

International Human Rights Internship Program

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



McGill

Faculty of Law
Faculté de Droit

McGill Centre for
Human Rights
and Legal Pluralism



Centre sur les droits de la
personne et le pluralisme
juridique de McGill

Wat Phnom, Cambodia
Photo by Adeline Lalonde

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Director's Foreword

The [International Human Rights Internship Program](#) (IHRIP) continues to provide our students rich opportunities to work with actors across the world, dedicated to the protection and advancement of human rights and freedoms. Hands on engagement with human rights work has manifested in a tangible impact on another cohort of students; concrete evidence of which is captured in interdisciplinary scholarship on a wide array of human rights themes, in the [Human Rights Internships' Working Paper Series](#) (WPS).

In its eighth year, WPS has evolved into a vibrant online platform for dissemination of innovative scholarship aimed at solutions to pressing human rights and social justice concerns. The contributions of our students to the work of domestic and international political and judicial institutions, and civil society organizations, bring accolade and appreciation to the Faculty as well as the University. The blogs written by the students bring invaluable insights in the classroom as well as in the community at large. These personal reflections inspire and motivate the next cohort of interns.

Thanks to the generous support of our friends, supporters, and the Faculty, 25 students pursued internships in 15 countries spread across 5 continents during the summer of 2019. Students worked with leading international organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and Avocats sans Frontiers, as well local civil society actors in Tunisia, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. Several interns had the privilege of working with Indigenous organizations and communities in Canada. Our partnerships – with Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services in Iqaluit, the Justice Department at the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre in Saskatchewan, and Department of Justice and Correctional Services of the Cree Nation Government – inform our efforts towards the process of reconciliation.

The spirit of solidarity, openness and respectful exchange of ideas and good practices have fostered enduring and rewarding partnerships with Canadian and global organizations who make a significant contribution to the legal education of our students. We remain committed work with this community of partners, friends and donors, IHRIP alumni and students to foster a more just and inclusive world.

Nandini Ramanujam

Nandini Ramanujam
Director, International Human Rights Internship Program



La Commission africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, à Banjul.
Photo de Linda Muhugusa

What is the International Human Rights Internship Program (IHRIP)?

McGill University's Faculty of Law enjoys a rich tradition of human rights education and involvement. Since 1992, the Faculty has established a number of partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Canada and abroad.

Administered by the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism (CHRLP), the International Human Rights Internship Program (IHRIP) is a fully credited course that allows students to earn six credits towards the completion of the B.C.L. / JD degree. The program is managed by the Faculty's Human Rights Committee under the direction of Professor Nandini Ramanujam.

Each fall, the Program interviews and selects law students for placements as interns with NGOs, courts, and public institutions for a period of 12 weeks over the summer. Partner organizations provide students with practical work experience in human rights investigation, monitoring and reporting. The internships also provide exposure to the operation and implementation of human rights instruments and norms.



2019 IHRIP Team



Nandini Ramanujam
Director



Robyn Lindsay Rugenius
Administrative Coordinator



Yvana Novoa Curich
Administrative Coordinator



Sharon Webb
Administrative Coordinator



Rachel Kohut
Internship Report Editor



Kevin Pinkoski
Student Coordinator



Maia Stevenson
Student Coordinator

2019 Interns

**in alphabetical order*

Leila Alfaro

Centro de Investigación y Docencia en Derechos Humanos | *Mar de Plata, Argentina*

Samantha Backman

The Bulgarian Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (BCNL) | *Sofia, Bulgaria*

Kathleen Barera

Ateneo HR Centre | *Manila, The Philippines*

Katrina Bland

Refugee Law Project | *Kampala, Uganda*

Bianca Braganza

Law Reform and Development Commission in Namibia | *Windhoek, Namibia*

Emma Brown

Centre for Law and Democracy | *Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Aurélie Dérigaud-Choquette

L'organisation Aswat Nissa (Voix de femmes) | *Tunis, Tunisie*

Julia Green

The Equality Effect | *Mombasa, Kenya*

Adélise Lalande

Cambodian League for the Promotion & Defence of Human Rights | *Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Reeve Kako

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network | *Toronto, Ontario*

Sophie Kassel

Indigenous Law Centre | *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

Riley Klassen-Molyneaux

One Earth Future Foundation | *Colorado*

Natalia Koper

Instituto de Democracia y Derechos Humanos | *Lima, Peru*

Jennifer Lachance

Avocats Sans Frontières Canada | *Québec, Québec*

Christopher Little

Department of Justice and Correctional Services of the Cree Nation Government | *Mistissini, Québec*

Tessa Martin

International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) | *Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Curtis Mesher

Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services | *Iqaluit, Nunavut*

Jessica Michelin

Human Rights Watch | *New York, New York*

Linda Muhugusa

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) | *The Gambia*

Kelly O'Connor

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights | *San José, Costa Rica*

Derek Pace

One Earth Future Foundation | *Colorado*

Lauriane Palardy-Desrosiers

Equitas | *Montreal, Quebec*

Larissa Parker

Justice Department at the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne | *Ontario/Quebec/New York Border*

Félix-Antoine Pelletier

Conseil national des droits de l'Homme | *Rabat, Maroc*

Caroline Rouleau

Canadian Civil Liberties Association | *Toronto, Ontario*

Kirstie Russell

Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CHHRD), and the Refugee Law Project (RLP) | *Kampala, Uganda*

Brittni Tee

Yukon Human Rights Commission | *Whitehorse, Yukon*

Canada

**in alphabetical order*



Emma Brown
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Reeve Kako
Toronto, Ontario



Sophie Kassel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



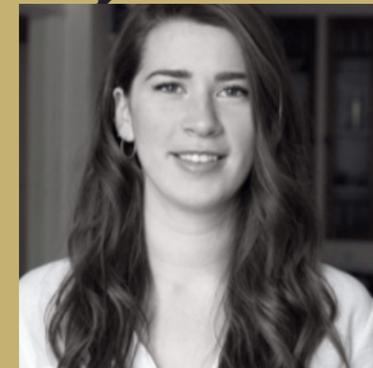
Jennifer Lachance
Whitehorse, Yukon



Christopher Little
Waswanipi, Quebec



Curtis Mesher
Iqaluit, Nunavut



Lauriane
Palardy-Desrosiers
Montreal, Quebec



Larissa Parker
Akwasasne



Caroline Rouleau
Toronto, Ontario



Brittni Tee
Whitehorse, Yukon

Emma Brown

Centre for Law and Democracy
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Photo from Emma's visit to Peggy's Cove.

Emma is a first year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She graduated with a Bachelor of Legal Studies from Carleton University, after switching majors two years into a Journalism major. Prior to starting her law degree, Emma worked at an Ottawa law firm, where she saw first-hand the way that human rights issues permeate every area of legal practice. During her first year at McGill, her interest in this has expanded as she has volunteered with Innocence McGill, the LEX program, and the McGill Journal of Law and Health.

While Emma's background is largely in criminal law, she greatly enjoyed her journalism coursework from her undergrad, which focused largely on the way press-related and expression-related rights underpin the foundations of democracy. She is excited for her placement at the CLD because it will allow her to combine these interests with her love of the law.

The **Centre for Law and Democracy** believes in a world in which robust respect for all human rights underpins strong participatory democracy at all levels of governance – local, national, regional and international – leading to social justice and equality. They work to promote, protect and develop those human rights which serve as the foundation for or underpin democracy, including the rights to freedom of expression, to vote and participate in governance, to access information and to freedom of assembly and association.

What did you predominantly work on at CLD?

– "The vast majority of my time was spent producing assessments of various countries' domestic legislation, with respect to its adherence with international human rights standards. As the only intern with any French skills, I was assigned to all the relevant French-speaking countries in Sub-Saharan Africa."

Advice for future interns?

– "There are tons of fun bars and cafes around the city – definitely explore!"

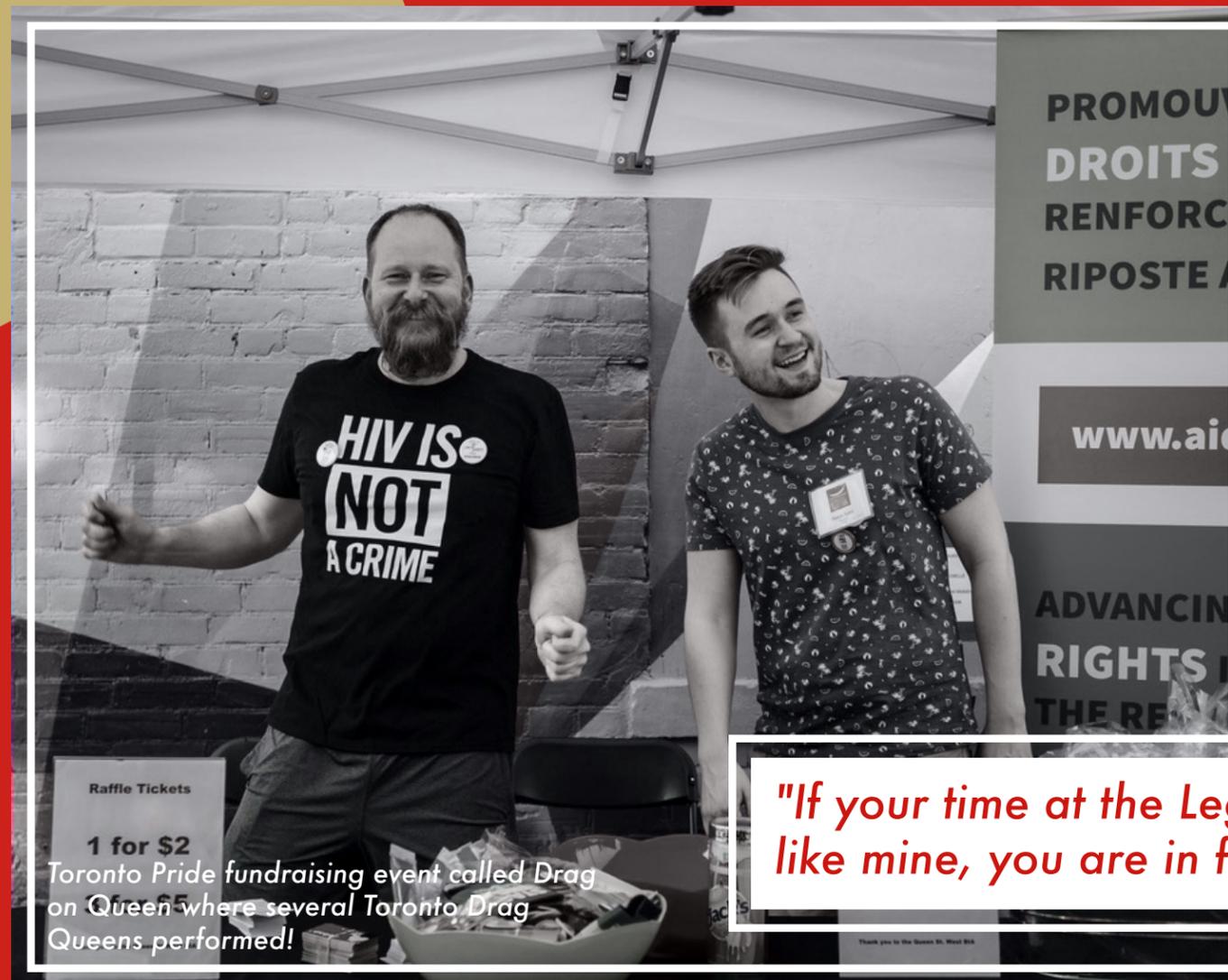
"I appreciated that I came out of the internship with a broad picture understanding of the international standards related to each of these rights/issues, and an idea of how the standards can be failed and/or obfuscated."

Reeve Kako

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Toronto, Ontario



Reeve is in his first year of BCL/LLB studies at McGill's Faculty of Law. Before joining the Faculty, he also completed an Honours BA at McGill, majoring in Political Science. Reeve's legal interests lie primarily in social welfare advocacy, with a particular interest in legal activism for the LGBTQ+ community. Reeve is currently pursuing this interest at the faculty, where he sits as the VP Finance of McGill Law's chapter for LGBTQ+ advocacy, OutLaw. Outside of the Faculty, Reeve has also explored a variety of other legal interests. He is currently an intern at Montreal Immigration law firm, FWCanada. He has also enjoyed exploring areas of labour law through his previous employment at the Law Society of Ontario's human resources department, as well as his position as Secretary General at the McGill Arts Undergraduate Society.



Toronto Pride fundraising event called Drag on Queen where several Toronto Drag Queens performed!

The **Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network** promotes the human rights of people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV or AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research and analysis, litigation and other advocacy, public education and community mobilization.

What can a future intern expect from an internship with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network?

– "You can expect to learn a wide variety of skills while at the Legal Network. I had the chance to develop my persuasive writing skills, as well as more conventional legal research abilities. I also had the opportunity to join my superiors outside of the office by assisting them in lobbying governmental officials and assisting in operational meetings."

Any recommendations for future interns?

– "Don't hesitate to make your interests and/or areas of expertise known or reach out to specific lawyer's whose work interests you to see if there are specific projects you can assist with."

"If your time at the Legal Network this summer is anything like mine, you are in for a fantastic 12 weeks."

Sophie Kassel

Indigenous Law Centre | University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Sophie is a second year BCL/LLB student at McGill University. She holds a BA (Honours) in political studies with a minor in development studies from Queen's University. At the Faculty, Sophie is a senior editor for the *Journal of Sustainable Development Law*, a research assistant for Professor Gold at the Centre of Intellectual Property Policy and is an executive member of McGill's Food Law Society. Sophie's interest in labour, environment, and Aboriginal law stems from her passion of the intersections between law and food policy.



The Indigenous Law Centre's summer students at Chief Poundmaker's exoneration ceremony

The **Indigenous Law Centre** (formerly the Native Law Centre) at the University of Saskatchewan was founded in 1975 to facilitate access to legal education for Aboriginal peoples, to promote the development of the law and the legal system in Canada in ways which better accommodate the advancement of Aboriginal peoples and communities, and to disseminate information concerning Aboriginal peoples and the law. The Centre became a department of the College of Law in 1984.

What sort of work did you do while at the Centre?

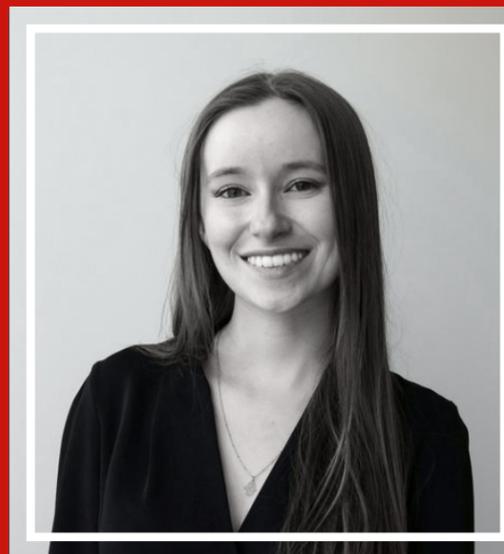
– "My internship focused on two main projects. First, I worked as a TA for the Indigenous Law Centre's summer student program. The student program welcomes indigenous students who are going to start their first year of law school in the fall. By helping indigenous students be well prepared for law school (as the program allows these students to begin their classes in the fall already equipped with legal writing skills), the Indigenous Law Centre seeks to increase the number of Indigenous lawyers in the profession. Ensuring that Indigenous students are not only admitted to law school but also complete their law degree is crucial for remedying the current underrepresentation of Indigenous lawyers in the profession. The Indigenous Law Centre seeks to ensure the latter. The eight-week course provides great support for students, so as to ensure a smooth transition for its students into law school in the fall. My work with this program was one of my various parts of my internship. Serving as a TA for customary law, I would sit in on classes led by Professor Wendy Whitecloud, where I would learn a lot about traditional indigenous legal systems. As a TA, I also helped run legal skills workshops with the other TAs, where we would go through practice problems with the students and offer advice on how to tackle exam and essay writing. Many students would ask me for advice about law school. My ability to serve as a mentor for students was very fulfilling.

Second, I worked alongside Benjamin Ralston. He is in the process of creating a benchbook for judges in British Columbia, explaining how to apply Gladue reports in sentencing. This work was more research-based and involved reading and organizing summaries of Gladue-related cases, highlighting the overarching themes and rules that emerged across the many decisions."

"Through this internship, I was able to deepen my understanding of the complex relationship between indigenous communities and the Canadian government and legal system (particularly in the context of the Métis and Cree communities of Saskatchewan), and also gain new insight in the lack of representation of Indigenous lawyers within the legal profession."

Jennifer Lachance

Avocats sans Frontières Canada
Quebec, Quebec



Jennifer conclut actuellement sa deuxième année du programme BCL/LLB. Avant son entrée à McGill, elle a fait deux voyages humanitaires en Équateur et s'est découverte une passion pour les droits humains. Préoccupée par les injustices sociales, elle n'a pas hésité à s'impliquer dans de multiples activités qui contribuent à ce que les personnes les plus vulnérables de la société ne soient pas mises à l'écart. Elle est ainsi bénévole à l'Accueil Bonneau, à la Clinique d'Information Juridique de McGill, en plus de se dédier à la cause des réfugiés avec l'International Refugee Assistance Project. Elle est également fière éditrice du journal *Contours* et agit à titre de coordonnatrice au sein du Human Rights Working Group, où elle s'investit corps et âme afin d'accroître l'accès à l'information pour les personnes en situation d'itinérance.



Un magnifique coucher de soleil dans la ville

Avocats sans frontières Canada est une organisation non gouvernementale de coopération internationale dont la mission est de contribuer à la mise en œuvre des droits humains des personnes en situation de vulnérabilité, par le renforcement de l'accès à la justice et à la représentation juridique.

Peux-tu nous parler un peu d'une journée de travail habituelle chez ASF?

— "Bref, travailler chez ASFC, c'est effectuer chaque jour un travail stimulant, hautement éducatif, qui permet également de se frayer des contacts dans le domaine des droits humains internationaux. C'est aussi avoir bien des fous rires avec les autres stagiaires et de pouvoir s'entraider sur des questions de droit pointues qui feront sans aucun doute une différence dans l'organisation, le tout, dans une ville aux attraits historiques les plus pittoresques. Pour reprendre l'expression de ma prédécesseuse, je crois qu'il n'est pas exagéré de dire qu'on finit notre stage avec des étoiles dans les yeux, avec la ferme conviction qu'on peut décidément contribuer à alléger les souffrances humaines à l'échelle internationale en travaillant dans une organisation comme celle-ci."

"Pour un.e étudiant.e désirant travailler en droits humains internationaux après le baccalauréat en droit, travailler chez ASFC, c'est une opportunité en OR!"

Curtis Mesher

Maliganik Tukisiniarvik Legal Services
Iqaluit, Nunavut



Curtis is a second-year law student at McGill's Faculty of Law. Being an Inuit beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, he has always been drawn to the intersection of Indigenous peoples and Canada's legal system. With time, he has become motivated by the beneficial potential of human rights law for marginalised people overall. He has primarily worked with Inuit groups such as the Makivik Corporation, and organisations attuned to issues affecting northern Canada. Au delà de ses intérêts pour les droits des peuples autochtones et les droits de la personne, il s'intéresse beaucoup au domaine du droit criminel. Son désir de travailler un jour dans le domaine du droit pénal l'a mené à un stage avec le cabinet d'avocats Yves Ménard. Ce stage lui a donné des expériences valables en droit criminel canadien. Given his interests in criminal law and connection to Inuit Nunangat, he is happy to work with Maliganik Tukisiniarvik Legal Services this summer.



The majestic mountains of Pangnirtung

Maliganik Tukisiniarvik Legal Services is responsible for providing legal services to financially eligible Nunavummiut in the areas of criminal, family and civil law

What did you most appreciate during your summer at Maliganik Tukisiniarvik?

— "Aside from the opportunity to go to Nunavut for the first time, I most appreciated the simultaneously high levels of support and autonomy that I was given by the staff at MT. They are incredibly accommodating of your personal interests in law, and any other limitations you may have. This means a student is offered a choice to work primarily on criminal or civil files, as well as to avoid any overly-sensitive material."

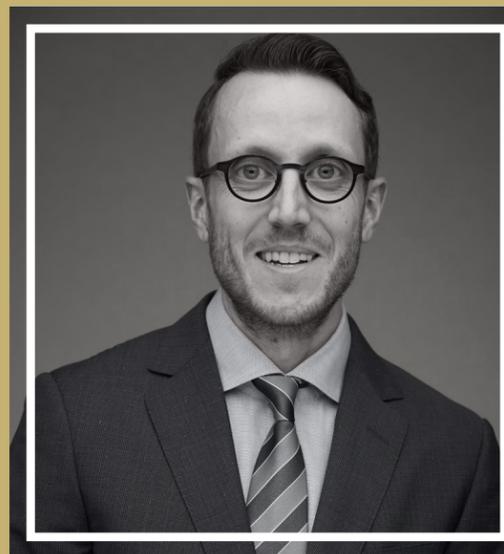
What type of legal work did you do?

— "I chose to work nearly exclusively with the criminal law division of Maliganik, and this primarily entailed doing research and transcription for one of MT's 10 criminal lawyers. This research usually concerned case issues or establishing sentencing ranges. I also spoke in court several times, and handled some aspects of client intake."

"I found the internship to be a truly transformative experience, and I enjoyed every minute of it. The work environment is amazingly supportive and welcoming, and it was a dream come true to visit Nunavut."

Christopher Little

Department of Justice and Correctional Services of the Cree Nation Government
Mistissini, Quebec



Christopher is a first-year BCL/LLB student. Prior to enrolling at McGill, he was a post-doctoral fellow and lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at York University. Christopher's dissertation, completed at the University of Toronto, draws upon over 2-years of research in Papua New Guinea to study the impact of education and youth policy in the country.



Part of Hydro-Québec's modification of the Rupert River that was expected to result in the flooding of the Nemaska trading post.

Can you tell us a bit about your summer, Christopher?

– "My internship with the Department of Justice and Correctional Services of the Cree Nation Government (CNG) involved the completion of a training component in Montreal and Ottawa, before I travelled to two Cree communities in Eeyou Istchee to write Gladue reports. This internship is an incredible opportunity to learn, though it also demands extreme organization, social and emotional maturity, and an ability to adapt to unpredictable circumstances."

What did the training involve?

– "My training in Montreal consisted of a one-week program approved by Justice Quebec to become a Gladue report writer. The training provided a review of the jurisprudence, an introduction to research techniques, and some practical exercises. I then travelled to Ottawa to complete additional training with an academic and former Gladue writer, to "shadow" a Gladue report writer working in Ottawa, and to attend "Aboriginal people's court" to get a sense of how Gladue reports are used by judges."

What was the first thing you did after the training?

– "Following my training I went to Nemaska, a Cree community of approximately 750. Upon my arrival, I was paired with a local community justice officer (CJO) who wanted to learn about the Gladue report research and writing process to better prepare her to write future reports. Working with a CJO was a positive experience as I got to know her very well, and it was practically helpful because of her local knowledge of the community (e.g., where people lived and worked) and her ability to effortlessly move between Cree and English."

"Gladue reports should be written by authors who are familiar with the local culture. As such, the intern may wish to read work by, amongst others, Toby Morantz, Daniel Francis, Ronald Niezen and Richard Salisbury."

Lauriane Palardy-Desrosiers

Equitas
Montreal, Quebec



Lauriane est étudiante en première année à la Faculté de droit de l'Université McGill. Elle a complété un baccalauréat en relations internationales et droit international à l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Durant ce diplôme, elle a eu la chance d'étudier la pratique des droits humains à l'Université Aix-Marseille. Passionnée par l'éducation aux droits humains et la justice sociale, elle a été animatrice-recherchiste pour l'organisme ENSEMBLE pour le respect de la diversité. L'équipe d'ENSEMBLE lutte contre la discrimination entre autres par le biais d'ateliers sur le sexisme, le racisme et l'homophobie. En participant à la Clinique de défense des droits humains de l'UQAM et au Projet d'autonomisation des femmes rurales du Bénin de Québec Sans Frontières, elle a également travaillé sur les droits des femmes en Afrique de l'Ouest. Elle s'implique actuellement à la Clinique juridique du Mile End.



Une photo de l'équipe d'éducation pendant l'inscription.

Equitas fait progresser l'égalité, la justice sociale et le respect de la dignité humaine grâce à des programmes d'éducation aux droits humains transformateurs, au Canada et partout dans le monde.

Can you tell us a bit about the work you did at Equitas?

– « [M]on travail chez Equitas était principalement de soutenir l'équipe de spécialistes en éducation dans la préparation, la réalisation et la conclusion de la 40^e édition du Programme international de formation aux droits humains (PIFDH, IHRTP en anglais). »

Any recommendations for future interns?

– « Commencez rapidement à faire le rapport de la situation des droits humains dans le monde basé sur les travaux préparatoires. Le classement par région est très long. Cela-dit, j'ai fait une recommandation très claire pour automatiser ce classement et ça devrait vous enlever une ou deux journées de travail ! »

« Mon stage en éducation aux droits humains chez Equitas a été une expérience transformatrice, extrêmement pédagogique et très inspirante. Tant sur le plan personnel que professionnel, cette expérience a eu impact considérable dans ma vie. »

Larissa Parker

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Akwesasne, Quebec



Larissa is a first-year at McGill's Faculty of Law. Before, she completed an MSc in Environmental Governance at Oxford and a BA from the University of Toronto in environmental studies and ethics. Her MSc research focused on the social and cultural impacts of climate change on the Cook Island Māori and explored the potential for adaptive management in the region. Larissa is currently conducting research through Pro Bono Students Canada on extending legal standing to natural environments. She also works at the Youth Climate Lab, a start-up non-profit that aims to amplify climate action through intergenerational collaboration. Previously, Larissa has worked in politics for the NDP, researching and reporting on the disparities that Indigenous people face when it comes to access to healthcare and education; as well as in the energy sector, focusing on renewable energy transition-related projects and increasing affordable access to energy across the country.



Minister Lametti, Grand Chief, and 2 other Chiefs in Akwesasne

The **Mohawk Council of Akwesasne** engages in dialogue with Akwesasronon about Kiokwahteron:hon. The Council enacts Boards, Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Departments to develop mandates, deliver services, protect aboriginal rights and assert jurisdiction consistent with the strategic directions and Vision of Council.

What areas of law did you get exposure to?

– "I was exposed to Aboriginal law, property law, class action law, constitutional law, and criminal law (Gladue reports, restorative justice)."

Can you tell us a bit about the community?

– "The community sits at the border and overlaps Ontario, Quebec and New York. It has managed to uphold its sovereignty notwithstanding historical violence at the border and continues to implement and manage its own laws (through the Akwesasne Court, local bylaws, etc.). Working for a band council allows you to learn more about governance structures on reserves and allows you to learn from individuals who work within them (often continuously negotiating for their own sovereignty). You will learn so much from the amazing people who work there. It is also a beautiful place that overlooks the Saint Lawrence."

"Working at the Akwesasne Justice Department was an awesome experience. It is an internship that forces you to challenge the colonialism that grounds our legal system head on."

Caroline Rouleau

Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Toronto, Ontario



Caroline est en deuxième année de droit à McGill. Elle est rédactrice francophone à la Revue de droit de développement durable de McGill et s'implique dans le nouveau comité facultaire de développement durable. Elle a auparavant complété un baccalauréat en psychologie à l'Université du Québec à Montréal. L'été dernier, Caroline a travaillé chez VIA Rail Canada au sein du département de gestion de risques, où elle a été initiée aux rouages d'une société d'État et aux exigences légales en matière environnementale.



Photo of most of the CCLA interns.

"My internship at CCLA was very formative. I got to work on my research and writing skills, and have a sense of what the practice of law in an NGO can be like."

The **Canadian Civil Liberties Association** fights for the civil liberties, human rights, and democratic freedoms of all people across Canada. Founded in 1964, we are an independent, national, nongovernmental organization, working in the courts, before legislative committees, in the classrooms, and in the streets, protecting the rights and freedoms cherished by Canadians and entrenched in our Constitution.

What are some examples of the work you did?

– "My work involved searching and summarizing case law and academic commentary on a given topic, and doing legislative reviews relevant to a particular issue. [...] Needless to say that HeinOnline and CanLII were great friends of mine over the summer."

Any feedback for the next CCLA intern?

– "[B]eing bilingual, and even being a native French speaker, was a great asset. Although most of my work was in English, the team appreciated that I was able to read jurisprudence from Quebec and summarize it, either for background research or for litigation purposes."

Brittni Tee

Yukon Human Rights Commission
Whitehorse, Yukon



Canoeing the Yukon River

Brittni is a BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and English Literature from the University of Toronto. Prior to her legal studies, Brittni spent two years working as a policy advisor to the federal Minister for the Status of Women. This experience gave her the opportunity to contribute to a number of interesting policy initiatives, such as the Federal Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy and the creation of Canada's first ever gender-responsive Federal Budget. She currently volunteers with Pro Bono Students Canada and works as an assistant editor with the Quid Novi.

The **Yukon Human Rights Commission** promotes human rights in the Yukon by enforcing the Yukon Human Rights Act, receiving and investigating human rights complaints, advocating for legislative reform, responding to inquiries from employers and service providers, and conducting public education and outreach activities.

What was the work environment like, Brittni?

– "The Yukon Human Rights Commission is small organization, but the people working there are friendly and dedicated to their work. Many of my colleagues went out of their way to make me feel welcome in the Yukon by showing me around town and inviting me to socialize outside of work. The Commission has welcomed a number of interns from outside the territory over the years, and they are well-equipped to deal with the challenges that many new interns face."

Any recommendations for future interns?

– "Future interns should be prepared to work directly with members of the public. Although prior clinic work is not essential, it is highly instructive. In particular, interns should ensure that they are aware of the differences between legal information and legal advice. To the extent possible, I would also recommend that future interns familiarize themselves with the Commission's website and the Yukon Human Rights Act. You will likely refer to the Act at least once a day (if not more). I would also suggest taking Judicial Review of Administrative Action before beginning this internship. Employment Law and Disability Law would also be helpful courses to consider."

"The internship with the Yukon Human Rights Commission provides an amazing opportunity for interns to get hands-on experience working in the field of human rights in Canada. In addition to the enriching professional environment, the Yukon is also a beautiful place to live and explore. I would highly recommend this internship."

UNITED STATES

**in alphabetical order*

COLORADO



Riley Klassen-Molyneaux
One Earth Future

NEW YORK



Jessica Michelin
Human Rights Watch

COLORADO



Derek Pace
One Earth Future

Riley Klassen-Molyneaux

One Earth Future Foundation
Boulder, Colorado



Riley is a first-year BCL/LLB student at McGill University. Before coming to law school, he completed two Bachelor of Arts, one in French and the other in philosophy. He was lucky enough to study in France and Quebec while completing these degrees.

He has also completed a Master of Arts in French. In his thesis, he linked a work of French Indigenous literature with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and showed that they were essentially saying the same thing. While completing his studies, he volunteered with grassroots organizations in the Yukon, New Orleans, and Costa Rica.



Derek and his friends above the Island in the Sky, near Moab, Utah.

The **One Earth Future Foundation** fosters sustainable peace by building effective networks and resilient societies in fragile and post-conflict environments around the world.

What did you think about living in Colorado?

— "Living in Colorado was one of the main reasons that I agreed to work with OEF, and I stand by that decision. It was beautiful and the people there are great. I did so many nice hikes and met people from all over the United States; hearing about where these people come from was inspiring. I made some great friendships with folks from OEF and from elsewhere. More than anything about my experience in Colorado, I will cherish these friendships."

What was one of the highlights of working at OEF over the summer?

— "I also met some fantastic people. Everyone I worked with was an "academic badass," in the words of a supervisor. That's true: there's an uncanny amount of people working at OEF that have PhDs in different fields and you can't help but absorb some of their knowledge by osmosis. As OEF's main donor, Marcel Arsenault, said on a company-wide meeting held on my very last day of work, "if you get a bunch of smart people together, you can make good things happen." He definitely got a bunch of smart people together and it's an absolute pleasure to work with them. Every day is filled with conversations about issues that you may not have known about, or that you did not see from that particular angle before."

"I greatly improved my understanding of Asian, Middle Eastern, and African geography. Even if I knew about certain world events and burgeoning conflicts before coming, I learned about them in greater detail at OEF."

Jessica Michelin

Human Rights Watch
New York City, New York



Jessica is a second-year student at McGill's Faculty of Law. Prior to starting law school, she obtained a BA Honours in Psychology at McGill University, where she also played for the varsity rugby team.

Jessica is a Senior Editor for the McGill Journal of Law and Health, and volunteers with PBSC Canada providing accessible legal information to various community organizations. Previously, she has volunteered at the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. She also works as a research assistant.

Jessica is interested in public law, specifically in the way that judicial reasoning evolves in response to modern-day problems, and in the intersection between access to justice and access to information.



Human Rights Watch investigates and reports on abuses happening in all corners of the world. They are roughly 450 people of 70+ nationalities who are country experts, lawyers, journalists, and others who work to protect the most at risk, from vulnerable minorities and civilians in wartime, to refugees and children in need. They direct advocacy towards governments, armed groups and businesses, pushing them to change or enforce their laws, policies and practices.

What was your experience like at HRW overall?

— "I had a fantastic experience at HRW. I learned a tremendous amount about research and advocacy at a large human rights organization. The internship is very well run, and I felt that I was given the opportunity to do pertinent and challenging research. The International Justice team treats the interns with respect, and works hard to help each intern get the most of his or her experience."

What was it like to live in New York City?

— "A pessimist would describe New York City as loud, smelly, hot, crowded and expensive. An optimist would describe New York City as vibrant, beautiful, full of culture and events, exciting and intense. In reality, you will find that the city meets all those characteristics at one point or another."

"Throughout my internship this summer, not only did I learn a tremendous amount about legal advocacy and legal research, but I also grew both personally and professional in unexpected and exciting ways."

Derek Pace

One Earth Future Foundation
Boulder, Colorado



Gorgeous canyons in Utah, taken during one of Derek's hiking trips.



Derek is a first-year law student at McGill. Prior to law school, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is from the southern United States and has also spent time living in Morocco, Ukraine, and Taiwan. In Ukraine, he served in the Peace Corps, a US government international development organization.

Derek's legal interests center primarily on the ways in which religion, language, and sexuality intersect with the law. At McGill, he serves on the executive board of OutLaw, McGill Law's queer student organization, and is a law student ambassador.

The **One Earth Future Foundation** fosters sustainable peace by building effective networks and resilient societies in fragile and post-conflict environments around the world.

What did you think about the city of Boulder?

– "Boulder is a very nice town, and aside from the relatively high cost of living, a very easy place to live. By "easy" I mean that it offers a refreshing change of pace from fast-paced East coast cities, as well as proximity to mountains and gorgeous parks. It's a great place for outdoor recreation, as is the entire Denver metropolitan area and Colorado in general"

What was one of your work highlights while at One Earth?

– "[M]ost of my work at OEF involved the Maritime Security Index, which Stable Seas publishes each year. While I performed a wide variety of tasks as part of my work on the Index, they primarily involved research in various forms. The research was nearly always connected in some way to maritime security in Africa and Asia."

Any advice you'd like to share for the next intern?

– "OEF is a collegial environment and there will be many social events throughout the summer, including happy hours at the nearby hotel bar and even an employee pool party. I would recommend going to as many of these events as you'd like; they're a great way to bond with people outside the context of work."

"One of the things that I most appreciated about my internship at OEF is the amazing people who make up the organization. At OEF, I worked with a stellar staff of driven, passionate, intelligent people, who, despite the relatively high-level nature of the work that they do, are very friendly and easygoing."

LATIN AMERICA



ARGENTINA



Leila Alfaro
*Centro de Investigación
y Docencia en Derechos
Humanos*

PERU



Natalia Koper
*Instituto de Democracia y
Derechos Humanos*

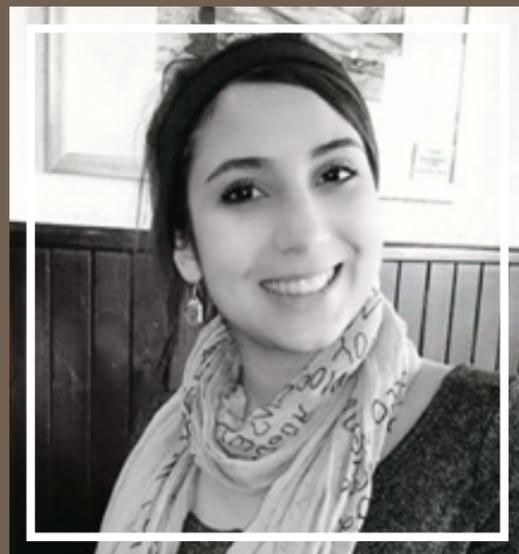
COSTA RICA



Kelly O'Connor
*The Inter-American Court of
Human Rights*

Leila Alfaro

Centro de Investigación y Docencia en Derechos Humanos (CIDDH)
Mar del Plata, Argentina



Leila is in her first year at McGill's Faculty of Law. Originally from Honduras, she grew up in the South Shore (Montreal). She holds a BA in French Language and Literature with Honour's in Translation and a Minor in German from McGill University. In the past few years, she has expressed her focus in advocacy for diversity, inclusivity and accessibility mainly through her work as a research assistant, language tutor, translator and bilingual editor for the literary magazine Post-. Last summer, she was a McGill BLUE Fellow and worked on an interdisciplinary project on censorship, literature, translation theory and machine translation. Leila is the current Finance Lead for the LNFB chapter at McGill. Outside the faculty, Leila is mostly a busy mom and a volunteer translator and educator assistant.



The **Center for Research and Human Rights Education** (Centro de Investigación y Docencia en Derechos Humanos) is based within the Faculty of Law at the National University of Mar del Plata. Its primary goal is to strengthen education and capacity building in human rights in Argentina and the region. The Center has three core areas of research: transitional justice and human rights, political economy and human rights, and disability and human rights.

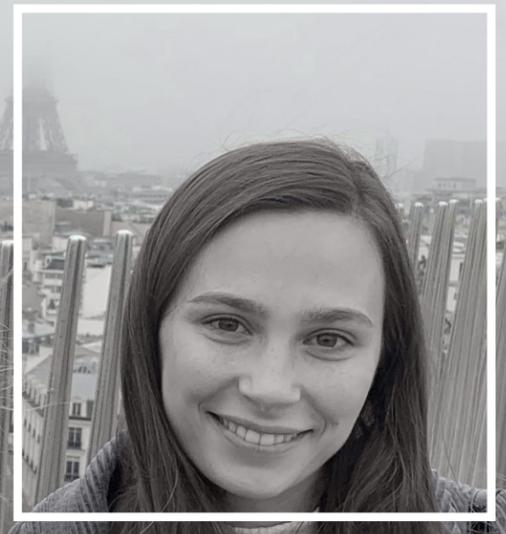
What did you primarily work on over the summer, Leila?

— "During my time in Mar del Plata, I mostly participated in the extension project activities. I met with graduate students from the different participating faculties as well as alumni and practicing lawyers in order to prepare and carry out the different events seeking to promote voting rights for persons with disabilities. The main component of this initiative was the holding of projects aimed at different groups of persons with different kinds of disabilities. These workshops were held at different locations throughout the city, at schools tailored for specific disabilities, community centres, faculty lectures and election officials' training sessions."

"My main takes from this internship are that life experiences are what we make out of them, that human rights work and perspectives are infinitely plural in many ways and that we must be critical about our stances, to never take anything for granted, to learn and be comfortable with our own limits while always striving to challenge ourselves."

Natalia Koper

Instituto de Democracia y Derechos Humanos (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)
Lima, Peru



At the beginning of the IACHR course, participants identified key challenges for the human rights field in Latin America.

Natalia is a first-year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds a BA in Applied Linguistics and in International Relations from the University of Warsaw, and a MSc degree in International Relations of the Americas from University College London. Her Master's thesis focused on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the empowerment of Indigenous peoples in Nicaragua. She was awarded UCL Americas Prize for Best Dissertation on an International Relations Topic. At the Faculty, Natalia volunteers with the International Refugee Assistance Program and is an associate editor at the McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law. Outside of the Faculty, Natalia runs an online publication on identity politics and social justice, Diálogos Journal and works as a digital editor of the Milan-based Lifegate Media. Prior to her legal education, Natalia interned with the Polish Committee of UNESCO and for an anti-death penalty project at the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

IDEHPUCP is a research institution, affiliated with Peru's most renowned university the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP). It is run by Doctor Salomón Lerner, former Chair of Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR) and former Dean of the PUCP, and la Doctora Elizabeth Salmón, a law professor at the PUCP and a specialist in international law.

What did you most appreciate during your internship?

– "Above all, I appreciated the opportunity to find myself in the centre of the process of producing Latin American scholarship. This time provided me with precious insights on the publication process—from brainstorming, through applying for funding, and the execution process."

Can you tell us a bit about travelling to Peru?

– "The chance to travel will also be another great memory from the placement. This was my first time in Peru, and I had not travelled anywhere abroad for a while. This was a great moment to do so: while I enjoyed the first year of law school, I needed a change of environment and to let myself feel a bit inconvenient or surprised. Getting closer to the Peruvian culture both complemented my internship experience and allowed me to reconnect with myself. It also positively recharged me for the upcoming school year."

"My summer experience in Lima provided me with many invaluable memories and opportunities. Having just completed the first year of law school, I had the chance to apply this new perspective to the field I have been interested in for several years now."

Kelly O'Connor

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR)
San José, Costa Rica



Interns and Visiting Professionals of May-August 2019. My colleagues were from Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Spain.

Kelly is a third-year BCL/LLB student at McGill University, with a minor in Hispanic Studies. Prior to law school, she completed a B.A. in English and French literature at the University of British Columbia. During this time, she focused on feminist and post-colonial theory and worked at the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France, and at Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa. After her undergraduate degree, Kelly went to Bogotá, Colombia to study Spanish at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Together, these experiences inspired her passion for human rights law and transitional justice and ultimately led her to McGill. Since her arrival at the Faculty, Kelly has continued to pursue her interest in human rights law. She interned at Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education and undertook research for Avocats sans frontières Canada. In the summer of 2018, she worked as an intern at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Ecuador in refugee resettlement. Kelly is currently an intern at Just Solutions Legal Clinic and a participant in the Clinique internationale de défense des droits humains de l'UQAM.

The **Inter-American Court of Human Rights** is a treaty-based organ that was formally established by the OAS in September 1979. It was established as an autonomous judicial institution with the mandate of interpreting and applying the American Convention on Human Rights.

What was one of your first tasks at IACHR?

– "Some of my first tasks were to summarize the submissions of the Inter-American Commission, the victims' representatives, and the State. Sometimes my summaries were to assist with the writing of the decisions, which in the Inter-American System always include a summary of the arguments of the parties, and sometimes it was to be provided as a memo to the judges to assist with their deliberations. In my first couple of weeks I summarized the submissions of the parties, which totaled more than 500 pages, into a memo of approximately 25 pages, all single spaced."

What would you recommend to future interns?

– "It would be helpful to be aware of some of the most important human rights issues in the Americas, past and present, as it can take up to 22 years after the facts for a case to reach the Court. Some of the most significant jurisprudence of the Court has been in the area of forced disappearance, which was a big issue under the military dictatorships in the Southern Cone in the 1960s-1980s and during the civil wars in Central America in the 1980s-1990s. I would try and familiarize myself with the history of some of the biggest countries for cases in the Inter-American system (if you're not already familiar!)"

"Three things stood out as the best parts of my experience: seeing the inside of a regional human rights tribunal and gaining expertise in its jurisprudence; building a professional network of human rights lawyers from all around Latin America and the world; and perfecting my legal Spanish."

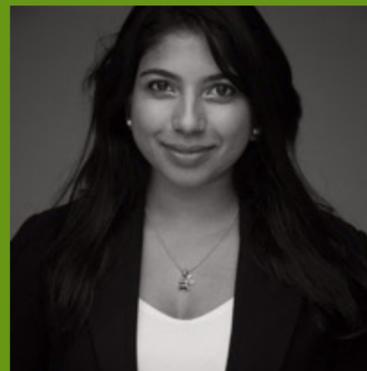
AFRICA

UGANDA



Katrina Bland
Refugee Law Project

NAMIBIA



Bianca Braganza
*Law Reform and
Development Commission*

TUNISIE



Aurélie
Derigaud-Choquette
Aswat Nissa

KENYA



Julia Green
The Equality Effect

THE GAMBIA



Linda Muhugusa
*Institute for Human Rights
and Development*

MAROC



Félix-Antoine Pelletier
*Conseil national des droits
de l'Homme*

UGANDA



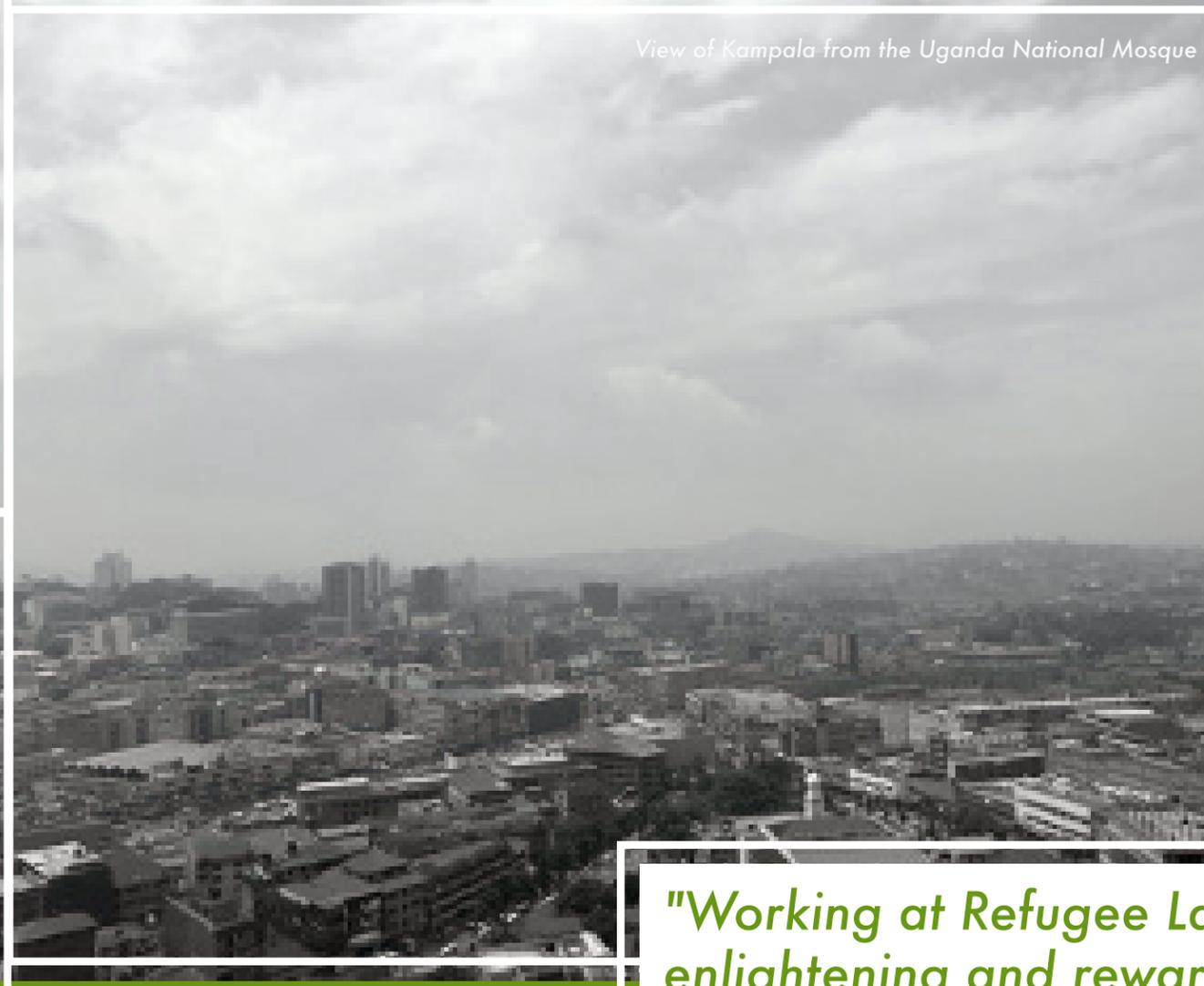
Kirstie Russell
*Center for Health, Human
Rights and Development,
and the Refugee Law Project*

Katrina Bland

Refugee Law Project
Kampala, Uganda



View of Kampala from the Uganda National Mosque



Katrina is a first-year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds an Honours B.A. in international relations and political science from the University of Toronto. During her undergrad, Katrina participated in exchange programs with Sciences Po and Kwansei Gakuin University and worked as health infrastructure project manager in Kenya. Before coming to McGill, Katrina was the Chair of the G7 Research Group based at the Munk School of Global Affairs. Her research interests include global governance, gender, migration and cross-cultural communication. At the Faculty, Katrina is a member of the International Refugee Assistance Project's Intake team as well as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Sustainable Development Law.

"Working at Refugee Law Project (RLP) has been an enlightening and rewarding experience. RLP provides a diverse range of services for forced migrants across Uganda, allowing me to witness firsthand the intersection of several different approaches to human rights work."

The **Refugee Law Project (RLP)** seeks to empower asylum seekers, refugees, deportees, IDPs and host communities to enjoy their human rights and lead dignified lives.

What was the first thing you worked on at RLP?

— "I began my internship working in the Conflict, Transitional Justice and Governance department (CTJG). This department was an excellent place for me to learn about the history of Uganda, the diversity of its population, and the current challenges to peace and development across the country. While I was unfamiliar with transitional justice processes before my internship, I quickly learned that transitional justice intersects with other areas I am interested in, including international criminal law, law and cultural diversity, international relations, and restorative justice."

Do you have any recommendations for future interns?

— "RLP has numerous training materials and resources available on their website that I would recommend to anyone interested in an overview of transitional justice, international refugee law, and best practices for working with forced migrants. Reviewing these would help a future intern to familiarize themselves with RLP's work so they can get the most out of their experience. Shanita, the manager of human resources for RLP, helped design my internship according to my interests by splitting my time between CTJG and the Access to Justice department. I think Shanita would do everything she could to accommodate an intern's preferences and would recommend reaching out to her in advance of arrival."

Bianca Braganza

Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC)
Windhoek, Namibia



Bianca is a first year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds an Honour's Bachelor of Health Sciences from Western University, and a Master's of Global Health from McMaster University, with an exchange completed at Maastricht University, The Netherlands. Her undergraduate thesis examined the bio-medicalization of trauma in Canadian Residential School Survivors, while her Master's thesis focused on the rights of unaccompanied children seeking asylum through irregular border crossings into Canada. Prior to entering law, Bianca worked for 3 years as a Student Border Services Officer with the Canada Border Services Agency while completing her studies. At the Faculty, Bianca is a Junior Editor for the McGill Journal of Law and Health, and a ProBono student for the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations. She also volunteers for the Women of Color Collective, Law Needs Feminism Because, and Learning, Education, Connection (LEX). Bianca is passionate about children and youth access to legal education and justice; the intersection of health, migration, policy and the law; Indigenous law; domestic and international criminal law; and the anthropology, sociology and philosophy of law.

The **Law Reform and Development Commission** is a government commission established in 1992 in Namibia, that creates reports making recommendations for legal reforms.

What was primarily your work this summer?

– "Editing Bills going to Parliament for new submission, or for reform through amendments. This requires the creation of memos and briefs, conducting cross jurisdictional analyses of current Namibian legislation on the subject, with international sources such as South African, Canadian, American and other leading global examples of legislation on the subject, and UN provisions."

Any recommendations for future interns?

– I think based on fellow interns feedback, and my own experiences, the internship in Namibia is one of the best the program has to offer—you are extremely lucky to have this opportunity!"

"This experience was truly the most memorable of my legal education, whereby I discovered new ways of seeing the world and using the law as a tool to create tangible change in communities."

Aurélie Derigaud-Choquette

Aswat Nissa
Lafayette, Tunisie



Une partie de l'équipe d'Aswat Nissa lors d'une formation organisée pour l'équipe sur le genre et le plaidoyer politique



Aurélie termine actuellement sa deuxième année du programme BCL/LLB. Avant son entrée à McGill, elle a obtenu son DEC en Sciences de la nature au Collège André-Grasset. Sa passion combinée pour l'animation d'activités pour enfants et le sport l'ont amenée à travailler plusieurs années comme monitrice de ski alpin et monitrice de camp de jour.

Au cours de l'année 2018-2019, elle a été bénévole pour la Clinique d'information juridique de McGill et a été membre du Family Law Project de Pro Bono Students Canada. Ces expériences de bénévolat l'ont sensibilisée aux impacts regrettables de l'inaccessibilité au système de justice canadien. Aurélie est aussi co-présidente de classe des élèves en droit de deuxième année de McGill.

Aswat Nissa est une organisation non gouvernementale de droit tunisien. Créée en 2011, elle est indépendante de toute influence politique. Inclusive, elle plaide pour l'intégration de l'approche genre dans les politiques publiques en encourageant les femmes tunisiennes à porter leur voix et à prendre la place qui leur revient dans la vie publique et politique. « Aswat Nissa » se traduit de l'arabe au français par «?voix de femmes?».

Peux-tu expliquer ce que tu as fait comme travail avec le Aswat Nissa?

—"J'ai eu la chance de travailler sur différents projets lors de mon stage au sein d'Aswat Nissa. Je travaillais surtout en collaboration avec la Chargée de communications Sonia. Ainsi, j'ai commencé par être impliquée dans la finalisation et la correction de l'Étude sur l'intégration de l'approche genre dans la législation tunisienne relative au secteur de la sécurité entre 2014 et 2018. Cette tâche était intéressante puisqu'elle m'a permis d'en apprendre beaucoup sur le paysage juridique tunisien en lisant (et relisant) ce document de recherche."

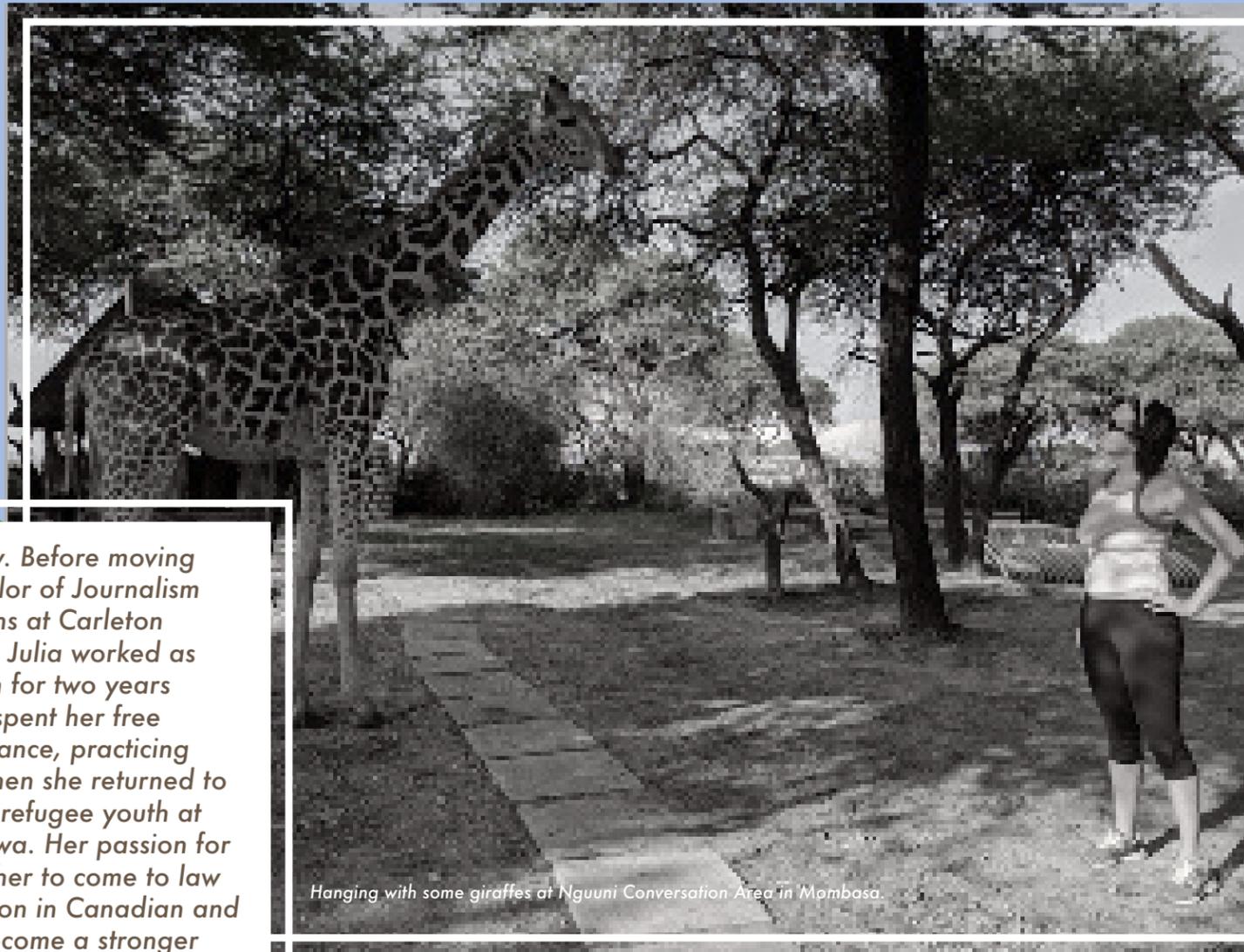
As-tu des recommandations pour les prochains stagiaires?

—"Malheureusement, la majorité des événements organisés par Aswat Nissa (que ce soit la Table-ronde pour la présentation de l'étude sur l'intégration de l'approche genre ou les formations données dans le cadre de l'Académie Politique des Femmes) sont données en arabe. C'est naturel, c'est la langue du pays! Par contre, pour des gens qui ne parlent pas arabe, c'est dommage. Je recommande d'être « préparé mentalement » à un environnement différent où la langue crée forcément une barrière."

"Chez Aswat Nissa, j'avais le sentiment d'être au cœur de l'actualité!"

Julia Green

The equality effect (in partnership with the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) and Ripples International)
Meru and Mombasa, Kenya



Hangin' with some giraffes at Nguuni Conversation Area in Mombasa.

Julia is in her first year at McGill Law. Before moving to Montreal, she completed a Bachelor of Journalism with a focus on International Relations at Carleton University. Following her undergrad, Julia worked as an English teacher in southern Japan for two years with the JET Programme, where she spent her free time learning traditional Japanese dance, practicing karate, and hiking up volcanoes. When she returned to Canada, she got a job working with refugee youth at an immigrant support centre in Ottawa. Her passion for helping newcomers is what inspired her to come to law school, where she hopes her education in Canadian and international law will allow her to become a stronger ally to migrants. Julia is particularly interested in the connection between climate change, migration and international law. She explored this topic during her time at Carleton and wrote a thesis paper on it for the Professional Certificate in Disaster Management that she completed with the International Federation of the Red Cross while she lived in Japan. She is now a member of the McGill chapter of *Avocats sans Frontières* and is part of the student advocacy team for the International Refugee Assistance Project. In her spare time Julia studies Spanish, plays ice hockey, explores Montreal and volunteers wherever she can.

The **equality effect** uses human rights law to make the rights of girls & women real, so that they can be safe from sexual violence, get an education, and fulfill their economic potential.

You had a bit of a last minute change to your summer plans – can you tell us a bit about how this?

—"[A] few days before we were set to leave, Fiona emailed us to ask if we would be okay with starting out our internship at the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) in Mombasa, which is a big city on the Kenyan coast. Despite the short notice and the obvious discrepancy between the two places, Jenna and I were keen. On our layover in Amsterdam we cancelled the car we had arranged to take us to Meru and booked a flight from Nairobi to Mombasa instead. We ended up spending our first two months in Mombasa at the ICRH, and heading to Ripples International in Meru for only our final three weeks."

Can you tell us a bit about living in Meru?

—"Our time in Meru was short, but after two hectic months in Mombasa, I enjoyed the slower pace of life. We had come prepared to keep ourselves busy, which wound up being very useful for week nights when we finished work too late to be able to get to town afterwards."

"[T]his summer has encouraged me to look into how I can steer my career in a direction that may have me one day back in Nairobi."

Linda Muhugusa

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)
Banjul, The Gambia



Linda is in her second year of the BCL/LLB program at McGill's Faculty of Law. She is from Montreal and is currently a specialized senior editor for the McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law, while also being actively involved with the Legal Information Clinic at McGill as a volunteer.

Prior to her legal studies, she completed a DEC in natural sciences at John Abbott College, with a special focus on environmental sciences. Her academic background helped further her passion and interest for sustainable development, and she hopes to gain a better understanding of the intersection between human rights, development and environmental justice. In her free time, she enjoys travelling, learning new languages and dancing.

"I got the opportunity to meet some extraordinary people during my time in The Gambia. My principal fear going into this internship was to be bored and alone, but the opposite ended up happening. I quickly formed friendships that have lasted up until this day."

The **Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)** is a pan-African non-governmental organization (NGO) working to promote awareness of human rights in Africa and improve the effectiveness of the African Human Rights system. IHRDA envisions an African continent where all have access to justice via national, African and international human rights mechanisms.

Can you tell us a bit about the work you did this summer?

– "My work mostly consisted in assisting the legal officers on the cases they were working on, and of performing legal research that was then used for grant applications or legal training [...] I was often given the task of writing legal memos on specific areas of law that would help a legal officer write an argument for a case they were working on. I also drafted a few admissibility briefs (mémoire sur la recevabilité) that were then reviewed by the legal officers before being sent to court. With the legal officers in charge of the cases, I had the opportunity to meet a few clients to discuss their situation, and I was tasked with noting their version of the facts and then writing affidavits based on these recounted facts."

Any recommendations for future interns?

– "I would recommend taking a public international law course prior to this internship, or alternatively having some knowledge of the UN's human rights mechanisms and institutions, as the African human rights structure resembles the UN's. The fact that I had taken a public international law class helped me grasp issues of standing and jurisdiction for African human rights cases a bit faster, which was useful to my colleagues. On another note, do not be afraid to ask questions – you are here to learn. Be sure to make the most of this opportunity: try local dishes, travel if you have the chance, go meet people, and have fun!"

Félix-Antoine Pelletier

Conseil national des droits de l'Homme (CNDH)
Rabat, Maroc



Félix-Antoine est présentement un étudiant de deuxième année dans le programme BCL/LLB de la Faculté de droit de l'Université McGill. Avant d'intégrer la Faculté de droit, Félix-Antoine a complété son DEC au Collège de Maisonneuve (Montréal) dans le profil Justice et Société, en Sciences humaines.

Félix-Antoine travaille présentement en tant qu'étudiant-clinicien à la Clinique Juridique Itinérante, une organisation dont la mission est de promouvoir l'accès à la justice des personnes démunies, itinérantes et/ou marginalisées. Cette implication lui permet d'offrir de l'information juridique aux usagers, de les accompagner au Palais de justice et à des rendez-vous, d'assister certains juristes dans leur travail, ainsi que d'effectuer de la recherche pour la Clinique. L'objectif est de contribuer à la réinsertion sociale des personnes en situation d'itinérance.



Médina (ancienne partie d'une ville) de Rabat

Conseil national des droits de l'Homme (CNDH) est une institution nationale pluraliste et indépendante, chargée de connaître toutes les questions relatives à la défense et à la protection des droits de l'Homme et des libertés, à la garantie de leur plein exercice et à leur promotion ainsi qu'à la préservation de la dignité, des droits et des libertés individuelles et collectives des citoyennes et citoyens et ce, dans le strict respect des référentiels nationaux et universels en la matière.

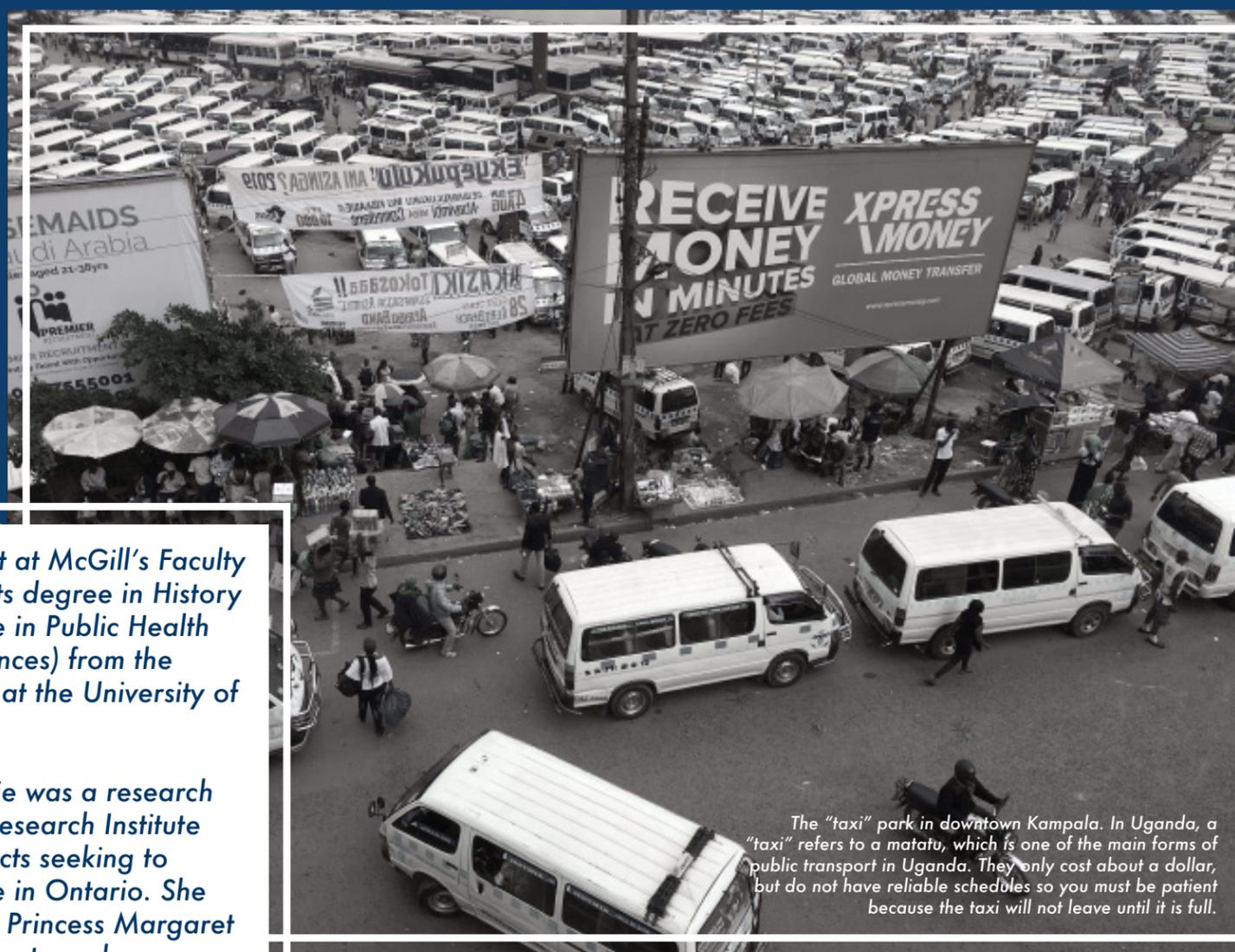
As-tu des recommandations pour les prochains stagiaires?

– "Je recommande au/à la futur.e stagiaire du CNDH de participer à autant d'évènements que possible. Premièrement, les évènements sont très stimulants puisqu'ils rassemblent plusieurs experts, de plusieurs pays, pour parler de problématiques particulières en matière de droits de l'Homme. J'ai eu la chance de participer à trois évènements, tous d'une durée de 3 à 4 jours. Deuxièmement, les évènements sont une opportunité de changer d'air et de vivre quelque chose de différent. C'est une chance de réseauter avec des experts d'autres pays. Cela fait du bien de faire autre chose qu'être à son bureau. J'ai remarqué qu'il y avait presque constamment un collègue qui préparait un évènement. Pour participer aux évènements, je recommande au/à la prochain.e stagiaire d'être attentif. ve pour connaître les dates des évènements et qui sont les organisateurs."

"Mon expérience de stage au CNDH fut très rafraîchissante, tant personnellement que professionnellement. J'en ai appris énormément sur moi-même ainsi que sur une toute nouvelle culture. Cette expérience fut très intense parce que j'ai multiplié les rencontres et les voyages partout dans le pays. Je me suis donné pour mission de découvrir l'ensemble du pays avant de revenir au Canada – et j'ai réussi."

Kirstie Russell

Center for Health, Human Rights and Development and the Refugee Law Project
Kampala, Uganda



The "taxi" park in downtown Kampala. In Uganda, a "taxi" refers to a matatu, which is one of the main forms of public transport in Uganda. They only cost about a dollar, but do not have reliable schedules so you must be patient because the taxi will not leave until it is full.

Kirstie is a first year BCL/JD student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from McGill and a Master's degree in Public Health (social and behavioural health sciences) from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Prior to attending law school, Kirstie was a research assistant at the Women's College Research Institute where she worked on several projects seeking to improve the quality of primary care in Ontario. She also has experience working at the Princess Margaret Cancer Center as a Quality Coordinator, where she developed a project plan seeking to improve the quality of patient consenting practices among physicians.

Kirstie's interests lie at the intersection of human rights and health law. Currently, Kirstie is a volunteer with Pro Bono Students Canada McGill where she is helping to implement a legal clinic at Maison Plein Coeur, a non-profit organization that supports people living with HIV/AIDS in Montréal.

"Kampala is a vibrant city with a lot to offer [...] It seems like there is always something going on in the city!"

CEHURD focuses its efforts on critical issues of human rights and health systems in East Africa such as sexual and reproductive health rights, trade and health, and medical ethics which affect the vulnerable and less-advantaged populations such as women, children, orphans, sexual minorities, people living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, internally-displaced persons, refugee populations and victims of violence, torture, disasters and conflict.

The **Refugee Law Project (RLP)** seeks to empower asylum seekers, refugees, deportees, IDPs and host communities to enjoy their human rights and lead dignified lives.

Can you tell us a bit about your summer?

— "I learned a lot in the short period of time that I was there. I was given a lot of responsibility and was able to acquire a number of practical legal skills, including preparing documents for court, contributing to the drafting of legal submissions and writing legal opinions. I also learned a lot about litigation which, until I worked at CEHURD, was a practice area that I did not think was of interest to me."

Any recommendations for future interns?

— "Before accepting this internship, it is important to recognize that you will be working very hard and you will have to be comfortable learning on your feet. I was never given an orientation to Ugandan law or information about where to find resources. I more or less had to figure it out on my own and be comfortable asking my colleagues lots of questions. Before starting this internship, I would recommend contacting CEHURD to ask which program area you will be placed in. If you are placed in Strategic Litigation, I recommend orienting yourself to the Ugandan Constitution and to key international law instruments, including the Maputo Protocol and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. While I found the job quite intense, it was also fulfilling because I was given a lot of responsibility which, as I highlighted above, gave me the opportunity to gain a number of practical legal skills."

ASIA & EUROPE

BULGARIA



Samantha Backman
Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law

THE PHILIPPINES



Kathleen Barera
Ateneo Human Rights Center

CAMBODIA



Adeline Lalande
Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)

SRI LANKA



Tessa Martin
International Center for Ethnic Studies

Samantha Backman

Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law
Sofia, Bulgaria



Samantha is a second-year BCL/LLB student in the Faculty of Law at McGill University. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Bishop's University. During her undergraduate degree, Samantha completed an internship in the field of public health policy at EuroHealthNet, a not-for-profit organization based in Brussels, Belgium.

Since beginning law school, Samantha has volunteered at the McGill Legal Information Clinic and has served as a junior editor with the McGill Journal of Law and Health. One of her most enriching experiences as a law student has been working with the Elder Law Clinic, advocating for the rights of the elderly. Samantha's special interests are health law and social policy, as well as environmental law.



"I feel extremely fortunate to have had the chance to gain insight into the intricacies of advocacy work and I leave my internship feeling enlightened and inspired about the role that civil society organizations play in the legislative reform process."

The **Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law (BCNL)** is part of the network of the International Center for Not-for-Profit law (ICNL) and of the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) which operate in over 100 countries worldwide with the aim to protect the right to association and develop the legal framework for civil organizations. BCNL provides support for the drafting and implementation of legislation and policies with the aim to advance the civil society, civil participation and good governance in Bulgaria.

What was the highlight of your internship?

– "It was deeply enriching to be exposed to the various pilot projects, research publications, and advocacy efforts that BCNL has spearheaded in this field."

What sort of work did you do over the summer?

– "My internship experience was centred upon the preparation of a research report discussing 18 recent legislative reforms in the area of legal capacity and supported decision-making for persons with disabilities. Throughout the research and writing process, my mentors at BCNL imparted ample knowledge and advice to me. I thoroughly enjoyed engaging in many thought-provoking discussions with my supervisors about the challenges of achieving genuine equality before the law for persons with disabilities."

Kathleen Barera

Ateneo Human Rights Center
Manila, The Philippines



Kathleen is a second-year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law majoring in International Human Rights and Development. She is passionate about and committed to practice international human rights law. She previously completed a Bachelor's degree in International Development Studies with a minor in Sociology at McGill University. She also worked alongside community organizations on important projects in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Ghana, including launching HIV/AIDS and Ebola awareness education campaigns in Ghana. At the Faculty, she is involved with many wonderful organizations in hopes to make a positive impact in the Montreal community. Since her first year, she has interned at the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR) through Pro Bono Students Canada and volunteered with Animal Justice McGill. At CRARR, she mainly drafts and revises police ethics and civil rights complaints for victims of discrimination. From the summer after her first year, she also began to volunteer as a case worker at the Legal Information Clinic at McGill.



The **Ateneo Human Rights Center** was founded in July 1986, a few months after the historic EDSA Revolution drew attention to the indomitable might that is People Power. While the dictatorship infamous for human rights violations was overthrown through peaceful and bloodless means, it became obvious immediately thereafter that much work still had to be done in the field of human rights. AHRC was established as one of the first university-based institutions engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Can you tell us a bit about your work environment this past summer?

— "The AHRC team is very welcoming, kind-hearted, fun-spirited, and passionate about their human rights work and advocacy. As a result, I felt comfortable in my work environment from the very beginning."

What sort of work did you do over the summer?

— "I was assigned to work at the AKAP/Child Rights Desk, specifically to research the common children's rights issues across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-states, as part of the AHRC's project of "Building a Child-Friendly ASEAN". This crucial project is being undertaken by the AHRC in partnership with Save the Children Philippines. The task to undertake comparative research and analysis on children's rights issues and rights violations faced by children across ASEAN was perfectly in tune with my interests as I am passionate about children's rights."

"Through my assigned project, my exposure to a variety of human rights advocacy work, reading the news, and speaking to my colleagues, I have been able to develop a broader understanding of the human rights situation in the Philippines."

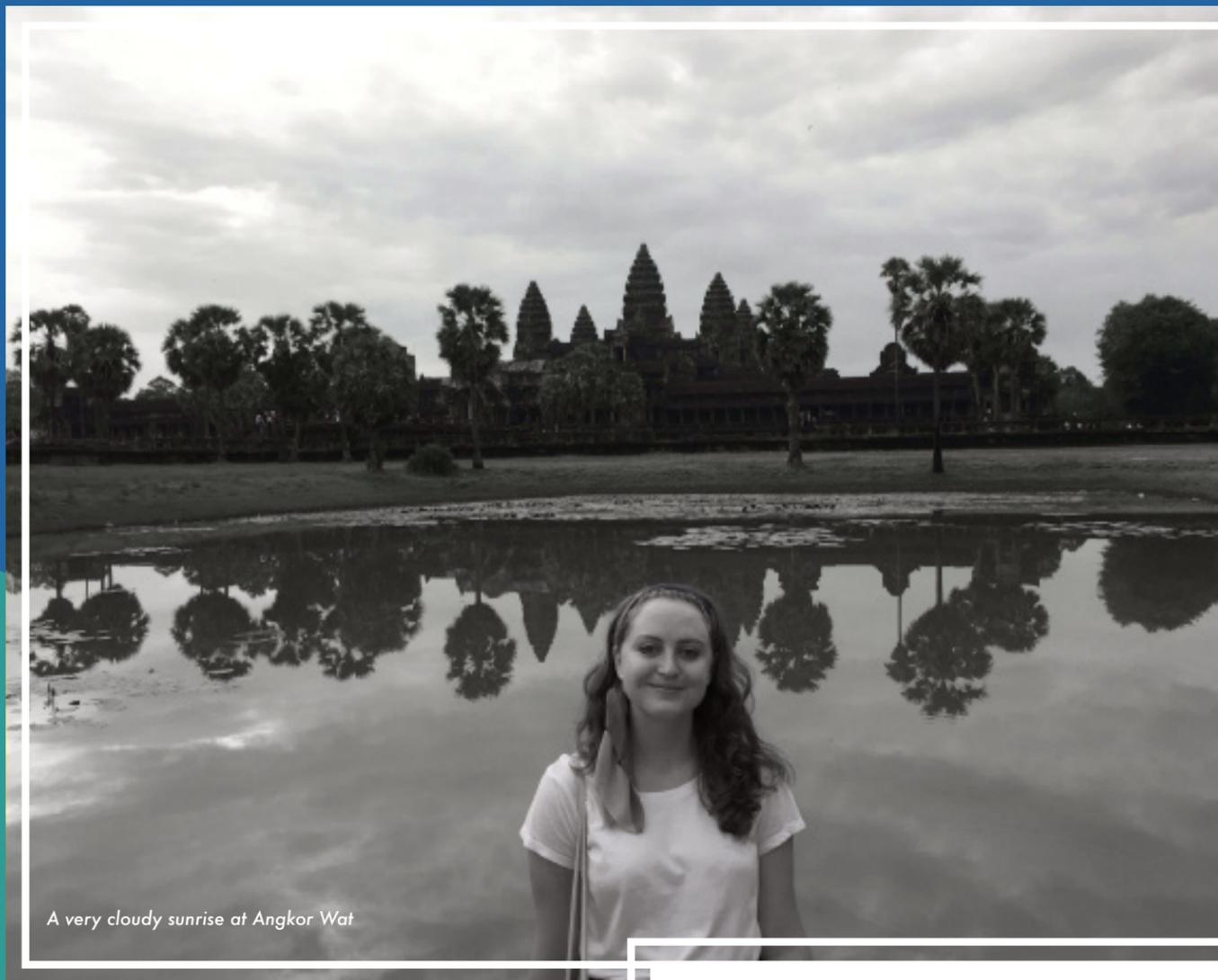
Adelise Lalande

Cambodian League for the Promotion & Defence of Human Rights (LICADHO)
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Adelise Lalande is a first-year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds an Honours BA in Communication from the University of Ottawa. Alongside her studies, Adelise worked as a Page in the House of Commons. She also helped launch Iqaluit's first entrepreneurship hub and was on the Board of Directors of a non-profit meal delivery service for Ottawa's street-involved community. She spent 16 months on exchange in The Netherlands where she worked for an NGO in food chain sustainability and volunteered with a support group for undocumented women. Prior to starting law school, Adelise worked in policy and communications as a Junior Analyst for the Impact and Innovation Unit in the Privy Council Office of Canada.

At the Faculty of Law, Adelise is a Pro Bono student with PINAY, a Filipino women's organization in Montreal. She is also an Associate Editor for the McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law and active member of Tech Law McGill.



A very cloudy sunrise at Angkor Wat

"My internship at LICADHO was an engaging and eye-opening experience. The work was diverse and abundant."

LICADHO is a national Cambodian human rights organization. Since its establishment in 1992, LICADHO has been at the forefront of efforts to protect civil, political, economic and social rights in Cambodia and to promote respect for them by the Cambodian government and institutions. Building on its past achievements, LICADHO continues to be an advocate for the Cambodian people and a monitor of the government through wide ranging human rights programs from its main office in Phnom Penh and 13 provincial offices.

Can you tell us a bit about your work?

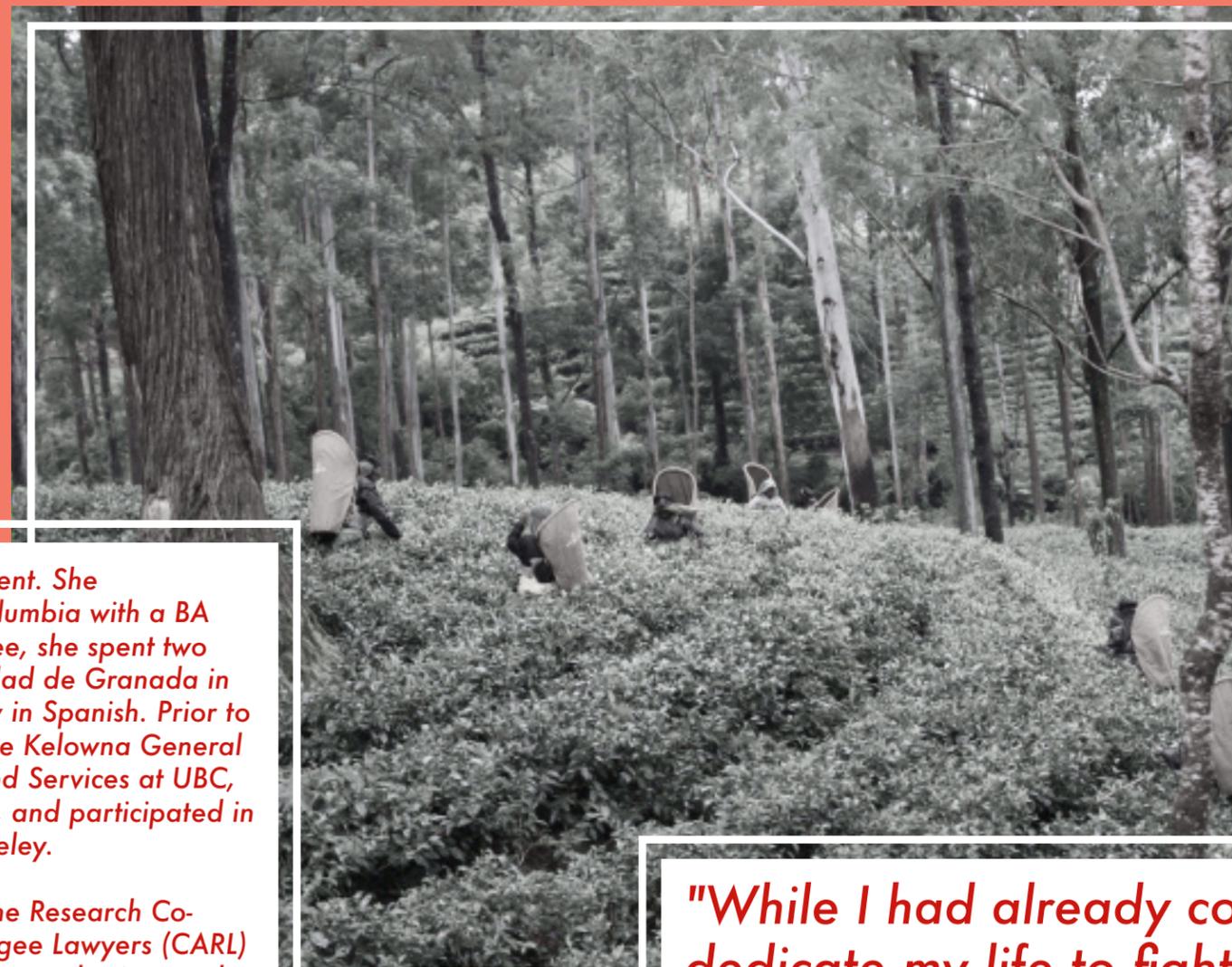
—"A majority of my tasks involved research and writing. The work covered a vast array of topics related to human rights including microfinancing, land insecurity, juvenile detention, defamation law, fraudulent adoptions, gender-based violence, and more. The internship also offered a limited number of opportunities to get out into the field: I joined a prison monitoring trip to interview incarcerated teenage girls about their lives behind bars, and also attended court sessions to observe the high-profile trials of union members and journalists. I never felt as though the work I was doing at LICADHO was far removed or disconnected from what was actually happening on the ground."

Recommendations for future interns?

—"Instead of trying to absorb every UN document out there, I recommend dedicating your pre-departure time and energy toward better understanding the situation on the ground. Looking to learn more about recent Cambodian history, I got through several chapters of *Hun Sen's Cambodia* by Sebastian Strangio and found it to be very informative."

Tessa Martin

International Center for Ethnic Studies
Colombo, Sri Lanka



Tessa Martin is a second-year BCL/LLB student. She graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BA in International Relations. During her degree, she spent two semesters studying abroad at the Universidad de Granada in Spain where her courses were taught solely in Spanish. Prior to starting law school, Tessa volunteered at the Kelowna General Hospital and the International Programs and Services at UBC, was part of the Rule Out Racism committee, and participated in Model UN conferences at McGill and Berkeley.

Since starting law school, Tessa has been the Research Co-Chair for the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL) at McGill. During her first year at McGill, Tessa also interned at the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR) through Pro Bono Students Canada, where she worked on cases involving claims of systemic discrimination. Over the summer of 2018, Tessa worked as a Complaint-Officer at CRARR and volunteered at the Legal Information Clinic at McGill.

Tessa currently volunteers at the Filipino Women's Organization in Quebec (PINAY) through Pro Bono Students Canada, where she conducts research on human trafficking and assists lawyers with the preparation of ongoing cases.

The **International Center for Ethnic Studies** engages in academic research, advocacy on key policy matters and endeavours to create a critical mass of people who believe in cultural pluralism and tolerance. For three decades, ICES has strived to evolve a model of historically sensitive theoretical and empirical research, publications and debate on key socio-political issues in the global South. ICES has been particularly influential in shaping policy and public imagination on issues of ethnic diversity and constitutional reform in Sri Lanka. ICES provides a vibrant and dynamic intellectual environment for academic and policy dialogues, discussions, seminars, publications and socially-engaged literature, art and cinema.

What sort of work did you do over the summer?

– "My work included analyzing a host of legislation, reading countless books and articles on plantation workers, and interviewing activists, professors and directors of NGOs."

What did you learn from your internship?

– "While I acknowledge that every experience working abroad is different (depending on the organization, the country, etc.), my experience interning at ICES confirmed that I would like to work for NGOs in different parts of the world in the future, preferably for longer periods of time."

"While I had already concluded that I wanted to dedicate my life to fighting for worker's rights, the opportunity to conduct research on the topic for three months confirmed that this is the right path for me. Moreover, it was the first time that I felt I could truly make a contribution to this field, which is more rewarding than words can convey."

FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

who make this program possible

**in alphabetical order*

Aurora Human Rights Internships Award

David W. Binet Student International Fund

Enhanced Educational Opportunities Fund

Francine and Robert Wiseman International Human Rights Award

Francine and Robert Wiseman International Internship Award

Frank & Jocelyn Toope Award

Honourable Mr. Justice Morris J. Fish Award

Hugessen Junior Fellowship in Disability Rights Fund

J. Schull and A. Yang Student International Programme Fund

Lindsey Anne Cameron Award

Lord Reading Society Human Rights Bursary

M. Novak and K. Weil Human Rights Internship Fund

M. Novak & K. Weil International Experience Internship Award

Nancy Park Memorial Prize

Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law

Pearson Chair in Civil Society

Petcher-Caron International Internships Award

Rathlyn Foundation Student Fund

Robert S. Litvack Award

