Julie Waheed is a bank examiner in Consumer Affairs (CA), who joined the Fed in April 2018.

Waheed is the definition of the cool aunt. She has three nieces that she loves unconditionally as well as extended nieces and nephews from friends. She prides herself in making all of her nieces and nephews birthdays. When she isn’t being an amazing aunt, she designs and sews clothes. When the pandemic started, she made masks for friends and family members

She also loves to travel the world, visiting over 30 countries so far. “Every place I’ve traveled has provided me with new perspectives and an opportunity to appreciate cultural diversity. Also, I love trying food from different places. It is a requirement that I experience local cuisine wherever I go,” she said. Her most recent trip featured a visit to Ghana in December and January. “We went for the Year of Return. The Year of Return was a year-long celebration in 2019 created to welcome Africans in the diaspora, such as myself, back to Ghana to unite and connect/ reconnect. It was a homecoming for many black people, as it marked 400 years since the first slave ships arrived in America (Jamestown, Va.),” she said.

Before becoming a bank examiner in the CA department, she was as a consumer compliance Senior Associate in the Advisory division at KPMG. Prior to that stint, she worked in the mortgage compliance department as a team lead at Fidelity Bank, now called Ameris Bank. But, she has found her new home at the Atlanta Fed. “Joining the Fed was a career goal of mine,” she said. After working in industry and as a consultant, she wanted to have the experience of working for a regulator. “I believe this gives me a holistic view of consumer compliance because I’ve seen it from different perspectives,” she said.

Waheed shared what she believes to be the biggest difference between the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and Fair Lending. “CRA and Fair Lending are two of the most significant regulatory spaces that we are charged with overseeing. Discrimination and disparate treatment of minorities and marginalized communities is a practice that has been weaved into the fabric of the banking and government system,” she said. She cited multiple practices, including: the Black Codes, the Federal Housing Administration, the Home Owners’ Loan Corp, the G.I. Bill of Rights and gentrification, which have impacted minorities and marginalized communities.

As a result, the CRA was created in 1977 to provide an obligation for federally insured depository institutions to help meet the needs of the communities in which they are located. The CRA looks at an institution’s banking practices in low and moderate income neighborhoods. Similarly, Fair Lending laws (primarily the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Equal Opportunity Credit Act (ECOA)) were created to make it unlawful for lenders to discriminate against a person who is considered to be in a protected class. “The CRA looks at banking activities to meet the credit needs in low- and moderate- income tracts, [while] the Fair Lending laws look at “discriminatory practices amongst people in protected classes,” Waheed said.

Her favorite part of the ECP process is that it has allowed her to meet new people from different reserve banks. “I’ve had the opportunity to make tons of positive relationships and connections with people that I might not have met,” she said. Further, she has astute interest in FedCares. “I am grounded in volunteerism and have always had an affinity to community and what it means to me. When I was around 10, my mom, who was the president of our street club, helped me form the Jr Street Club,” she said. Her mom wanted to find a way to involve the kids on the street in activism and taking pride in their community. Waheed said, “We would take elderly neighbors’ trash cans to the curb, pick up trash and debris, as well as other activities to keep our street clean and build relationships between the adults and youth in our neighborhood. I think this is when I first realized the importance of volunteering and how I can make a difference.”

Waheed plans to attend graduate school in the fall at Georgia Tech, studying City and Regional Planning. Therefore, she is reading *Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein and rereading *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* by Jane Jacobs to “focus on the disparate treatment in US cities specifically around combating the negative effects of community revitalization initiatives.” As a member of the CRA/FL exam team, she hopes to “somewhat merge theory and practice.” When she graduates from grad school, she hopes to visit Antarctica. It is the only continent that she hasn’t visited.