

# Human Rights Externships

**Summer 2010**



**URBAN MORGAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Established 1979*



**Clement Tsao – International Labour Organization (ILO)** [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)

Location: Geneva, Switzerland; Languages spoken: English, French

Duration: May 17- August 13

Supervisor: Ms. Beatriz Vacotto, Senior Specialist in International Labour Standards and Legal Issues (Argentina)

Department: Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV)

Tasks: 1) Providing administrative and logistical support to the Workers' Group at the International Labour Conference (June 3- 18)

2) Researching various topics with a focus on protecting and advancing trade union interests;

3) Drafting department project documents



### **David Vassallo – Irish Centre for Human Rights (Galway, Ireland)**

This summer I attended the Irish Center for Human Rights with fellow UC student Matt Wagner. My project was to research UK Counter-Terrorism Policy and its effect on the Muslim community in the UK. My project had two component sections. I first looked at the application of section 44 of the UK Counter-terrorism act of 2000, which authorized stop and searches without the need for the police to have reasonable suspicion. This policy has been declared a violation of the right to privacy by the European Court of Human Rights. Additionally, I studied a UK counter-terrorism policy known as PREVENT. I also looked at issues of UK Muslim identity and demographics. I also helped Dr. Cavanaugh edit and cite check her upcoming book on Islam and international human rights law. Additionally, I, along with co-workers, worked on a two week long seminars at the Irish Center for Human Rights: one on Minority Rights and the other on the International Criminal Court. Both of these seminars had excellent speakers. One particularly memorable presentation was by a PHD student who did field work in Papua New Guinea, which has over 860 official languages.

### **Matt Wagner – Irish Centre for Human Rights (Galway, Ireland)**

I spent the summer working at the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway, Ireland. The centre is basically an academic think tank attached to a university, and the professors there are all active in the fields of human rights law and public international law. I was working as a research assistant to Professor Ray Murphy, who focuses on the law of armed conflict and peacekeeping operations. This was an amazing experience, both from the standpoint of the work I got to do, and just the experience of living in Ireland for two months. I also managed to get in side trips to Prague, Czech Republic, and Oslo, Norway, as well as being able to travel through southern Ireland for several days. The trip exposed me to a lot of new things and some great people, and I was able to learn a lot about public international law, U.S. military law, and the International Criminal Court, as well as getting some great research and writing experience.



### **Maxwell Smith – Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (Utrecht, Netherlands)**

I had a phenomenally rewarding experience working at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights this past summer. As a research intern I was attached to a professor who was writing a book on the political economy of human rights. I researched issues concerning constructed minorities and majorities as well as the construction of "indigenusness" as it relates to the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I also learned a ton about some of the theoretical aspects of human rights as I edited the text of the aforementioned professor's forthcoming book. I really enjoyed working with an international crowd of PhD students in a welcoming academic environment in a beautiful city in the heart of the Netherlands and would recommend it to anyone.



### **Lindsey Wilkes and Erin Rosenberg – International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)**

Erin and Lindsey spent the summer interning for the Court Management & Support Services division of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. We were each assigned to a case and served as court ushers. Our court usher duties required us to act as a liaison between all parties in the courtroom, provide assistance to the Chamber and witnesses, publish documents, and convene court sessions. In addition to our courtroom duties, we were assigned different tasks which required us to interpret and revise codes, write memos, and assist the Pro Se Office. Working in an international and intercultural environment was an invaluable experience in addition to the insight that came from the front row seat and inside view of the court proceedings.



### **Hannah Hasinski – Children’s Law Centre, Colchester, England**

This summer I participated in a 6-week internship with the Children’s Legal Centre in London, England. They are concerned with providing legal advice and representation to children, their caretakers and professionals throughout the United Kingdom. They provide services and conduct research in the areas of education, child and family law as well as migrant children and international programs affecting children and families. I was a member of the Policy and Publications Department as well as conducting research for the Migrant Children’s Project. For the Policy and Publications Department I completed a variety of projects that included a case summary article as well as a feature article both of which were published in the magazine *Children & Young People Now*, drafted an official press release regarding an important Supreme Court case in which the CLC represented the plaintiff, wrote a summary of a recent act passed within the United Kingdom for the CLC’s website, as well as a variety of other small tasks. Further, I conducted research for the Migrant Children’s Project involving the status of Afghan refugee children living in Afghanistan. The purpose of my research was to show that the conditions and status of children living in Afghanistan, specifically that of street in Afghanistan is appalling. The research that I did regarding this issue will help the Children’s Legal Centre fight to keep those children seeking asylum or refugee status within the United Kingdom and not send them back to an unknown and often dangerous future. Overall, my experience at the Children’s Legal Centre was a rewarding and informational experience.



### **Johnathon Rex Marvel – Botswana Court of Appeals (Lobatse, Botswana)**

This summer I had the opportunity to clerk at the highest Court in the Nation of Botswana. In this position I was able to learn about a different culture and socio-legal issues in Southern Africa. My clerkship gave me a deep insight into the Commonwealth legal system utilized by all of the former British colonies. Further, this experience gave me an opportunity to learn from former and current judges in the highest courts of the Nations of Botswana, Bahamas, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The Court of Appeal is housed in Lobatse, Botswana but next summer the court will be moving into a new courthouse in the capital city of Gaborone. The sessions are split in half with criminal appeals during the first two weeks and civil appeals during the last two weeks. My duties included but were not limited to; conducting legal research, preparing memos, writing decisions, attending court proceedings and discussing cases with the judges. Overall this was an amazing opportunity to learn about a different culture and legal system in the very welcoming Nation of Botswana.

### **Anna Lammert – Botswana High Court (Lobatse, Botswana)**

I worked in Lobatse, Botswana for Judge David Newman during the summer of 2010. Working as a judicial clerk for the High Court of Botswana was an excellent opportunity to put my legal knowledge into practice. The first hand experience, personal attention from Judge Newman and the opportunity to engage in a foreign legal system was invaluable. The legal knowledge and experience gained has undoubtedly prepared me for not only the continuation of my law school career but also for my future career in the law. I would recommend this internship to anyone interested in international law and an in depth legal experience





### **Jong Son & Jared Hess – Dow & Associates (Mochudi/Gaborone, Botswana)**

We spent the summer interning for Unity Dow, a human rights activist-lawyer, and a former judge on the High Court of Botswana. She has recently opened up her new law firm in both Gaborone, the capital city, and in Mochudi, a small village about an hour away. We spent most of our time at the Mochudi office working on client files. Legal work consisted of writing briefs and memos on a wide range of cases covering topics such as: land and property disputes, check fraud, child-custody cases, trust-drafting, immigration, labor law, defamation, children's rights, usury & predatory lending, products liability, and illegal search and seizure.



### **Sapphire Diamante-Rink – Indian Law Resource Center (Helena, Montana)**

I was a Sidley Fellow at the Indian Law Resource Center in Helena, Montana. The ILRC is a non-profit human rights organization that provides legal assistance to Indian and Alaska Native nations to protect their lands, resources, human rights, environments and cultural heritage. During my fellowship, I worked on researching the following: good neighbor agreements in the context of resource extraction on or near Native lands; the trafficking of Native women and children; tribal civil protection orders; domestic violence issues; civil remedies against non-native perpetrators in Indian Country, and supporting the U.S. adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I wrote a draft shadow report regarding U.S. treatment of Natives under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



**David Plona – Centro de Derechos Humanos, Universidad Diego Portales (Santiago, Chile)**

I observed and participated in the Center's clinic advising offices and informational programs; reviewed personal cases, worked with teams of immigrants, and prepared a report on the current status of Chilean domestic immigration law under international standards. I formulated a thesis focused on comparison between the labor standards present in the most current Chile-China Free Trade Agreement and those contained in its US-Chile counterpart. These agreements were then compared to International Labour Organization standards to which Chile was legally bound and recommendations were drawn for future domestic legislation. This research will be used in October as part of an information briefing for a visiting professor from England. I translated Center's website which will soon be updated to include an English version. Having the website offered in English will give the Center more exposure in the Human Rights field and internationally.



**Heather Johnson – Defensoría del Pueblo (*Human Rights Ombudsman*) (La Paz, Bolivia)**

I worked at the Defensoría del Pueblo (human rights ombudsman) in La Paz, Bolivia. I worked in the special section for women's rights researching current child support law from a women's rights perspective. I also worked with local NGOs to find statistics and court documents of recent cases. I wrote a paper reviewing the current law and statistics and recommending changes to the Bolivian legislature which will re-write the family law code sometime next year. I also sat in on meetings with indigenous group leaders, community meetings and a workshop



teaching judges about women's rights and the international treaties, like CEDAW, that Bolivia has ratified.



**Curt Eilers and Grace Perrin – Women's Watch China (Beijing, China)**

Women's Watch China is a NGO that focuses on women's rights in rural land rights, domestic violence, and various work related issues such as migrant workers' rights, sexual harassment, and mandatory retirement age. In China, NGOs cannot exist without the sponsorship of another organization, Women's Watch China is under the sponsorship of a law firm called Qianqian Law Firm which litigates cases in the same area as Women's Watch China. Women's Watch China focused mostly on policy while the law firm litigated cases. We did not hold a Chinese visa, so both of us were unable to witness the litigation side of their work, but we were able to work on various newsletters, reports, and cases that went into their policy work. In addition to working at Women's Watch, we also traveled to Shanghai for the 2010 Expo and to Japan.