

2015 Global Interns heading off

By Stephanie Spratt



(L-R) Laura Wilson, Daisy-May Carty Cowling, Emily Fischer, Katherine Brown (Absent Joel Lazar)

Laura Wilson

Laura will be interning with the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva from January – March 2015. During that period she will attend the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council where the Mission will represent Australia and advocate national positions and policies. This internship is open to Indigenous Australian students.

Why did you apply for the Castan Centre Global Internship with the UNHRC?

This role will allow me the opportunity to work with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people working in the Australian Delegation to the UNHRC. It will allow also me the opportunity to engage with like-minded individuals on high-level international human rights issues.

Why are you interested in Human Rights?

I have 13 years of volunteer work experience in the drug and alcohol, and community legal sectors. Working in these sectors exposed me to socially marginalised people experiencing complex socio-legal issues. These experiences further stoked my interest in the protection of minority rights.

What human rights issues are you most interested in?

I am passionate about the protection and promotion of the rights of persons who are exposed to the criminal justice system. I am just finishing up my role as a Research and Evaluation Officer at Corrections Victoria. In this role, I gained a valuable insight into the Victorian criminal justice system, in particular police, courts and the Victorian prison system.

I am committed to ensuring that all persons are provided with legal information and representation. I particularly focused on advocating for the rights of ATSI offenders, particularly with regard to accessing education and training during periods of incarceration.

Joel Lazar

Joel will be heading to Geneva in February 2015 to intern with the International Service for Human Rights. ISHR focuses on supporting human rights defenders through capacity building, strategic advice, technical assistance and networking support. They also conduct research, undertake strategic international litigation and participate in policy development and lobbying all for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights.

What human rights issues are you most interested in?

In an oddly morbid sense, I'm interested in a huge range of human rights violations; especially those that fracture a person's essential self and freedom. One example is the invisible underclass of millions of modern human slaves that keep global industries ticking. Another issue that tears me up is violence against and murder of women as women (femicide) and the global community's consistent inability to raise women to equal human status.

What are you most looking forward to on your internship?

Gaining unique insights into the functioning of the world's main human rights systems – how they work, why they work and where they could be better. I'm looking forward to learning about the politics involved in successfully pushing human rights agendas forward, and the opportunity to work with inspiring, intelligent, driven human rights workers.

What is your dream job / career?

It sounds obscure, but I think it would be incredible to be the Victorian Ombudsman (with no intention to put Deborah Glass OBE out of work). Hearing people stories, investigating the abuse of state power, encouraging systemic social change in my local community, giving effect to human rights. Is there a way to sign up for that?

Emily Fischer

As we go to press Emily is already hard at work with Human Rights First in New York City. As part of their Asylum Representation Program, Emily will undertake research, project writing, asylum case work and an assortment of advocacy work. Human Rights First is a long term advocate of human rights issues, especially of the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, and has broadened its areas of focus over the decades and is now a forceful advocate for a wide range of human rights issues

Why are you interested in Human Rights?

When I was growing up I was lucky to be surrounded by people who drew my attention to the fact that human rights are only respected in certain instances and for certain people. I've always been interested in why that is and in working to uphold human rights where they are not protected. My main area of interest is the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers. I'm also interested in Indigenous rights, particularly in the Australian context.

What are you most looking forward to on your internship?

I'm really looking forward to learning more about different laws and policies affecting asylum seekers and refugees in the US, and how that compares to Australia. I'm also really excited about getting involved in Human Rights Firsts' advocacy work.

What is your dream job / career?

I'd love to work in refugee law, hopefully through the internship I'll be able to gain a broader knowledge of US asylum law, and also develop my research and client skills. I'm really interested in policy reform in this area too, so I'd also like to work in policy development or advocacy work.

Katherine Brown

Founded in 1966 by a group of attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South, The Centre for Constitutional Rights has been creatively using the law to facilitate positive social change with the aim of empowering poor and disadvantaged communities who currently have few protections and limited access to legal resources. Katherine is currently on the ground in New York and throwing herself into her internship with this passionate organisation.

Why are you interested in Human Rights?

I think that human rights law is a crucial tool for protecting individuals from many types of harm, particularly when the political culture will not. Working in human rights law is an amazing opportunity to help individuals and hopefully achieve broader change. It's also an area of the law that's in an exciting and continually developing stage - there's a lot of room to use human rights law in a creative and progressive way to foster change.

What human rights issues are you most interested in?

I'm really interested in the criminal justice system, freedom of speech and women's rights.

What are you hoping to get out of the internship?

The CCR carries out really important and groundbreaking work in human rights. I'm

hoping to gain a deeper understanding of international human rights law, and delve into a few particular issues. I also think I'll be able to learn a huge amount from the attorneys at the CCR - they are all incredibly passionate about and dedicated to their work.

Daisy-May Carty Cowling

Daisy-May is just days away from heading off to Kuala Lumpur to start her internship with International Womens Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific. Based in South-East Asia but working nationally, regionally and internationally, IWRAW Asia Pacific plays a critical role in filling the gap between the promise of women's human rights embodied in human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW), and their actual realisation at a domestic level. Daisy-May will also travel to Geneva as part of the internship to participate in the next meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Why did you apply for the Castan Centre Global Internship with IWRAW?

I applied for an internship with IWRAW due to my commitment to women's rights. I was also incredibly impressed with the role IWRAW played in the enactment of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW which means that women are now able to submit

individual communications to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, this is a huge step forward in the international women's rights movement and an achievement I have researched at length in my Masters degree.

What are you hoping to get out of the internship?

I am looking forward to learning absolutely as much as I can, expanding my knowledge of the international human rights law framework, its strengths and its limits and watching it play out in practice. Further, this internship will allow me to apply the knowledge and skills I have gained through my studies and work experience to practical situations, while having the support and guidance of experienced professionals in the area I hope to seek a career in.

What is your dream job / career?

I would love to be a United Nations Special Rapporteur!

You can follow the interns on their journeys and work with these unique organisations on the Global Interns Blog. Look out for their updates over the next six months as our interns update the blog with their stories and photos.

If you would like to apply for the global intern program in the future and are interested in the application process have a look at our [website](#).

Learn a little more about some of our in-house interns

Andrew Brooks

What human rights issues are you most interested in?

Apart from my interest in human rights around people living with disabilities, I am also very passionate about the right to life, and more specifically the issue of the death penalty. Through my work as Executive Officer at Reprieve Australia I have been able to get a far better appreciation of just what a death sentence can mean for those sentenced and their families, as well as the abhorrent conditions that they can face while in prison.

What was your best experience while working with the Castan Centre?

The most engaging and interesting part of my internship was working on the 'Have you got that Right?' project. Not only did I feel like I was contributing to a project that will be extremely beneficial for the Australian public, I was also able to research a great variety of topics. For example, one moment I was confirming the current state of same sex marriage in California, and another moment I was looking into a specific euthanasia law in the Netherlands.

Any advice for future applicants or interns?

I would recommend to interns to really engage yourself in the work at the Castan Centre and look to use the momentum created to benefit a specific human rights issue you are interested in.

TienYi Long

Why are you interested in Human Rights?

I am interested in human rights because they protect all of us and our fundamental dignity as human beings, and will continue to do so across time and space.

What human rights issues are you most interested in?

I am most interested in children's rights. Recently, I have also become interested in the way human rights interact with the economy and international financial institutions.

What are your plans for the future?

I will be working with the University of Melbourne while completing practical legal training. I will also continue volunteering in my local community.

Stephen Moore

Why are you interested in Human Rights?

I first became interested in human rights through my involvement with the Monash Victorian Parliamentary Internship. I had the opportunity to work with a Member of Parliament on Victorian law reform to expunge historic criminal records for homosexual sex. It was an incredible experience, and brought me into contact with a number of organisations, including the Castan Centre,

that focused on human rights, and gave me an interest in pursuing the area further.

What human rights issues are you most interested in?

I am most interested in the treatment of asylum seekers in Australia. I recently completed an undergraduate Arts thesis on the subject, and actively volunteer and support the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre in Melbourne. However, I also maintain strong ties to issues facing the LGBTI community, which the Castan Centre also has a strong involvement in.

What was your best experience while working with the Castan Centre?

My best experience working for the Castan Centre was the chance to work for the 'Have you got that right?' project. Working for other organisations, the biggest issue I have encountered is engaging and reaching out to the community, especially making other people interested in human rights. The project is an innovative and interesting way to engage new people, and the opportunity to contribute towards it was extremely rewarding.

The Castan Centre recruits Monash Students twice a year for internships running both part time during semester and full time in the holiday breaks. Information is posted on our [website](#) as well as our [Facebook](#) and other social media.