Elijah Appelson

Mathematician and Activist with 4+ years of experience in legal, political, and criminal data wrangling, analysis, and visualization/storytelling. Proficient in predictive machine learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), and web scraping in Python and R, for a range of projects. Seeking to use my data skills to create an accountable world.

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EDUCATION
Vassar College | Poughkeepsie, NY   Graduation May 2023
Bachelor of Arts in Pure Mathematics (*Phi Beta Kappa / General Honors***)**
GPA: 4.00 / 4.00

EXPERIENCE
Data Analyst, *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Louisiana*   June 2023 - Current
- Developing large-scale dashboards to visualize the impact of police violence in Louisiana utilizing predictive and geospatial modeling, reaching 1,000,000+ Louisianians.
- Launching 20+ reports on legislation, voting rights, redistricting, and legal statutes.
- Providing data and interviews on leading civil liberty issues (primarily surveillance and policing) to reporters across Louisiana.
- Leading research on top criminal justice lawsuits between multiple law firms.

Quantitative Tutor, *Vassar College*   January 2021 - May 2023
- Tutored 50+ students at Vassar College in various mathematics classes including Calculus, Statistics, Linear Algebra, Number Theory, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Real Analysis, Mathematical Cryptography, and Mathematical Logic.

Data Specialist, *Center for Community Alternatives*   June 2021 - November 2022
- Wrangled, cleaned, and merged data from 20,000+ members, supporters, and partners into a cohesive CRM.
- Developed various tools in Python to track pertinent media content and legislation efficiently.
- Researched, purchased, and implemented an organization-wide database system.

Court Observation Intern, *Vera Institute of Justice*   July 2022 - September 2022
- Collected quantitative and qualitative data on over 100 defendants during their criminal court appearances.
- Attended meetings and maintained contact with Judges, Defense Attorneys, and District Attorneys.
- Published multiple reports in newspapers throughout New York State on the collected data.

Data Fellow, *BlueBonnet Data*   May 2022 - August 2022
- Worked with the Western Virginia Civic Engagement Table and For West Virginia's Future on voting rights data.
- Mapped the voting landscape of West Virginia using Python to automatically condense voter files and outside data into a cohesive data set.

Leader, *End the New Jim Crow Action Network*   May 2020 - July 2022
- Organized multiple protests with 1000+ participants
- Managed dozens of volunteers in Court Watch of Dutchess County data collection program.
- Developed an interactive database for residents to explore the court data collected.

HONORS
Eleanor H. DeGolier Prize for Academic Excellence (**2022**): *Received for having the highest academic standing during my Junior Year.*
Burnam Fellowship (**2021**): *Received this fellow to help change criminal justice in NYS with the Center for Community Alternatives.*
Vassar Community Fellowship (**2020**): *One of ten students to receive the Community Fellowship to engage as a full-time employee at a non-profit located in the City of Poughkeepsie.*
State and Congressional Honor (**2016**): *Received for volunteerism and community building through music.*

PROJECTS
Visualizing Police Violence in Louisiana (2024): *Consolidating three primary databases on police misconduct, killing, and personnel into a single visualization to empower Louisianians with agency over their data:* aclujusticelab.org/dashboard
Data Blogging (2023 - 2024): *Regularly publish data activism-centered projects to my Medium account:* medium.com/@eappelson.
Court Watch of Dutchess County Interactive Database (**2022**): *Creating an interactive database for residents to explore the court data collected by volunteers since 2018:* courtwatchdutchess.org/data

SKILLS
Languages: Basic American Sign Language and Basic Spanish
Programming Languages: R (Shiny, Tidyverse, CARAT), Python (Pandas, Beautiful Soup, Selenium), HTML, and Basic SQL
Software: GitHub, Tableau, Power BI, ArcGIS, and Excel