

2009 Castan Centre Global Interns Announced

Seven Interns will Head to Four Continents

By Sebastian Quinn

The Castan Centre recently announced its seven Global Interns for 2009. The Global Internship Program, now in its fourth year, sends outstanding Monash Law students to a number of the world's leading human rights institutions. Funding from Daniel and Danielle Besen, the Law Faculty and Monash's Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education) helped to attract an extremely high field of applicants, from which the seven interns were drawn.

Having already participated in volunteer roles on three continents and spent two months teaching high school students in a Liberian refugee camp in Ghana, Marianna Linnick will be undertaking her internship as part of the Australian Delegation to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Responsible for the promotion and strengthening of human rights throughout the world, The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body charged with addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them.

Carly Price will be spending her internship at the International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific (IWRAW-AP) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Having already completed an Arts degree at Melbourne University and currently participating in a weekly program tutoring Sudanese refugees in Geelong, Carly's internship at IWRAW will see her directly involved in the fight to eliminate discrimination against women.

Travelling to Durban, South Africa will be Neda Monshat and Jessica Malin. Jessica and Neda will work with local HIV/AIDS groups affiliated with Oxfam. During 2005, Neda undertook a 3-month placement in Kisumu, Kenya, and while there contributed to public education about HIV/AIDS. Neda has also volunteered at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne. Jessica, who is nearing the end of her Arts/Law degree, has only recently returned from a 5-month stint volunteering in Cambodia with a non-profit charity for street children. In Australia, Jessica has also worked with the Department of Justice and volunteered with the Springvale Monash Legal Service. During their internships, both Neda and Jessica will be directly involved in a range of human rights issues dealing with the most marginalised people in South African society - particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Tania Marcello is in the final year of her Monash Arts/Law degree and has already volunteered overseas a number of times. Tania has spent time working with homeless children and the infirm in India, and in the Philippines she has worked in an orphanage and assisted in a medical mission. In Australia, Tania volunteers at the Public Interest Law Clearing House, the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre and Casey Cardinia Community Legal Service. She has also previously volunteered with the Refugee Working Group for Oxfam's Darfur network, and with Researchers and Advocates for Human Rights, based at Monash University. Tania will be

undertaking her internship at Human Rights First in New York which was first established in 1978 and operates with the general mandate of protecting people at risk and in particular protecting victims of mass human rights violations and refugees who flee persecution.

Born in South Africa and having moved to Australia after the end of Apartheid, Divina Naidu will be spending her internship at the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in Geneva. With her father having been very active in the ANC during the Apartheid era, Divina has maintained a passion for human rights issues. In Melbourne, she has helped homeless people in Coburg and volunteered at Hanover Homeless Services and the Castan Centre. During her internship at the ICJ, Divina will be part of a team of junior support staff whose responsibilities will include supporting some of the judges, lawyers and human rights defenders who seek to advance human rights through the ICJ framework.

Finally, Felicity Simons will undertake her internship at the UN Global Compact in New York. Felicity is a current intern at the Castan Centre and Vice President of a new group called Prison Legal Education and Assistance, which provides assistance to youth at the Metropolitan Remand Centre in Melbourne. Felicity has previously volunteered at the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, the Australian Red Cross, the Starlight Children's Foundation and Rosie's "Friends on the Street" outreach program. In 2006, she also participated in a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to Senegal, in Africa, where she volunteered at an orphanage and taught in a street school. As an intern at the UN Global Compact, Felicity will be part of the world's largest universal corporate citizenship/social responsibility initiative and will assist in providing a framework for businesses that are committed to operating in accordance with the United Nations' ten universally accepted principles on human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

The Castan Centre will again be offering global internship opportunities in 2010 and all internships will be available to eligible Monash Law students.



From Left to Right: Marianna Linnick, Neda Monshat, Carly Price, Divina Naidu, Felicity Simons, Jessica Malin and Tania Marcello