

2012 Global Interns take off for the opportunity of a lifetime

By André Dao



L-R Sandra Murray, Nabila Buhary, Divya Roy, Amanda Thompson, Elisabeth Howard, Jeremy Shelley, Giselle Diego, Manav Satija, Alison Cole, Kylie Pearce, Tessa Daws

The 2012 Global Internship Program has once again expanded to now include eleven placements. These include exciting new opportunities with Plan International in Haiti and International Criminal Law Services in The Hague, as well as a welcome return to the Centre for Constitutional Rights in New York. With an outstanding pool of applicants, the final decision was a very difficult one. The students eventually chosen to make up the 2012 Global Intern cohort were all amazing candidates, and at the time of press were preparing to head off to their assignments, having undertaken a cross-cultural training course.

Elisabeth Howard will be travelling to Haiti for our first ever internship with Plan International. Elisabeth has already had plenty of experience overseas having worked with youth in Bosnia Herzegovina and homeless children in Cambodia. In Haiti she will be working on developing local procedures to ensure that Plan is able to do the utmost to avoid situations where children may be harmed.

Three interns will be heading for Africa: Kylie Pearce will be placed with the Human Rights Advocacy Centre in Ghana, where she will work on a variety of legal tasks, including asylum claims and Ghana's HIV/AIDS laws. Kylie has previously volunteered with the Red Cross, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Bahay Tuluyan Phillipines, a NGO in Manila which helps children in need of special protection. The other two Africa placements are at the incredible South-African organisation, Lawyers for Human Rights, where the interns will assist desperate refugees with asylum applications and other legal issues. The internship is supported as part of the Monash-Oxfam agreement. Sandra Murray and Divya Roy will be going to South Africa to intern with LHR. Sandra currently volunteers at the Peninsula Community Legal Centre and is the Grant Writer and Fundraising Assistant at Down Syndrome Victoria. Divya currently volunteers at the North Melbourne Legal Service and the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre.

After a year's hiatus, 2012 will see the return of the Centre for Constitutional Rights placement in New York. Alison Cole is particularly passionate about the role the CCR has to play in

keeping multi-national corporations accountable, as she is writing her Honours thesis on home state regulation of MNCs for human rights abuses. Alison will be joined in New York by Nabila Buhary, who will intern with Human Rights First. Nabila taught English at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre for two years before realising that she wanted to make a greater impact and subsequently enrolled in law. Her passion for working with asylum seekers will be very important at HRF which has been a long-term advocate of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

A little closer to home, Amanda Thompson will be interning with International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific, which is based in Kuala Lumpur. Amanda's passion for the rights of women has already led her to volunteer with the Melbourne Young UN Women Committee, and that experience will come in handy with the legal policy work she will undertake with IWRAW-AP.

Manav Satija will intern with the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva. Manav worked for two years at the Legal Aid Commission in the ACT, and he will intern with the ICJ's international secretariat in the Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) Rights group. Also in Europe will be two interns at International Criminal Law Services in The Hague. Jeremy Shelley has volunteered at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and interned at the Alternative Law Journal. He will be joined in The Hague by Giselle Diego, who is a volunteer at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and a former tutor in the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program. They will both be assisting the ICLS by researching and drafting an International Criminal Law for Business People guidebook.

The busy city of Mumbai will be Tessa Daws' home for three months as she interns at the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. The current rapporteur is the widely respected Anand Grover, who was appointed in 2008. As a Medicine and Law student, Tessa has a real passion for the right to health and a unique perspective on the issue.

You can follow the interns on their journeys overseas and their work with these unique organisations on the 2012 Global Intern blog at <http://castanglobalinterns.wordpress.com>. Interns will be updating the blog periodically with stories, photos and video.

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