My Summer at the Center for Constitutional Rights
Adriana Ballines

This past summer I had the wonderful opportunity to work at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in the City of New York as an Ella Baker Intern. Working at CCR was a truly life-changing and eye-opening experience. I was exposed to and engaged in different discussions about a vast amount of issues pertaining to human rights and civil rights violations of national and international significance. Furthermore, I, along with my fellow interns, received training on how to use international law and the international courts to further international human rights. We also had the opportunity to participate in protests and rallies, attend court hearings, and attend different kinds of training.

One of the experiences that had the greatest impact on me was attending the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) Conference with one of our supervising attorneys, Pam Spees, the lead counsel.
in SNAP v. The Pope, et al. The case was filed in the International Criminal Court claiming crimes against humanity. While at the conference, I heard several speakers from different parts of the world talk about their experiences about sexual abuse when they were children. Most of the speakers are now leaders in the movement of exposing the abuse that children around the world suffer at the hands of priests and the efforts by leaders of the Church to cover up the evidence of these cases. As a Catholic, attending this conference was very difficult, but as a future advocate for human rights, justice is justice, regardless of who the wrongdoer is.

Of all of the different trainings we received, my personal favorite was one on interviewing and representing victims of torture. This training was led by attorneys who represent Guantanamo detainees and attorneys who represent prisoners who have been in solitary confinement for several years. They talked about their experiences in the field and what self-care practices they use to be able to stay strong for their clients.

I spent most of my summer working on the cases of Ashker v. Brown and Aref v. Holder. My work for the Ashker case included reading and analyzing discovery documents to support the different causes of action that were brought against the defendants in the case and doing research. I also sat at a deposition of the defendants performed by my supervising attorney, Rachel Meeropol. Ashker is a federal lawsuit brought on behalf of prisoners who have been in solitary confinement at the Pelican Bay State Prison for 10 to 28 years.

Similarly, for the Aref case I looked through and analyzed discovery documents to support the claims brought against the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Aref is a lawsuit brought on behalf of persons who are or have been imprisoned in the secretly-created Communication Management Units (CMUs). Two-thirds of the prison population in these units is Muslim.

In short, the ten weeks that I spent at CCR and the people that I met helped me grow, inspired me, and motivated me to keep investing my efforts in advancing human rights. I am thankful to the Loyola International Law Committee for assisting me financially and making this opportunity possible.

The Office of Immigration Litigation in Washington, D.C.

Erin Keeley

This summer I spent twelve weeks interning with the Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL) in Washington, D.C. OIL is responsible for coordinating federal immigration litigation throughout the country and has both a district court and appellate section. As an intern in the appellate section my assignments focused on defense of administrative decisions of the Board of Immigration and Appeals and Immigration Judges. I drafted briefs filed before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and several motions filed before the Ninth and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Cases dealt with a range of issues from asylum claims, immigration consequences of criminal convictions, cancellation of removal and labor certifications. In addition, I served as attorney scribe for first cut meetings, the process in which senior staff make recommendations for en banc hearings and certiorari.

I also had the opportunity to mock moot one of my cases before a panel of OIL attorneys and the Director. This was one of my favorite experiences because it allowed me to experience the entire course of a case from the initial stage of preparing the brief to the oral argument phase.

My experience was an invaluable opportunity to learn first-hand the
This past summer, I interned with Public Citizen, in Washington, D.C. I was its Global Access to Medicine Patent Associate. The Global Access to Medicine department works primarily to help create global access to healthcare in light of intellectual property rights. The department studies intellectual property regimes to educate countries, primarily through comparative studies, on how different aspects of these rights influence access. As a patent intern, most of the comparative studies I did pertained to how various patent regimes’ inclusion and exclusion of TRIPS flexibilities effect access to healthcare. Most if not all of my comparative studies were prepared for negotiators representing the participating countries of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement. The studies illustrated the patent regimes of the U.S. and E.U. compared to other countries and how these different patent regimes facilitate different stages of economic development as well as reflect different healthcare policies and priorities. Additionally, I also contributed to the analysis of a Vietnamese patent for an AIDS drug in order to help prepare a patent invalidation petition; this required studying Vietnamese patent law, conducting scientific as well as legal research, analysis of prior art, construction of claims charts, etc. Prior to leaving D.C., I asked to extend my internship, and I’ve continued my work. Currently, I’m continuing comparative studies for FTA negotiators discussing IP clauses and working on a new project on patent reform in Brazil—how its implementation of TRIPS flexibilities will facilitate innovation, access, and promote a stronger economy despite not following suit with the United States’ patent regime.

I had a great time in D.C. this past summer. I had never imagined using my skill set and interest in patent law in either an international law or public interest law arena. Because this was a comparative experience, I learned not only more about American intellectual property, but also about international intellectual property treaties and other countries’ regimes. I did a lot of networking, attended various meetings and functions, met U.S. Trade Representatives, and worked with international government agents and organizations. The experience was as informative and enlightening as it was fun. D.C. is a great city with lots to offer including museums, cross cultural experiences, seafood, and sports. The summer was quite memorable, and I am very happy with my overall experience! I truly appreciate the funding and inspiration I received from the scholarship committee to pursue such a humbling internship.
The International Peace and Security Institute’s Hague Symposium
Sarah Silins

It is with tremendous gratitude that I write this reflection, as the International Summer Stipend provided me with the incredible opportunity to participate in the International Peace and Security Institute’s Hague Symposium. During July and August of this past summer I was able to learn, engage and collaborate with students, practitioners, scholars and experts from around the world diving deeply into the fields of transitional justice, human rights, reconciliation and restorative justice. I received briefings and lectures at the International Criminal Court, the Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, and Lebanon as well as the International Court of Justice and the International Court of Arbitration. I was able to observe the trial of Radovan Karadžić of the former Yugoslavia and was present for the testimony of a former army general present at Srebrenica. Discussions and Q&A that followed the lectures by renowned world experts were a highlight of the Symposium because my cohort was comprised of individuals from nearly 30 countries around the world. The perspective my peers shared was invaluable; it was especially extraordinary to hear from those individuals who reside in countries currently in conflict (e.g., Corte de Voir, Nigeria, Syria) as their perspective and experience really gave context and meaning to our lectures. The scholarship was augmented by real life anecdotes, the ability to brainstorm solutions for those in conflict countries to bring home and the opportunity to provide support and solidarity in a personal and professional way. Furthermore, it was an incredible networking opportunity. I feel as though I now have strong professional connections across the globe, and the opportunity to nurture those connections and continue to grow and learn as I advance in my legal studies.

The highlights for me included the negotiation training, conducted by Wilbur Perlot of the Clingendal Institute in The Hague, the training on holistic post-conflict reconstruction by William Stubner formerly of the UN and the workshop on reconciliation by Yasmin Sooka, a human rights practitioner from South Africa. All three of these experiences provided both concrete skills and a wealth of information that I hope to utilize in my future practice in the field of Children’s Rights.

Wilbur Perlot’s training was extensive and focused on individual mediation and negotiation styles, giving us the opportunity to reflect on what our personal strengths and weaknesses were and how those qualities can be managed/utilized depending on circumstance and the desired outcome of a particular situation. What I appreciated most was his focus on the role of culture and customs and the weight that can have on the outcome of a given mediation or negotiation. The simulation exercise he provided was remarkably effective and I really feel as though I gained a lot from the experience.

William Stubner’s first hand experience on the ground throughout the duration of the conflict of the former Yugoslavia, and his instrumental role in establishing the Tribunals in the aftermath of the conflict provided a wealth of knowledge and insight. He was not shy to disclose the lessons learned and was engaging and reflective in his analysis of international justice, both conceptually and in practice. He spoke a lot about the role of young people and children throughout the conflict and post conflict reconstruction, so the multi-day presentation and the simulations he offered were of particular interest to me. He offered a lot of information and insight regarding the concepts of restorative justice, reconciliation and retribution and how the varying approaches to “justice” inform a reconstructive process. I certainly came away with far more questions then answers, but appreciated the opportunity to engage so closely with someone with such a tremendous amount of on-the-ground experience.

The days spent with Yasmin Sooka of South Africa most definitely produced far more questions than answers, but her first hand experience and knowledge were unrivaled in the field of reconciliation and restorative practices. As a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa Yasmin participated in every step of the process from inception, through the reflection that continues to today many years after the commissions mandate has ended. She certainly helped me to solidify my interest in the relationship between justice and trauma; and more specifically how intergenerational trauma can have a potential impact on culpability and the role of poverty and race in restorative outcomes. I cherished my time with Yasmin, I learned an incredible amount and was so grateful for the opportunity to learn from her. This experience was especially meaningful given that so many of my peers at the Symposium are involved with Truth Commissions in their respective
countries. Their current, on-the-ground insight charged the learning experience and provided a dynamic learning opportunity.

These are only a few of the highlights the summer provided; it was a rich and meaningful learning opportunity. I am anxious to put lessons learned into practice and focus my scholarship on many of the new questions that were raised.

Thank you again to the Committee for the opportunity, and please let me know if there is anything further I can do to ensure that other students can be given a similar opportunity to learn.

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**Working with Comparative Law; Tokyo, Japan**

*David Yoshimura*

This last summer, thanks in large part to the generous grant by the International Programs Committee, I was able to travel to Tokyo, Japan to work and study in a mid-sized Japanese law firm, Hashidate Law Office, and a large IP firm, TMI associates. While I was there, both the firms and the placement program that helped me secure my position afforded me many opportunities to work on various projects and study many different areas of Japanese law from a comparative standpoint that will serve me very well in my future practice and scholarship.

Throughout the month of June, I studied comparative and international intellectual property law at TMI under Yoshiyuki Inaba, a founding member of one of Japan’s most famous law firms. In addition to comparative patent and trademark research, I learned a lot about the geopolitical atmosphere surrounding the hotly contested Trans-Pacific Partnership and its rumored IP provisions. The trade agreement negotiations are a political hot-button issue in Japan, and I studied the law of some of the party-nations as well as the process of drafting and adopting their own intellectual property regimes.

I also clerked at Hashidate Law Office, where I worked on several international licensing agreements, which is the firm’s primary source of income. However, while I was there, I also studied Japanese criminal law and procedure, and worked closely with two separate attorneys on their criminal defense cases. One of these attorneys is the oldest person in Japan to pass the Japanese bar exam. (He showed me a newspaper article about his bar admission!) I studied many works on the recently adopted saibain-in system and comparative works on the U.S. jury system.

While I was in Japan, I also had the pleasure of reconnecting with Professor Mitsuo Matsushita, who I first met two years ago when he visited Loyola and gave a guest lecture about his time on the WTO Dispute Resolution Appellate Body. Under his auspices, I was able to study in depth Japan’s public regulations regarding international trade and how Japan’s international relations have effected its policies. Through these and other personal connections, I was also able to meet two Supreme Court Justices in their chambers to discuss the functioning of the nation’s judiciary and the Japanese understanding of the American federal judiciary. One of the two judges was also embroiled in the Senkaku Islands dispute between Japan and China. The opportunity to speak with and learn from these high-level justices was truly inspiring.

Making these connections and furthering my studies of Japan’s international relations and legal regimes are absolutely fundamental to my future career goals of entering into the public sector dealing with the governmental and legal relationship between Japan and the U.S. When I return to Japan, this solid foundation in Japanese legal culture will undoubtedly serve me very well as I navigate the waters of international law, and I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to the Committee for making this transformative and unique experience possible.