South Africa Study Abroad and Summer Public Interest Opportunities

Global Public Interest Law & Conflict Resolution Fellows:
Africa Initiative

The Washington University Africa Public Interest Law & Conflict Resolution Initiative is a student and faculty project begun in 2002 to assist law students and faculty with a desire to work and study in Africa, and to foster courses and programs on Africa at Washington University.

AFRICA SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST LAW INTERNSHIPS

Six Washington University Law students interned with NGOs, government offices, and courts in Africa in summer 2019, for the 18th year, through the law school’s Global Public Interest Law Fellows—Africa summer internship program, coordinated by Professor Karen Tokarz. The program has helped to place over 200 WU law students for summer internships in South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Somalia, Kenya, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda. The 2018 team of students worked with Legal Aid and the Legal Resources Centre in Durban, South Africa. The 2018 team of students worked with Legal Aid and the Legal Resources Centre in Durban, South Africa. The 2018 team of students worked with Legal Aid and the Legal Resources Centre in Durban, South Africa. The 2018 team of students worked with Legal Aid and the Legal Resources Centre in Durban, South Africa.

AFRICA SEMESTER-IN-PRACTICE

Washington University Law students may intern abroad for a semester through the school’s International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field Placement (10-12 cr.), coordinated by Professors Tokarz and Sadat. Marla Borkson, JD'17, interned at Legal Aid in Durban, South Africa, in fall 2016 and Assatou Barry, JD'15, interned at the Legal Resources Center in Durban, South Africa in fall 2014. Nacente Seabury, JD’14, interned at FIDA-Ghana Legal Services in Accra in fall 2013. Over a dozen WU law students interned at the ICTR between 2005-2016, including Annie Schlapprizzi, JD’13, and Natasha Wilson, JD’14 in fall 2012; Ilunga Kalala, JD’13, and Jenny Wren Morris, JD’13, in spring 2012; Jack Wilkerson, JD’12, in spring 2011; Lola Oguntebi, JD’11, in fall 2010; and Sarah Placek, JD/MSW’10, in spring 2010.

AFRICA STUDY ABROAD

Washington University has two law student exchange programs in South Africa, with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and the University of Pretoria. Like Washington University, UKZN is a leader in clinical education and dispute resolution, while Pretoria boasts a number of influential research centers, including the Centre for Human Rights.

WUSOL 2018 interns with Professor Karen Tokarz (far left) and High Court attorney T.P. Pillay (far right): Michael Moore, Jayne Ratliff, Kate Upton, Megan Ferguson (front); Craig Ismaill, Kyle Smith, Auriel Kirkland, Derek Van Beseelaere (back).
SOUTH AFRICA: Karen Tokarz, Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law and Director, Negotiation and Dispute Resolution Program, has traveled to South Africa every year since 2001. She published “Advancing Social Justice Through ADR and Clinical Legal Education in India, South Africa, and the U.S.” in The Global Clinical Movement (Oxford University Press 2011). She spent a semester working with the clinical program at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa in fall 2001 and was a Fulbright Senior Specialist at UKZN in 2008, assisting the law faculty on the development of their ADR curriculum and masters program. She presented “Forty Years of Clinical Legal Education in South Africa: Looking Back, Looking Forward” at the Conference on Law and Access to Justice at UKZN in December 2012.

PRIMARY STUDENT INTERNSHIP SITES IN AFRICA

The Legal Aid Board of South Africa provides independent, low cost legal help on both civil and criminal matters to indigent South Africans, with several justice centers. legal-aid.co.za

Lawyers for Human Rights—South Africa is an independent human rights organization with six clinics in South Africa providing free legal services to immigrants and refugees. lhr.org.za

Legal Resources Centre in Durban, South Africa, seeks to advance constitutional and human rights through impact litigation, law reform, education, and community partnerships. lrc.org.za

Legal Resources Centre in Accra, Ghana, one of the oldest and largest non-governmental, human rights organizations in Ghana, works with communities to ensure human rights, social progress, and development. www.lrc-ghan.org. lrcghana.org

FIDA-Ghana Legal Aid Services (The International Federation of Women Lawyers) in Accra provides legal advice and representation, legal literacy programs, and legislative reform related to indigent women and children. www.fidaghana.org

International Labour Organization (ILO) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is an international U.N. organization that brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers. iol.org

U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which sat in Arusha, Tanzania, was established for the prosecution of persons responsible for genocide in Rwanda in 1994. unictr.org.

Global Public Interest Law Fellows: Africa Public Interest Law & Conflict Resolution Initiative

Professor Karen Tokarz (far right) with Adam Carroll, Jackie Ebert, Adrian Camino, Megan Reif, Courtney Farmer, and Tobin Rau at Tala Game Reserve outside Durban in summer 2015.

Professor Karen Tokarz (left) with Kershwyn Bassuday, UKZN exchange student, at Washington University in spring 2008.

Calvin Hwang, Neil Naik, Eleanor Forbes, Lilia Tyrrell, and Wesley Schooler visited the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa in summer 2006.

Ibadat Dhillon (right) interned at the Children’s Rights Centre in summer 2004 and consulted on global public health issues in Dar es Salaam after graduation.

Joe Whitfield (right) interviewed immigration and refuge clients at Lawyers for Human Rights in Durban, South Africa in summer 2009.

Tim Cowan, Nicole Gougeon, Shey Cobb, and Adeola Adekunle (center back row) and Professor Karen Tokarz (center, front row) at Legal Aid in Durban in summer 2016.

Ibadat Dhillon (right) interned at the Children’s Rights Centre in summer 2004 and consulted on global public health issues in Dar es Salaam after graduation.

Professor Karen Tokarz (far right) with Adam Carroll, Jackie Ebert, Adrian Camino, Megan Reif, Courtney Farmer, and Tobin Rau at Tala Game Reserve outside Durban in summer 2015.

Tom Burgess (back, second from left) interned at Black Sash in summer 2008, returned to Cape Town after graduation in 2010 to teach English and peace-building skills.

Natasha Wilson (right) interned at Care International in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in summer 2012, and also interned at the ICTR in the fall semester 2012.

Ibadat Dhillon (right) interned at the Children’s Rights Centre in summer 2004 and consulted on global public health issues in Dar es Salaam after graduation.

Joe Whitfield (right) interviewed immigration and refuge clients at Lawyers for Human Rights in Durban, South Africa in summer 2009.
AFRICA LECTURES & SEMINARS


SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI IN AFRICA

Several Washington University Law alums have returned to Africa to work after graduation. McCaU Carter, JD’10, LLM’11, a graduate of the Transnational Law Program, works with the U.N., Rule of Law peace-keeping mission in South Sudan. Deborah Rogo, JD’09, who interned for the Legal Resources Centre in Kampala, Uganda, and at the ICTR on the Transition to the Residual Mechanism. Sena de Tutu, JSD’07, now on the University of Ghana law faculty, previously worked with the Rule of Law and Governance section of the U.N. Mission in Liberia, engaged in training of judges, magistrates, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials. Ibadat Dhillon, JD’06, who focused on HIV/AIDS issues while interning at the Children’s Rights Centre in Durban, South Africa in summer 2004, consulted on global public health issues with Danida in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Edgar Mason, JD’04, who interned with UKZN in Durban in the first year of the Africa Initiative, was a Senior Regional Governance Specialist at USAID West Africa, based in Accra. Alex Hendler, JD’03, a former Webster Scholar based in Dar es Salaam worked to set up an online documentation center for Tanzanian High Court decisions. Brian Shukan, JD’94, was the Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in Casablanca, Morocco until July 2014.

For more information about Africa opportunities, contact: Professor Karen Tokarz, Director, Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program tokarz@wulaw.wustl.edu. The South Africa Summer Internship Guide, developed by past summer interns, can be found at: http://law.wustl.edu/clinicaled/africa/samanual2013.pdf
The Latin America and Europe Public Interest Law & Conflict Resolution is a student and faculty project begun in 2008 to assist Washington University Law students and faculty with a desire to learn, study, research, or work in Latin America and Europe; to foster educational programs and courses on Latin America and Europe at the university; and to advance human rights, conflict resolution, and the rule of law in Latin America and Europe.

Summer and Post-Graduate Public Interest Internships in Latin America and Europe

Chile: In the summer following his first year of law school, Ryan Landry, JD ’21, interned with Fiscalia del Medio Ambiente (FIMA), a local environmental law organization in Santiago, Chile. The eleventh Washington University student to intern at FIMA, he engaged in broad-based environmental advocacy, writing grant proposals and conducting legal research on projects affecting indigenous communities and the environment. Rocky Esposito, JD ’20, interned in summer 2018; Kendall Reeves, JD ’18, interned in summer 2016; Melanie Lee, JD ’19, interned with FIMA in summer 2015; Rachel Dowd, JD ’16, interned in summer 2014; Claire Melvin, JD ’15, interned in summer 2013; and Junko Nozawa, JD/LLM ’13, interned for six months after graduation in spring and summer 2013. Camila Maturana, JD ’12, did a six-month internship in fall and winter 2012 after her graduation, made possible through a post-graduate stipend provided by the Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program and the Career Services Office. Caitlin McCoy, JD ’14, interned in summer 2012; David Dill, JD ’13, interned in summer 2011; and Matt Thomas, JD ’10, spent a year interning at the organization following his graduation.

Ashlin Mosby, JD ’15, interned in summer 2014 with Centro de Estudios de las Americas, and interned in summer 2013 with the Juan Guzman Foundation in Santiago, Chile, where she assisted a well-known former judge in capacity-building efforts through the development of a bilingual manual to educate civil society on human rights.

Panama and Brazil: Rachel Robinson, JD ’17, and Ryan Baebler, JD ’15, interned in summers 2015 and 2013, respectively, in Panama City, Panama, with Transparency International, a global civil society organization that fights corruption and fosters transparency. Colin Stapleton, JD ’15, interned in Panama City in summer 2013 at the Comision de Justicia y Paz. Diogo Metz, JD, ’14, interned in São Paulo, Brazil in summer 2012 with Connectas Human Rights, the human rights arm of the Instituto Pro Bono.

Melanie Lee, JD ’17 (third row, far right) hiked in the Andes with co-workers in summer 2015 while interning for FIMA in Santiago.

Rachel Dowd, JD ’16 (back row, left) and Junko Nozawa, JD ’12/LLM’13 (back row, second from left) with fellow interns and staff at Fiscalia del Medio Ambiente (FIMA) in Santiago, Chile in summer 2014.

“Without the strength of the Washington University network and the willingness of faculty to reach out on my behalf, I would not have been able to intern with FIMA, an environmental NGO in Chile.”
-David Dill, JD ’13, Easter Island, Chile.

Ryan Baebler, JD ’15, (front row, far left) met with officers at the National Police Academy during his internship in Panama City, Panama in summer 2013.
Latin American Coursework
While in St. Louis, students can learn more about Latin American law and politics through a wide array of courses taught by Law School faculty and distinguished visiting scholars. Recent offerings include: **Latin American Legal and Judicial Systems** was taught in fall 2016 by Juan Del Valle, LLM, from Colombia, who also teaches **Contract Negotiations: Bargaining Across the Americas** every year; **Immigration Law**, taught by Professor Stephen Legomsky, who served as chief counsel for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Obama Administration; **Transnational Migration and Citizenship**, taught by Professor Gonçalo Matias, Assistant Professor at the Catholic University of Portugal School of Law and Legal Advisor to the President of Portugal; and **Chile and United States**, taught by Hugo Hurtado, partner at Beltramin Hurtado in Santiago, Chile. Students also may, with Registrar approval, take up to 6 hours of related graduate-level coursework in other schools across the University.

Latin America Speakers & Events
David Lopez, General Counsel, EEOC, presented “Title XII: An American Conversation on Workplace Equality” in fall 2016 and Xavier de Souza Briggs, V.P., Ford Foundation, Economic Opportunity & Assets Program presented “Toward a Just and Inclusive America” in spring 2015. The Latin America and Europe Initiative co-sponsored a talk by Professor Jim Cavallaro, Stanford University Law School, on “The Toxic Effects of Drone Strikes” and a talk by Thomas Saenz, General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, in spring 2014 on “America’s Critical Immigrant Workforce.” All of these talks were conjunction with the Public Interest Law and Policy Speaker Series.

Alumni Spotlight

Fullbright Scholar Silvana Del Valle, LLM ’10, JSD ’15, analyzed the effect of neoliberal principles on Chilean domestic violence statutes for her JSD dissertation. A native of Santiago, Chile, Del Valle compared the approaches of several US states with the gender laws in her home country.

Nicole Solawetz Cortés, MSW/JD ’12 and Jessica Mayo, JD ’12, launched the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project (M.I.C.A.), a St. Louis-based, public interest law organization providing legal services and assistance to low-income migrants and immigrants in southeastern Missouri and southern Illinois in fall 2012. The MICA Project provides in-court representation of clients, legal assistance with applications to the U.S. immigration authorities, and community building programs.

For more information, contact:
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Director, Whitney Harris World Law Institute
Karen Tokarz, Tokarz@wustl.edu
Director, Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program
The South East Asia Public Interest Law & Conflict Resolution Initiative is a student and faculty project begun in 2007 to assist Washington University Law students and faculty with a desire to intern, study, research, or work in South East Asia; to foster educational programs and courses on South East Asia at the university; and to advance human rights, conflict resolution, and access to justice in South East Asia. Since 2007, approximately 30 Washington University Law students have interned, studied, or worked in China, Korea, India, Thailand, Nepal and Cambodia. Students can intern in the summer for ten weeks for legal aid, public interest law organizations, courts and tribunals in South East Asia. Students also can study or intern in South East Asia for credit for a semester. In their placements, interns frequently engage in client interviewing and counseling, community education, negotiation and dispute resolution, human rights research and policy reporting, prison visits, trial preparation, and/or appellate brief writing.

Summer Public Interest Internships in South East Asia

Nepal: In early summer 2015, Marla Borkson, JD’17, interned in Kathmandu, Nepal with the America Nepal Medical Foundation, which places Nepali and American doctors in disaster zones and distributes supplies and commodities to trauma centers, hospitals and affected areas. Borkson, who previously interned in Nepal, assisted with logistics, coordination, accounting and advising, and helping hospitals and village clinics to secure supplies. She also volunteered with Tribhuvan University’s law department and the Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (LACC), which provides free legal-aid service for women and children in the cities and villages.

In summer 2015, Marla Borkson, JD’17, interned in Nepal in summer 2015.

China: Marla Borkson, JD’17, interned at the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu, China, in the latter part of summer 2015, where she assisted with consular affairs such as American Citizen Services and Non Immigrant Visas. She also interned with the U.S. State Department in Shanghai, China in summer 2016, where she assisted with the G-20 Summit.

In summer 2018, Robin Liu, JD ‘20, and Cheug Lyu, JD ‘20 interned at the Beijing Arbitration Commission (BAC) in Beijing, China where the law school has been placing interns for the past six years. BAC is a nongovernmental organization that facilitates the resolution of cross-border, international commercial disputes. He conducted pre-hearing preparations, observed arbitrations and mediations, translated legal publications and arbitration awards, participated in moot arbitrations, and researched enforcement of international arbitration awards. Tae Min Li, JD’17, interned in summer 2015. Natalie Szlarb, JD’16, Qingwang Wu, JD’15, William Shim, JD’14, and Chen Hong, JD’14, spent the summers of 2014 and 2013, respectively, at BAC where they participated in the arbitration processes, conducted pre-hearing preparations, and assisted with voluntary mediations under the supervision of assigned attorneys.

In summer 2013, Ben Self, JD’15, worked at Zhicheng Public Interest Law in Beijing, China. Zhicheng is a NGO that manages the Beijing Children’s Legal Aid & Research Center, the Beijing Migrant Workers Legal Aid & Research Center, the Rural Area Rule of Law Research Institute, and the Criminal Legal Aid Research Center. These organizations provide direct legal services to clients, draft legislative suggestions to different government agencies, promote legal responsibility in China, and engage in community outreach projects.
Korea: Nicole Gougeon, JD’18, interned at the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board in Seoul in summer 2017. Cherrie Kim, JD’15 interned in Seoul in summer 2014 for the Merry Year Social Company/Foundation, a non-profit that provides micro loans and social enterprise assistance to defectors from North Korea. Cherrie conducted research on impact investing by public-interest organizations, coordinated a workshop with individuals who shifted from the private sector to pursue public interest careers, and translated information for foreign guests.

McCall Carter, JD’07, Ajay Sharma, JD’07, Lorilei Williams, JD’07, and Lauren Roberts JD’07, interned with the Northern Church of India. In summer 2007, Brittany Davis, JD’06, Zachary Armfield, JD’05, and Josh Gammon, JD’05, interned at HRLN in Delhi.

India: In summer of 2013, Mark Phillip, JD’15, interned at the Bangalore field office for International Justice Mission (IJM) in India. IJM is a human rights organization dedicated to eradicating various forms of injustice across the world. The Bangalore field office is specifically concentrated on fighting the presence of bonded labour in India. Mark worked on an appeal to the High Court of Karnataka, and drafted letters and other documents for government officials. In summer 2012, Roop Bhatia, JD’14, interned with the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) in the Delhi office, which is also the headquarters for the organization. Interns engage in fact-finding and research on cases and projects involving HIV/AIDS, disability, trafficking, and other human rights issues. In summer 2010, Michael Gulinello, JD’12, interned with Samata, a non-governmental organization that focuses on advocacy and development issues such as land alienation, displacement, and political disempowerment among tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh, with the goal of upholding the traditional, constitutional, and human rights of the tribal or adivasi people. In summer 2009,

Semester Internships/Study Abroad

Students can spend a semester abroad interning thorough the International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field Placement (10-12 cr.) under the supervision of Professors Karen Tokarz or Leila Sadat. In spring 2017, Rickpaul Vander, JD’17, interned at the Singapore International Arbitration Commission. In Students also can study abroad for a semester with an existing Washington University partner institution or another school on an ad-hoc basis. Students interested in studying abroad should inquire with Dean Michael Koby to learn of current opportunities.

South East Asian Speakers & Events

Kenji Yoshino, New York University Law School, presented “Covering: The Hidden Assault on our Civil Rights” at noon on September 8, 2014 in Graham Chapel, as well as a talk in the law school on the same day.

For more information, contact:

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