

# Learn a little about our in-house interns

### Elizabeth Tan

#### *Why are you interested in human rights?*

I am interested in human rights because I believe that we all, as humans, have inherent dignity which means we all deserve to be treated with respect, free from harm and have the freedom to determine our lives.

#### *Which particular human rights issues are you most interested in?*

I am most interested in women's rights and issues like domestic violence, the gender pay gap, lack of women in higher management positions but also more international issues such as FGM and human trafficking. I am also interested in disability law and the accommodation of people with disabilities.

#### *What was your best experience during the internship?*

My best experience was working on the legal briefs for the, 'Have You Got That Right?' video series because I was able to learn a lot about interesting issues such as whether there was a right to not be evicted and whether schools had an obligation to accommodate children with disabilities.

### Laura Henderson

#### *Which particular human rights issues are you most interested in?*

The rights of indigenous peoples, particularly land rights; the interface between international environmental law and human rights; and issues around gender inequality.

#### *What was your best experience during the internship?*

Being given the opportunity to meet with different people and hear their views on specific human rights issues. I loved being able to focus in on different areas when writing briefs for the 'Have you got that right?' series and deepen my legal understanding of these issues.

#### *What are your plans for the future?*

I graduate this year and am planning to work in the area of native title here in Australia.

### Madeline Lynch

#### *Which particular human rights issues are you most interested in?*

I have a particular interest in the rights of the child. The rights of the child and the rights of the parents are often not distinct from each other and children's rights are often overlooked in the wider context of human rights.

#### *What was your best experience during the internship?*

We are currently researching the duties that the government owes to children in Nauru. Our governments treatment of asylum seekers is something I strongly disagree with, even more so when it comes to children, and conducting research into it is stimulating and thought-provoking, while at the same time challenging.

#### *Any advice for future applicants or interns?*

Be prepared for a variety of work. Often there will be competing priorities between assignments, and as new assignments come up, the priorities change. However, all of the tasks we have been given (so far) are interesting and complex.

### Alessandra Di Natale

#### *Why did you to apply for the Castan Centre internship?*

I applied for the Castan Centre Internship to further my learning about human rights and to apply and develop my legal research skills. We are lucky to have such a renowned centre for human rights on campus and I was excited about the possibility about working with human rights academics and contributing to real-life projects.

#### *What was your best experience during the internship?*

I have really enjoyed working on preparing submissions in support of adoption by same-sex couples for the Victorian and South Australian inquiries. Knowing that we were able to contribute to a government inquiry and seeing the project come to fruition was a great experience.

#### *Any advice for future applicants or interns?*

Take advantage of having the Castan Centre right here on campus and apply for the internship! You'll learn about so many different human rights issues while interning so don't worry if you don't have previous knowledge of a certain area; just approach everything with enthusiasm and a desire to expand your knowledge.

### Lena Lettau

#### *Which particular human rights issues are you most interested in?*

Human rights issues faced by Australian indigenous peoples and the asylum seekers/ refugees seeking our protection are probably the two most immediate issues I am interested in. More generally, as a woman

and a mother, issues faced by women and children, such as domestic violence and institutional abuse, are close to my heart too.

#### *Why did you to apply for the Castan Centre internship?*

The Castan Centre internship attracted me because it offered the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of human rights issues in a number of interesting ways, such as through research, completing submissions and other written tasks. The internship programs flexibility (being able to complete it one day/ week), made it feasible for me to commit to, unlike many other internship programs.

#### *What are your plans for the future?*

I am just about to start a new job, working on a team of lawyers representing a group of asylum seekers and refugees in a class action case, so I imagine that will keep me busy for the next chapter.

### Sarah Sacher

#### *Why are you interested in human rights?*

It's hard to say, because I have been interested in human rights for as long as I can remember. But it's one thing to have opinions about injustices and human rights causes and another to actively contribute to making a difference in some capacity. I want to put my education and efforts towards achieving something positive.

#### *Why did you to apply for the Castan Centre internship?*

The Castan internship is one of the few options out there for students that will give you direct, hands on experience in the field of human rights. That was an opportunity I couldn't miss.

#### *Any advice for future interns?*

Just to enjoy it – if you are interested in human rights, you are in the right place.

**Students who are interested in being an in-house intern or participating in one of our other student programs should go to our [website](#) for more information**