuable writing experience, I would get to write numerous pieces in my own voice in order to help the Law Center attract the next generation of feminists. This internship also feels like a natural next step as I would be writing blog posts and press releases about the very women EMILY's List helped elect in the last election and the legislation they support in the House and the Senate.

In the future, I would love to work for a feminist foundation in Washington DC to either directly or indirectly affect policymaking decisions to further equality for all women. Whether this is done through helping advocates get elected into office or by conducting research to affect policy change, I am still undecided. Either way, I know nothing would make me happier than fulfilling my girlhood dream of working hard to improve the lives of so many even if it is through small, seemingly insignificant acts. I truly believe that with hard work and determination, one day, the glass ceiling will be broken and gender equality will be a reality.