### International News

“Our mission is to educate diverse, talented students to be responsible leaders in a rapidly changing, interdependent world, to prepare graduates who will be ethical advocates for justice and the rule of law....”

(School of Law Mission Statement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Abroad Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>London Comparative Advocacy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 27-Jan. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chile</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4-10, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkey</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4-10, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Connect with Int’l News Online!**

“Like” the new facebook page: “Loyola Chicago International Law programs”

---

**In This Issue:**

**STUDENT SUMMER EXPERIENCES!**—Rome Summer Program (1), Strasbourg (2), Beijing (3), Summer Work Experiences (4-8), Writing Competition Information (8)

---

**Rome**

*By: Christina Cecchini*

Right now Rome is just a nostalgic memory to many of the student’s here at Loyola. Being in Rome this summer was an experience we are going to cherish for a lifetime. The friends we made, the food we ate, and the culture we experienced were amazing.

We began living like the Romans. The culture was overflowing just like the fine wine seen on every table. The passion Italians have for life really inspired me to look at the world through different eyes. We were engrossed in this culture for an entire month and so we began to eat at the authentic, non-touristy places, hang out with other Italians, and master their public transportation system.

Whether it was finding the best gelato, enjoying the wine, or taste testing the various pizza joints, Italy’s food was hands-down the most amazing experience of the trip. Walking through the Colosseum and Roman Forum, touring the Vatican, taking pictures of the gorgeous St. Peter’s Basilica, learning about the ancient Pantheon, throwing a coin into the Trevi Fountain, and racing up to the top of Castel Sant’Angelo were among only part of our adventures in the city.

Many students engaged in side trips to explore other cities of Italy. Our most memorable side trip was to the Amalfi Coast. The majority of students journeyed to this small city embedded in the mountain overlooking the sea. This paradise was Positano. There we ventured to the island of Capri, indulged in seafood, and sipped wine sitting on our balcony that overlooked the coast. On our way back to Rome we stopped in Sorrento for a Panini, a tour through Pompeii, and ate pizza in Naples.

A special thanks to “Dean Jean” Gaspardo and the other faculty who made it possible to meet L’Avvocato Caramazza, the Attorney General of Rome, and to attend a Papal audience mass in St. Peter’s square. The close friendships we made on this trip will be treasured, and the sights seen and food eaten will never be forgotten.
Strasbourg
By: Christina Cecchini

Though the name “Strasbourg” tends to connote a city of German origin, today the city is a part of French territory. However, Strasbourg has fallen under German rule in the past and because of which continues to possess a unique array of both French and German culture.

Two friends and I arrived in Strasbourg from a quick weekend stint in Geneva, Switzerland, with one minute to spare before our first Comparative law class with Dean Faught and Dean Kaufman. We were glad to see that the Deans recognized we hadn’t yet made the switch from the infamous ‘Italian time’ (Arrive ten minutes late; you’re on time). I was also happy to find that the temperature in Strasbourg had dropped nearly 30 degrees from Rome. This may have been the first time in my life I had embraced such a drastic cold front.

Our first night in Strasbourg we ate together as a group along with “Dean Jean” Gaspardo, Dean Faught and Dean Kaufman. That evening we ventured to a small wine bar in a quaint part of the city known as La Petite France. The talk amongst the students was that the area served as the setting for Beauty and the Beast. While Wikipedia tells me otherwise, it’s fair to say that the backdrop which included cobblestone roads and iron window terraces had striking similarities to Gaston’s stomping ground.

While Strasbourg is seemingly quiet and pristine, several powerful European institutions sit in striking contrast to the medieval town. As a supplement to our time spent inside the classroom, we were fortunate enough to visit several of these institutions, including the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and The European Court of Human Rights. We also took an over-night trip to Luxembourg to visit the European Court of Justice. Being in a town completely immersed in history while visiting these relatively modern European bodies, provided an ideal sense of European past, present and future.

I’ve never been afforded the opportunity to do and see so much in just seven short days, and I, along with the rest of our group, took complete advantage of everything Strasbourg had to offer. We found a small wine and bread bar the second night of our trip which became our staple for the rest of the week. Our waitress had just found out that she had successfully completed her final law school requirements; and we found it only fitting to celebrate with her.

On our last night in Strasbourg as a group, we had one final dinner together along the canal. However, a number of us were not quite ready to part ways with the city, and decided to extend our stay an extra night in order to tour the Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-Strasbourg and get in one last round of crepes. While our time in Strasbourg was seemingly short-lived, the city’s unique European composition along with the close bonds we formed with other students and Loyola administration made it a high-light of our studies in Europe.
Beijing
By: Kevin Lastres

We flew against the sun, thirteen hours through the light. I cracked open my window shade, glimpsing Canadian plains, Alaskan glaciers, arctic ice flows, Russian tundra and Chinese mountains before landing in Beijing, the Chinese capital and my home for the next four weeks.

Once we landed, we flew through customs. “Dean Jean” Gaspardo greeted us at the airport and our bus whisked us off to the first of many excellent Chinese meals: family style sharing, food on a “Lazy Susan,” warm soda, a no “double-dipping” rule, and chopsticks (which I never quite mastered). After dinner, we retired to the University of International Business and Economics, always called UIBE. We stayed in clean rooms – thanks to daily efforts by UIBE staff – with hardwood floors, an entry room, individual air conditioners, and most importantly, “western style” bathrooms. After meeting my roommate and before nodding off, I reflected that my summer session was off to a good start.

I had considered going to Rome or Beijing the year before, but decided studying abroad might interfere with my summer internship. When I found out my internship would not start for weeks after school ended, I kicked myself, saying “I could have studied in China.” I resolved not to repeat my mistake, and decided then that I would study abroad after my 2L year, one of only a few to do so; I never regretted going.

As the summer continued, I woke up early each morning, looking forward to one of the four classes the group shared during the summer session, every one interesting and connected to our trip and taught by professors as excited as we to be in China. Every morning Dean Jean brought us pastries, and we had an opportunity to reflect on the previous day’s excursion or exploration before we finished class and saw more of China, from historical sites like the Confucius Temple to modern urbanity like Sanlitun Village. We visited temples and pagodas, Xi’an and Shanghai, museums, law firms, Tiananmen Square, and of course, the Great Wall. Two justices from the Supreme People’s Court took the time to meet the class and answer questions about the ever-evolving Chinese legal system.

Groups of us spontaneously explored China out of the University’s four gates, finding excellent and very inexpensive restaurants wherever we went, ranging from concrete-floored noodle shops to marble walled restaurants, all within a short walk. Our first week, a group of us tried an Indian restaurant in Beijing’s Sanlitun Village and marveled at the incongruity of eating Indian food in China.

I marveled throughout the trip at Beijing’s apparent safety, watching people pass through alleys and count money in front of the ATM without a second thought. I also came to appreciate the residents’ patience as we fumbled with subway cards and butchered the Chinese language. The only truly rude behavior came when bartering for gifts; even the most respectful salespeople sell sharply.

My trip to China was one of my life’s greatest experiences. I don’t know if I will ever have the opportunity to go back, though I know another trip won’t live up to the memories I have from Study Abroad – Beijing 2011.
Programa de Equidad de Genero del Poder Judicial de la Federacion: Mexico City
(The Federal Judiciary’s Gender Equality Program)
By: Jessica Sanchez

Thanks to Loyola’s International Program’s Committee I had the privilege of interning in Mexico City this Summer, with the Mexican Federal Government’s Gender Equality Program. Begun in 2008, the program works within what we know as the Judicial branch of the Federal government to integrate a “gender perspective” throughout the internal and external functions of the Judiciary.

As an intern I contributed by translating and briefing international cases to be uploaded to the Program’s online database, as well as helping restructure the Program’s webpage to improve public access. In return, my colleagues shared with me many of the intricacies of their legal system, along with the creation of the Program and what it means to implement a gender perspective.

Now, this concept of “gender perspective” may not sound like a big deal, but really it’s an innovative step towards a completely new outlook in the Mexican legal system. In brief, to consider a gender perspective means taking into account that which would cause an impartial viewpoint due to stereotypical gender roles and thus evaluate a case without bias. The Program recognizes the fact that Mexican culture as a whole has been traditionally male dominated and thus has influenced an imbalance amongst gender roles in everything from the household to the workplace. Furthermore, the Program focuses on equipping courts with a gender perspective in hearing the cases that come before them.

At the office I shared a cubicle with a good friend and colleague, Selene Cruz Alcala, whose job included research and investigation (and was previously employed in the office of the President of the Mexican Supreme Court). She was generous enough to let me pick her brain and answer all of my inquiries about the law. Furthermore, Selene exchanged her knowledge of her home state’s law (Oaxaca) and gave me an intimate tour of the Mexican Supreme Court, where I was fortunate enough to sit in on an historical hearing with the court sitting en banc.

As an intern it was remarkable to step into an office full of high powered attorneys striving for this type of change. All the more rewarding was the fact that the majority of the attorneys were females. I had the pleasure of making wonderful friends, who contributed their innovative knowledge to my experience. As a Mexican-American, It was an eye-opening experience that enriched my understanding about Mexican culture, its law and how it compares to our legal system.

Center for Constitutional Rights: New York, New York
By: Andrew Bashi

With support from Loyola’s International Law Fellowship stipend, I spent 10 weeks this summer as an Ella Baker Fellow at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York, NY. Founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South, CCR is a non-profit legal and educational organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change and as a means of advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

CCR created the Ella Baker Summer Internship Program in the spring of 1987 in honor of Ella Baker, a hero of the civil rights movement. The Ella Baker program, created out of the need to provide students with training and a background in movements for social change, is more than an internship. Instead, it is an intensive summer training program for the next generation of social justice lawyers.

The program included numerous events that introduced my colleagues and I to many different legal mechanisms valuable to lawyers in the human rights field. Training sessions included a daylong training on engaging with United Nations human rights mechanisms and a Freedom of Information Act training, among many others. We also had the opportunity to view numerous documentaries pertaining to international human rights issues including the assassination of journalists in Chechnya, the treatment of children in Guantanamo Bay, and the occupation of Palestine.
My legal work focused primarily on two issues, the legal implications of the American practice of targeted killing in Yemen, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan and on the intersection between the Constitution and animal rights activism. While the legal training I attained was immense, intense, and absolutely invaluable, the most valuable piece of this program for me personally was the ability to interact so closely with the staff at CCR. Their experiences and brilliance radiate through them and their work. Perhaps most critical to my own development, they have introduced me to the realities so often ignored in ordinary law school pedagogy; that while the law is sometimes a tool for attaining social justice, it is also often a weapon for great injustice. These truths have fermented within me the importance of refusing to perceive the law in itself as the be-all and end-all solution to issues affecting our world but instead as one tool among many. In the end, it stresses how critical it is for lawyers to work closely with social movements to create an effective force prepared to create a better world.

Electoral Reform in Khartoum, Sudan
by Suzanne Hilal

This summer I spent 8 weeks interning with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Sudan working on electoral reform. Based in Washington DC, NDI is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization which supports democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world. NDI works with its local partners to establish and strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections and promote citizen participation, openness and government accountability.

Following Sudan’s National Elections and Referendum on the secession of the South, the northern Sudanese government has begun to review its electoral process. Working in both English and Arabic under NDI’s inclusive electoral review program I collaborated with its local partner, the Sudanese Group for Democracy and Elections (SuGDE), on improving Sudan’s current electoral process. SuGDE is a coalition of six independent, non-partisan organizations that work with civil society organizations across the North of Sudan to encourage free, fair and non-violent elections and democracy. In a joint effort with its southern counterpart, Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE), they organized the largest Sudan-wide domestic monitoring effort.

Drawing on observation findings by SuGDE’s own observers, reports written by national and international organizations and recommendations made by key political parties we generated a matrix detailing Sudan’s current electoral system and the shortcomings voters and election officials faced during the recent Sudanese elections. The recommendations detailed in the matrix will be presented at a round table discussion at the Electoral Reform Conference next month and will also form the basis of a report that will be presented to the controlling government bodies with the aim of improving the Sudanese electoral process in the future.

Spending this summer in Sudan working with NDI and grassroots organizations was a truly rewarding experience. I was presented with a unique opportunity to work with a range of community leaders and activists while contributing to a project that will have a major impact on the lives of the Sudanese people. On a more personal note it was amazing to be back in my country at such a historic moment and to share in the excitement and hopes for a new and democratic Sudan.
UNICEF Ghana
by Ann Park

I spent 10 weeks in Accra as a summer intern at the Child Protection Department of UNICEF Ghana. I participated in the National Child Protection Committee Meeting, where representatives from Unicef, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the Ministry of Justice, and other NGOs all gathered to collaborate on developing a holistic national child protection policy that integrates all child protection and juvenile policies. It was a great chance to learn about the policy making process.

Among many projects, I was able to work on Juvenile Justice issues. Ghana is in the process of developing its juvenile justice policy guidelines after the assessment of the weaknesses and strengths of its juvenile justice system. I worked with a Pro Bono attorney for UNICEF to develop the guidelines tailored to Ghana’s existing system in compliance with the CRC. I personally became most drawn to Ghana’s efforts to ratify of the Hague Convention on Intercountry adoption. Ghana faces challenges in protecting children from child sale/trafficking mainly due to the lack of effective management of the system. The Hague Convention provides guidelines that the government of Ghana could follow to ensure the best interest of the child in adoption process. I proposed to write an assessment report on Ghana’s current intercountry adoption system and provide recommendations as to the successful implementation of the Hague Convention in the system. While in Ghana, I researched the Hague Convention, met with the DSW officials in charge of intercountry adoption and consulted with experts from international adoption agencies who are acquainted with other nations’ ratification process of the Hague Convention.

The most memorable experience I had in Ghana, besides all the mini-excursions to different regions, is when I visited the new Ivorian Refugee Camps in the western region of Ghana. The biggest camp in Ampain had 3000 refugees, and it faced challenges due to the lack of amenities whereas more refugees continue to cross the border. Except the one in Ampain, the other camps still lack resources to meet everyone’s needs, and children do not have a school or places to play. Although the refugees left most of what they had in Ivory Coast, grievance was not a common scene; the people are filled with a strong will to do well in the new country. People were so friendly, and children were smiley.

I was able to learn different skills throughout the internship, and it provided me with a chance to affirm my passion to work for children’s interests in my legal career. Despite all the challenges that children in Ghana were facing, I was grateful to find out people’s efforts to protect children.
A Life-Changing Summer in Pune, India
by Christopher Ohlgart

This summer I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work for TATA Technologies, a subsidiary of TATA Motors, which is part of the TATA Group. However, this opportunity came to me as a sudden surprise, and I found out on June 1<sup>st</sup> that I would be leaving for India on June 12<sup>th</sup>; therefore I had to prepare myself mentally for a summer abroad in India. I arrived in Mumbai, India around 2 A.M., and from the airport I had to take a 3 hour taxi ride through the mountains to get to Pune, India where I would be working and living all summer.

It is easy to say that I don’t think there are any traffic rules that drivers have to follow in India. The 3 hour drive was absolutely terrifying because drivers honk the horn at each other every two seconds, if someone is driving too slowly in front of them, they just shine their brights at them, signaling them to move over, and when changing lanes no one uses a blinker. When I finally arrived to the corporate campus of TATA Technologies, I was fortunate to find out that I would be living only 10 feet away from the office. Working there was amazing, and although it took me a little while to understand the heavy Indian accent, I eventually became great friends with the legal team.

My workday consisted of arriving at 8 A.M. to the office, and then the company supplying a free Indian breakfast, which was rice with spices and a few other sides. Then we would work until around 10:30 A.M, and then have a tea break outside to have a chance to interact with other employees. It is not hard to say that India has some of the best tasting tea in the world. At around 1:00 P.M. every employee of TATA Technologies was provided with a free lunch in the cafeteria, which was very good Indian food (except it could be very spicy, which always gave my co-workers a good laugh watching me sweat and chug water to try to stop the burning). At around 3 P.M., we had another tea break, and then everyone finishes off the day working as late as they want to.

I asked one of the lawyers—why take tea breaks? He simply answered that it is a chance for them to step away from their work, and just enjoy fresh air and each other’s company. In addition, he said that if he is stuck with an idea or problem, that stepping away for a few minutes helped clear his head, which allowed him to take a new approach when he got back to his work. I can confidently say that I have never seen any group of people work harder and more efficiently than my co-workers.

I was lucky enough to have another intern from Singapore stay in the guest house with me. His name was Ivan, and he had been in India already for a month by the time I had arrived. This was great for me because he could show me around Pune and all of the good site-seeing spots. It took about 45 minutes to get into Pune from the campus even though the city was only about 12 miles away. We would take tut-tuts (the three-wheeled mini-bike taxis that you have probably seen on TV) into the city. The first time I went to Pune, everyone kept staring at me and yelling things at me. Our Indian friend kept telling them in Hindi to leave me alone. I asked her what they wanted, and she said that they wanted to take pictures with me (I guess they aren’t used to seeing a 6’5” blonde haired American in their city). I started laughing, and told her that they could take pictures with me. For about 30 minutes straight, I took pictures with Indian families and friends, which I actually enjoyed because the people were extremely nice, and that moment was probably the closest I will ever get to being famous. I visited the city many times over the two months that I spent in India, which gave me the opportunity to absorb the culture, visit temples, and spend quality time with the people (who are the most hospitable people in the world). Every top-of-the-line restaurant I ate at only cost me about $8 USD, which was an eye-opener to how the standard of living there is so low.

It was culture-shock seeing slums set up behind nice buildings. However, it seemed that even under these conditions everyone kept a smile on their face because the Indians have very big hearts and a great outlook on life. I left India not only with a life-changing experience, but also with new friends whom I hope to someday reunite with when I take another trip back to India.
Study Abroad and the International Center for Transitional Justice
by Katie Smeenk

During my 1L summer I was fortunate enough to participate in two international experiences. First, I participated in our Rome and Strasbourg programs throughout most of June and all of July. As those of you who have participated in these programs well know attending classes in Italy and France allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. Throughout both programs we had the opportunity to meet legal professionals connected with various Italian and European institutions.

Given that my legal interests reside predominantly in international human rights, my favorite trip was to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg. At the ECHR we met with Michelle Lafferty, a lawyer for the Registry of the Court. Ms. Lafferty reviews incoming case applications to determine their validity and whether they will progress in the system, as well as drafts preliminary judgments for the senior judges to review. It is quite interesting to note that given the ECHR case application process is extremely open, allowing anyone to apply, there are very few cases that permit the parties to appear before the judges. Exposure to unique practices, such as this, made many of us ponder the balance that these international institutions must strike between public openness and their need for processes that facilitate expeditious case management.

These questions were also pertinent to the internship I conducted with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). I had previously worked with the ICTJ at the head office in New York City, and they invited me to return this summer to work remotely from Chicago before and after my time studying abroad. The ICTJ is a non-profit organization that works to redress and prevent the most severe violations of human rights by confronting legacies of mass abuse and promoting accountability through in-field programs and transitional justice research.

I worked within ICTJ’s Africa Division on both programmatic and research projects. The division head, Dr. Suliman Baldo, is an extremely well regarded Sudanese academic who has had extensive influence on the development of the peace processes in both south and central Sudan. As a compliment to these efforts, Dr. Baldo was asked to contribute a chapter to a book on the African Union’s role in African transitional justice processes. As an extension to a Darfur research project I had done for him previously, I worked with Suliman to refine his chapter on the role of the African Union within the Darfur peace process. This project continued to develop my opinion that the complex dynamics to this crisis will ultimately require the inclusion of some form of a traditional justice process to garner the trust of the populous and allow them to move forward, in addition to several other necessary peace-building steps.

I also assisted ICTJ with a project on field office registration and national compliance. ICTJ’s Africa Division has eight field offices spread across sub-Saharan Africa, thus each has their own unique government registration requirements that must be adhered to. Given that some of these offices are in countries where political tensions remain high, especially concerning the topic of transitional justice, these requirements are often difficult for the team to negotiate, track and ultimately fulfill. This project continues to be ongoing at present; as is the ever-expanding work of a transitional justice organization like the ICTJ that grapples with societies emerging from repressive rule, armed conflict, and legacies of abuse that remain unresolved.

Rona R. Mears Student Writing Competition & Scholarship Award

The 2012 Competition is underway; the topic is “The Restatement (Third) of the Foreign Relations Law of the United States is Being Revised. What Section or Group of Related Sections of the Restatement, Should be Revised, Why and How?”

The deadline to submit an essay is Friday, January 20, 2012. First Prize is $1,000 for First and Second Place Winners and a $1,000 travel Stipend for each winner to attend the Section’s Spring Meeting in New York City, April 17 -21, 2012.

To find out essay guidelines and submission details please go to www.americanbar.org/intlaw