

International Human Rights Internship Program

2018 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

Tiran's view from the offices of Human Rights Watch on the 35th floor of the Empire State Building

Table of Contents

Director's Foreword	4
What is the International Human Rights Internship Program?	6
2018 IHRIP Team	8
2018 Interns	10
Canada Internships	12
United States Internships	34
Latin American Internships	44
African Internships	50
Asian and European Internships	66
Friends and Supporters	76

Director's Foreword

Amidst rising populism and narrowing civic space across the world, the International Human Rights Internship Program (IHRIP) has continued to provide students with extraordinary opportunities to concretely connect with actors defending fundamental rights and freedoms. The program has once again demonstrated a transformative impact on yet another cohort of students and simultaneously produced interdisciplinary scholarship on cutting-edge human rights issues through the Human Rights Internships' Working Paper Series (WPS).

In its' seventh year, WPS has become an effective platform to disseminate research geared towards accessible and innovative solutions to pressing human rights challenges and global issues. And the original ideas and policy proposals produced by our interns during the course of their internships contribute to the work of political and judicial institutions in Canada and abroad, as well as leading global civil society organizations. Insightful blogs written by the students have also acted as an insightful complement to the program, as they inspire and attract new generations of students to IHRIP.

Thanks to the generous support of our friends, supporters, and the Faculty, 26 students pursued internships in 16 countries spread across 5 continents during the summer of 2018. Our students contributed to the work of leading international advocacy groups, such as Human Rights Watch and Avocats sans Frontiers, and other organizations diligently working to defend fundamental freedoms and dignity in countries such as The Gambia, Uganda, Peru and the Philippines. Several interns also engaged with the ongoing process of reconciliation with indigenous communities in Canada, working with organizations such as Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services in Iqaluit, the Justice Department at the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre in Saskatchewan.

Principles of solidarity and partnership, which are the foundations of the program, have facilitated enduring partnerships and will continue to pave the way for new ones. We are grateful for these partnerships and the support of our community. Together, it has fuelled the creation of a global network of young leaders dedicated to building a more inclusive and just world.

Nandini Ramanujam

Nandini Ramanujam
Director, International Human Rights Internship Program



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. / LL.B. 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.



2018 IHRIP Team



Nandini Ramanujam
Director



Sharon Webb
Administrative Coordinator



Rachel Kohut
Editor



Alex Agnello
Student Coordinator



Emilie de Haas
Student Coordinator

2018 Interns

**in alphabetical order*

Rose Adams

Native Law Centre of Canada | *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

Tiran Rahimian Bajgiran

Human Rights Watch | *New York, New York*

Elisabeth Beauchamp

Mental Disability Rights Initiative of Serbia | *Belgrade, Serbia*

Alicia Blimkie

Ateneo HR Centre | *Manila, The Philippines*

A. Brett Campeau

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

Roxanne Caron

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

Léa Carresse

One Earth Future Foundation | *Colorado*

Adriana Cefis

International Center for Ethnic Studies | *Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Pouya Dabiran-Zohoory

Yukon Human Rights Commission | *Whitehorse, Yukon*

Eleanor Dennis

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

Emilie Duchesne

LICADHO | *Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Alix Génier

Aswat Nissa | *Tunisie*

Sara Gold

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

Catherine Labasi-Sammartino

Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) | *Kampala, Uganda*

Guillaume Lebrun-Petel

RADDHO | *Dakar, Sénégal*

Camille Lustière

Avocats Sans Frontières Canada | *Québec, Québec*

Kerry Ann Marcotte

Equitas | *Montreal, Quebec*

Nicole Maylor

One Earth Future Foundation | *Colorado*

Renaude Morin

Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme | *Rabat, Morocco*

Gwendolyn Muir

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

Francesca Nardi

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

Daniel Powell-Monture

One Earth Future Foundation | *Colorado*

Cassandra Richards

Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services | *Iqaluit, Nunavut*

Rachelle Rose

Yukon Human Rights Commission | *Whitehorse, Yukon*

Caroline Schurman-Grenier

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

Maia Stevenson

Canadian Civil Liberties Association | *Toronto, Ontario*

Heather Whiteside

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

Yulia Yugay

The Equality Effect | *Malawi*

Canada

**in alphabetical order*



Rose Adams
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



A. Brett Campeau
Ontario/Quebec/NY Border



Roxanne Caron
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Pouya Dabiran-Zohoory
Whitehorse, Yukon



Camille Lustiere
Quebec, Quebec



Kerry Ann Marcotte
Montreal, Quebec



Cassandra Richards
Iqaluit, Nunavut



Rachelle Rose
Whitehorse, Yukon



Maia Stevenson
Toronto, Ontario



Heather Whiteside
Toronto, Ontario

ROSE ADAMS

Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre of Canada
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Rose Adams is a second-year BCL/LLB student at the McGill Faculty of Law. She hails from Kuujuaq, Nunavik, Quebec, but has lived in Montreal for most of her life.

Rose holds a DEC in Modern Languages from Maisonneuve College – she studied Spanish and German. She is currently studying Inuktitut at the Avataq Cultural Institute in Montreal.

Prior to studying law, Rose also worked at the legal department of Makivik Corporation, the legal representative of Quebec Inuit. This experience has motivated her to pursue a career in law. She is passionate about Aboriginal and Indigenous law.

Tipi raised in the yard behind the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law.



The **Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp 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. In 2018, the Centre was renamed the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre, as a means to Indigenize the Centre.

Can you tell us a bit about the work environment, Rose?

– "The Centre is in a separate department within the College of Law that was recently renovated and is thus very beautiful. The Centre is on the University of Saskatchewan's campus, in the College of Law, but has its own individual offices, two conference rooms (including a circular one often used for smudging and cultural ceremonies), lunch area, washrooms, storage/printing room and a small kitchen. As the staff of the Centre, aside from the permanent staff, often rotates depending on the projects, there were a lot of available individual offices. I thus had my own, quite large office with a desktop computer and a window overlooking the gorgeous USask campus."

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

– "The work that I was doing there felt meaningful. I was assigned to work on the Gladue Awareness Project, which is meant to be the first phase of an important project that is part of the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre's restructuring process, which began in 2017. It is meant to be the first step in possibly building a standardized Gladue report writer training program for all of Saskatchewan. The Gladue Awareness Project aims to educate justice personnel and Indigenous communities as to the application of the Gladue and Ipeelee decisions, but also to create discussion as to how the issue of the over-incarceration of Indigenous offenders can be addressed. One of the ways the NLC did this was by developing materials – booklets and pamphlets – that educate about Gladue and that are to be distributed to courtrooms and Indigenous communities all over Saskatchewan. The main way though, is by preparing interactive seminars on Gladue that are currently and will be presented throughout Saskatchewan to those who participate in the criminal justice system. The discussions and solutions, suggestions proposed will be included in a final report, written by the Gladue Awareness Project Officer, Regina lawyer Michelle Brass.

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

– "I would recommend that future interns make efforts to be diplomatic, (culturally) sensitive people, open to non-traditional legal thinking. The work at the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre often involves working with Indigenous peoples and communities. It is important that the intern give priority to Indigenous people's perceptions of the projects or of the politics of things instead of their own."

ALLEN BRETT CAMPEAU

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Akwesasne, Quebec



Allen Brett Campeau is a third-year BCL/LLB student at the McGill Faculty of Law. He holds a B.Sc. Honours degree in Geography from Trent University (Peterborough, Ontario) and an M.Sc. degree in Biology from Laval University (Quebec City, Quebec). His M.Sc. research examined the impacts of climate change and caribou herbivory on migratory caribou habitat in northern Quebec and Labrador. Brett is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law and an Associate Editor with the McGill Indigenous Law Association's blog team. He is interested in climate change policy, wildlife and resource management, and Indigenous self-government arrangements.



Brett riding along with Akwesasne Conservation and Compliance Officers

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 were your main projects this summer?

– "My work with the Justice Department focussed on two main projects: the development of the Akwesasne law registry and the updating of the 1989 Akwesasne Wildlife Conservation Law."

What other types of activities did you get to do?

– "I would often be invited to participate in activities or projects that were unrelated to my two main projects, which kept things interesting during my stay. I visited the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre for an Indigenous Peoples Day celebration and I visited Thompson Island on reserve for a youth cultural camp. I also participated in two rounds of negotiations with Canada, Quebec, and Ontario on the Akwesasne Court and the administration of justice. The first round took place on Thompson Island for a day and a half, and the second round took place in Ottawa for a day. These negotiation experiences were very valuable for me, because I hope to work with government or First Nations on negotiating land claims, impact-benefit agreements, or other agreements in the future. I also went out on a boat patrol with the Akwesasne Conservation and Compliance officers, which allowed me to see enforcement of the old 1989 Wildlife Conservation Law. During a community wellness day, I helped with a St. Lawrence River clean-up. I particularly enjoyed these opportunities to get out on the river."

"This internship is helpful to get a sense of the inner workings of Indigenous band governments, and so is valuable for people who intend to work for First Nations or the public sector."

ROXANNE CARON

Centre for Law and Democracy
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Taken from the ferry from Dartmouth to Halifax with Portia (the legal officer) and Jeanne (the other intern) on one of our last nights in Halifax.

Roxanne is a second year BCL/LLB student at McGill University originally from Quebec City. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Université Laval and a M.A. in Philosophy with a specialty in Biomedical Ethics from McGill University. Her master's thesis focused on moral considerations surrounding the ban of doping in elite sports. At the Faculty, she is particularly interested in ethical and legal issues raised within the implementation of novel technologies and protection of personal data. Roxanne is currently working at the Centre of Genomics and Policy, affiliated to McGill University, where she is doing research on various issues arising from the integration of genomic technologies into clinical care. Previously, she was a research coordinator at the Neuroethics Research Unit of the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal, where she worked on the ethics of transition from pediatric to adult care services for youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities. She is happy to intern this summer at the Centre for Law and Democracy in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she hopes she will be able to touch on questions related to access to information as a crucial element of democracy.

"Coming from a bioethics background, working at the CLD was a chance to mix together a previous knowledge of privacy and consent laws with rights that aimed at vast diffusion of information, making for a very interesting contrast and highlighting issues on both sides."

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 was it like to live in Halifax?

– "Life in Halifax is both relaxing and full of activities. Halifax is the perfect mix of a small town feel and big city opportunities, so you really feel you can meet new people and make friends easily, as people are very welcoming and easy to approach."

What sort of work does CLD do?

– "The organization focuses on the rights of freedom of expression and information, encompassed in article 19 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Increasingly, it also is interested in digital rights, and many of our projects and grant applications this summer focused on this area of human rights."

Advice for future interns?

– "Reading a bit more on article 19, as well as visiting the CLD website and RTI rating website can give the intern a better idea of the field they will get into during this internship."

POUYA DABIRAN-ZOHOORY

Yukon Human Rights Commission
Whitehorse, Yukon



Pouya is a third-year BCL/LLB student at McGill. He holds a bachelor of commerce from Ryerson, where he majored in law and business. Specifically, he focused his studies on corporate social responsibility, and the roles of corporations, governments, and non-governmental organizations in international sustainable development. His interest in human rights lies in the intersection between economic development and environmental protection. He is interested in exploring the impact of resource and energy development on indigenous rights, both through law and policy. Pouya is currently a Senior Online Editor at the McGill Journal of Law and Health, and a Volunteer with the Innocence Project – McGill.



Exploring Skagway, Alaska with some friends, which is a popular destination weekend destination on the sea side.

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 sort of work did you do while at the Commission, Pouya?

– "As the previous intern did, I was responsible for helping take in inquiries from community members and seeing if their potential complaint fell within our jurisdiction and/or act. If not, I would refer them to various community organizations. I was also in charge of two investigations and investigation reports."

Any recommendations for future interns?

– "I would not hesitate to ask questions, as there is a tremendous amount of knowledge you do not have when starting, and do not even know you don't have. Knowing when you should be asking questions is an ability you have to develop as you go."

Any other tips?

– "I would caution against exploring alone because of bears, and to only do so nearer to the city and with bear spray on your person and easily accessible. I encountered several bears, and one while I was alone and did not have a vehicle close to me, so it is best to be prepared. Do not fear them, but respect that it is their home as well as yours, and learn as much as you can about their behaviour as possible."

"I think this internship is a wonderful hands-on experience which prepares interns and exposes them to a substantial amount of law related work, chances which are not available in Montreal as a law student."

CAMILLE LUSTIERE

Avocats sans Frontières Canada
Quebec, Quebec



Franco-Canadian, Camille Lustière holds a BA in Social Sciences and a Master's in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action from Sciences Po Paris. She has been interested in the Human Rights field since the beginning of her studies and intends to further her legal knowledge on the topic at McGill Faculty of Law. She has worked with different actors of the field, notably as Associations and NGOs liaison for a BC MLA for her master's internship and also for a French NGO raising awareness on Female Genital Mutilations, Excision Parlons-En!. At the Faculty she is involved with the Human Rights Working Group and the LEX Outreach Program. She wishes to specialize in International criminal Law, more specifically in sexual and gender-based violence.



Visite de Paolo Estrada pour la présentation du documentaire sur les personnes disparues au Guatemala

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

Quelles aptitudes et habiletés le stage vous a-t-il aidé à développer?

– "J'ai pu développer mes compétences en recherches, rafraîchis mes souvenirs de droit international et eu la chance de pouvoir pratiquer mon espagnol. Non seulement j'ai pu toucher à beaucoup de parties distinctes du droit international, mais j'ai eu aussi l'opportunité de me pencher sur le droit interne de pays qui me sont tout à fait étrangers. Cela m'a également permis d'apprécier la richesse et la souplesse d'esprit qu'offre l'éducation pluri-juridique de McGill, qui m'a été utile pour comprendre les droits des différents pays que l'on m'a assigné. Enfin d'un point de vue organisationnel, travailler dans une ONG aussi grande et organisée a également été bénéfique en ce qu'elle m'a fait évoluer dans un environnement très distinct des toutes petites structures dans lesquelles j'avais précédemment travaillé. Je reviens de ce stage des étoiles dans les yeux, avec l'espoir de pouvoir moi aussi contribuer à la justice internationale un jour."

"Si je devais résumer mon expérience [...] en un mot, ce serait "inspirant". Non seulement j'ai appris beaucoup, mais j'ai aussi la chance de côtoyer et de voir en action des personnes qui font le métier dont je rêve. Je pense que c'est une chance de pouvoir avoir une expérience qui vous laisse avec une envie de plus, d'inachevé et vous donne l'inspiration pour affronter les années d'études qu'il vous reste. L'équipe d'ASF m'a accueilli à bras ouverts et m'a permis de travailler sur des sujets passionnants, de la lutte contre l'impunité à celle contre la disparition forcée."

KERRY ANN MARCOTTE

Equitas
Montreal, Quebec



Kerry Ann is in her second year of the BCL/LLB program at McGill. Originally from St-Basile de Portneuf, Québec, she previously completed a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Sociology and a Minor in Religion. She spearheaded Champlain St-Lawrence CEGEP's first composting and recycling program and received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for community service. During her undergraduate degree, her interest for social justice grew from volunteering at l'Institut Universitaire en santé mentale de Québec and the Drummondville federal prison. She studied abroad at Leeds Beckett University during her third year of university. She has worked as a Museum tour guide at la Citadelle de Québec and has volunteered at Bishop University's Foreman Art Gallery. A member of Amnesty International Canada and Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, she is particularly interested in social stratification and identity. She is currently a volunteer at Montreal's Immigrant Workers Center and a member of L.E.A.P. Montreal.



Kerry Ann at an Equitas event.

Equitas contributes to the empowerment of individuals and groups that are subject to discrimination, exclusion and other forms of human rights violations to challenge inequality and discrimination and take action to respect, protect and defend human rights.

Can you tell us a bit about your internship?

– "As an education intern, I was given a unique opportunity to become incredible close to the facilitators, 95 human rights defenders and education specialists. With years of experience and expertise, these individuals were not only my life-line during the IHRTIP but continue to inspire and encourage me everyday."

What was the environment like at Equitas?

– "This internship will keep you busy at all times! There is no such thing as a slow day at Equitas during the summer. Unbeknownst to me, I am someone who craves challenges, problem solving and fast-paced work environments. There was never a boring moment- and if there was we were encouraged to help our peers, which I loved. If someone has never experienced group work, Equitas is an excellent environment to learn the skills necessary to collaborate."

"Be open to new experiences and to being flexible. If French is not your first language, relax, now is the time to practice. Equitas staff are non-judgemental so don't sweat the small stuff."

CASSANDRA RICHARDS

Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services
Iqaluit, Nunavut



Cassandra out on the ice in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Cassandra est une étudiante de deuxième année en droit à l'université McGill. Sa passion pour les droits humains s'a conduite vers l'université d'Ottawa où j'ai obtenu un baccalauréat spécialisé en études des conflits et droits humains. Two fundamental objectives guide Cassandra's human rights education and work: promoting access to justice and getting local. Accordingly, she dedicates a lot of my time working in legal clinics, working with people, helping them solve legal problems they face, and ensuring they receive clear and accessible information relevant to their specific needs and situation. She volunteers at McGill's Legal Information Clinic and has also been directly active in establishing the first legal clinic in the Centre-Sud of Montreal (CRIC). She equally works as a research assistant for Professor Adelle Blackett at the Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory. Last year, she completed an internship at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

"An amazing part of my internship was being able to speak in court. On top of conducting bail hearings, I was able to speak on summary and indictable matters with a maximum 6-month term of imprisonment. I spoke to a variety of small procedural matters, as well as pleas. The biggest case I spoke to was a sentencing of a young offender for two files relating to assaults."

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

What kind of work does Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik do?

– "The majority of the work taken on by students at Maliiganik is in the area of criminal defense. There are approximately 9 criminal defense lawyers that you are able to work with in varying degrees. This summer I had one lawyer who acted as my supervisor and gave me the bulk of my work. However, the other lawyers equally provided me work and were always available if I had questions or concerns. There are also three family and youth protection lawyers at Maliiganik. I was able to do a bit of family and youth protection law this summer, however nothing compared to the criminal work I completed. Finally, there is a civil law lawyer in Cambridge Bay named Pete Lecain. I did numerous case briefs and memos for him during my internship."

Was there something that surprised you about the work you did this summer?

– "Another component of my work consisted of drafting Charter applications. Until my internship I had never realized the extent that human rights law that was embedded in criminal law work. Having come to McGill hoping to practice human rights law, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that criminal law is an area that allows you to do so while also regularly litigating. I wrote approximately 6 Charter applications this summer which was a great learning experience and something I thoroughly enjoyed."

RACHELLE ROSE

Yukon Human Rights Commission
Whitehorse, Yukon



Rachelle is currently studying at McGill's Faculty of Law, as an undergraduate student and at McGill's School of Social Work as a graduate student. She is actively involved in the McGill Law community. She volunteers at the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. Additionally, Rachelle is a Student Ambassador and is heavily committed to the following groups; Law Students' Association, Women of Colour Collective, Christian Law Students' Association and the Black Law Students' Association of McGill.

Rachelle is also committed to social justice related work in Montreal's Black community. Before returning to school, she designed and created an alternative academic program for youth who did not complete high school, to obtain their high school leaving certificate. She is presently interested in family and human rights law.

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 were your first few weeks like, Rachelle?

– "Living away from home for the first time was a big adjustment for me. There were times of great pride when I did something that I normally wouldn't in Montreal, such as canoeing down Miles Canyon or having the privilege of participating in a Sacred Fire ceremony led by a well-recognized ceremonial leader in the territory. I would encourage future interns to do as much exploring as possible."

Did you meet a lot of people during your internship?

– "I met a lot of very interesting people in Whitehorse, many of whom acted as a social support for me during my time there. Someone was always offering to drive me to the grocery store or have me join them for an activity. Having a small community in Whitehorse made for an incredible experience."

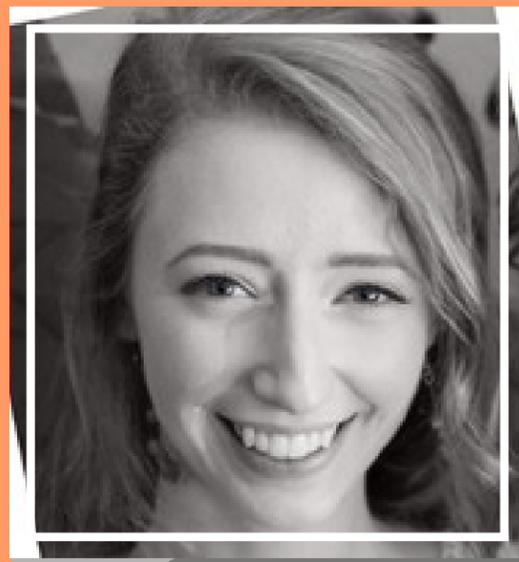
Any recommendations for future interns?

– "I would recommend living in an area within walking or biking distance to Downtown. I lived in Riverdale. I was able to arrive at the Commission within 10-15 minutes each morning. The bus service is more readily accessible in Riverdale, coming every 30 minutes or so, apart from Sundays."

"Throughout my internship, I met with a large and diverse group of people. Practising active listening skills and empathetic communication was very beneficial. Individuals calling in or visiting the Commission shared very difficult experiences of harmful treatment. Interns are expected to handle these situations compassionately, effectively and professionally."

MAIA STEVENSON

Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Toronto, Ontario



Maia is a second-year BCL/LLB student who grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She looks forward to interning with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association over the summer of 2018. Prior to starting at McGill, Maia worked as a language assistant at Cégep Édouard-Montpetit and held various positions with Ontario Parks on Lake Superior. In 2015, Maia graduated from McMaster University with a Bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies (B.A.Sc.). During her studies, Maia developed an interest in modern surveillance and privacy rights, and in sustainable farming models. At McGill, Maia is a proud member of the Food Law Society, volunteer for Pro Bono Students Canada, group assistant and research assistant.



Photo of most of the CCLA interns.

"Perhaps the highlight of being a summer student at the CCLA was working with around a dozen other summer students from other Canadian law schools."

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?

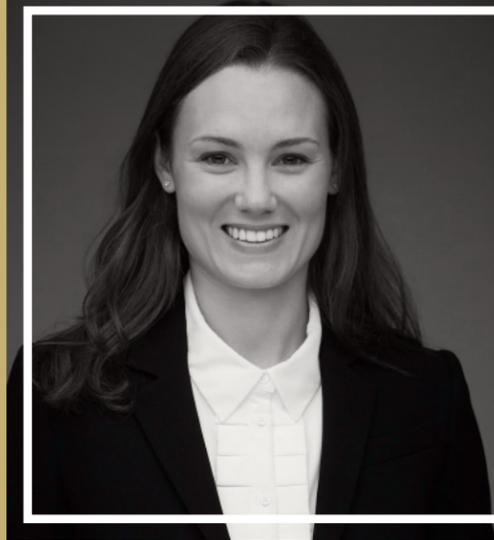
– "Some examples of the type of work going on at the CCLA while I was there: intervening and preparing arguments with external counsel in preparation for Supreme Court cases, keeping an eye out in general for civil liberties issues and court cases attractive for intervening, examining and researching government policies and programs, conducting background research required for directors' interviews with the media, and writing Rights Watch and Talk Rights posts."

Any feedback for the next CCLA intern?

– "Participate in social events if you're up for it and ask the directors a lot of questions; let your curiosity about the law and the profession flourish because they are extremely nice and genuine people."

HEATHER WHITESIDE

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Toronto, Ontario



Heather is a third year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Waterloo in history and political science. Her interests lie at the intersection of law and health, particularly relating to sexual and reproductive rights, medical liability, and disability law. She has explored these areas as a research intern at the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy and through her work as the Executive English Editor of the McGill Journal of Law and Health. Heather is currently an Undergraduate Fellow with McGill's Research Group on Health and Law, where she's been researching food litigation and vaccine injury compensation programs. She also serves as a Student Advocate and volunteer at the Legal Information Clinic at McGill.



Photo of most of the Legal Network staff.

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.

Can you tell us a bit about the organization's work?

– "The organization's work is incredibly diverse (which was reflected in the variety of work projects I was involved in). It's perhaps worth mentioning that the Legal Network is planning to re-brand itself and find a new name that more accurately reflects the broad scope of human rights-based work they do. Their work extends far beyond advocating for HIV decriminalization."

Any recommendations for future interns?

– "I highly recommend this experience for someone who wants to be a part of international human rights advocacy right here in Canada, who has some prior interest in health law and/or criminal law, and who enjoys working independently on substantive research."

"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."

UNITED STATES

COLORADO



Léa Carresse
One Earth Future

COLORADO



Daniel Powell-Monture
One Earth Future

COLORADO



Nicole Maylor
One Earth Future

NEW YORK



Tiran Rahimian Bajgiran
Human Rights Watch

LÉA CARRESSE

One Earth Future Foundation
Boulder, Colorado



Léa is a first year BCL/LLB student at McGill University. She was raised in France, the United States and Switzerland. She previously completed a BA in German and Russian at Oxford University (Worcester College), and spent a year studying at Yaroslavl State University in Russia. Her main research projects focused on the linguistic aspects of the Red Army Faction's first generation, which led her to attempt to investigate the impact of solitary confinement on language. In line with her interest in the link between language and incarceration, she is part of the Prison Law Support Network at McGill, which seeks to inform inmates of their rights. Léa has also worked in the international arbitration departments of international law firms Shearman & Sterling, Jones Day, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, Bredin Prat and Berwin Leighton Paisner. She also interned at Vogue and The Independent.



"If there's something in particular that interests you, don't hesitate to say it – you might find someone in the office who might be able to offer you resources or contacts."

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?

– "One of my favorite things about this internship was the locality; Colorado is absolutely stunning, with warm and welcoming people, and I loved Boulder. It's a beautiful, outdoorsy student city, and really easy to get around too."

What did you primarily work on this summer?

– "I was placed in the Stable Seas project, which essentially focuses on ensuring maritime security within Africa and the Middle East. Much of my work included proofreading the Stable Seas website and the documents pertaining to it, in addition to researching current events in maritime security in order to add to the website (an example might be German-funded maritime training to troops in Namibia). I also had to complete qualitative and quantitative research on illicit trade in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East (particularly on the arms trade, drugs trafficking in marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and synthetic drugs, and wildlife. Other instances of illicit trade included counterfeit cosmetics and even sperm...)"

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

– "OEF was quite diverse in terms of background – there are Germans, South Africans, Serbians, but also academics, US military veterans...I would recommend getting lunch with these people as much as you can, as they all have interesting stories to tell and might be able to help you in terms of academic interests or other that you may have."

DANIEL POWELL-MONTURE

One Earth Future Foundation
Boulder, Colorado



Daniel is a second year BCL/LLB student in the Faculty of Law. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto and a Master of Arts in Globalization Studies from McMaster University. Prior to entering law school, Daniel worked for two startups in two unique domains: financial and legal technology. He also served as a graduate tutorial leader for an undergraduate course on the history of the Canadian Labour Movement. Besides a healthy curriculum of first-year law classes, Daniel serves as an associate editor for the McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law and a member of the McGill Faculty of Law Truth and Reconciliation Implementation Committee. He is also a research assistant for the "Law and Regulation of the Senses" project under the direction of Concordia University Professor David Howes.

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 was your first project at OEF?

– "For my first project, I was asked to research and populate a database containing alleged instances of abuse or misconduct by private military and security contractors (PMSCs). The work involved logging details about the type of abuse that had occurred and identifying whether there had been a judicial or extra-judicial remedy for the harm allegedly suffered. There was no pre-existing database, so I was also tasked with determining how to organize the information, where to conduct research, and when to seek additional support for claims or allegations made. The scope of this project was massive, and I returned to it several times throughout the summer, whenever I had spare time."

Can you give us a bit of a sense of what it is like to live in Boulder?

– "Boulder is for the most part a university town. I say for the most part because it is also home to a significant tech industry. There is even a fancy Google campus. This tech industry has naturally attracted an ecosystem of posh amenities, including a fancy Whole Foods complex and famous gourmet burger spots like Larkburger. For a town of its size, there are a fair number of interesting things to do in Boulder. At least, I am told that to be the case. I cannot really offer my own perspectives in this regard. What I do know is that the city is home to several interesting institutions, including the Native American Rights Fund and the National Indian Law Library."

Any advice for a future OEF intern?

– "My recommendation for interns would be to think seriously about your preferred living environment, whether you want to live in an urban or suburban area, and to do some research on the neighborhood."

Anything else you'd like to add?

– "Once again, I would emphasize that the quality of my work experience was incredibly positive. When I applied to the human rights internship program, I really did not expect and could not imagine that I would have the opportunity to conduct legal research, let alone spend most of my summer doing it."

"This was definitely not a summer spent doing busy work. I was entrusted with interesting and high-quality assignments, all of which involved legal research and writing. From early on in my internship, the commitment of the Foundation to the professional development of its staff was apparent."

NICOLE MAYLOR

One Earth Future Foundation
Boulder, Colorado



Nicole is a second year student in the BCL/LLB program at the McGill Faculty of Law. Originally from Mississauga, Ontario, Nicole completed an Honours in International Development and Globalization at the University of Ottawa. Nicole has worked with indigenous groups in Taiwan to understand indigenous self-determination from a global perspective. As well, she has interned as a research assistant in the fight against gender-based violence in South Africa. Nicole is passionate about international law and access to information. She is currently the VP 1L for Avocats Sans Frontières, and an outreach associate for McGill Law's Inter Gentes Journal of International Law and Legal Pluralism. More recently Nicole participated in the Women in House program, where her interests in democracy, governance and peace continued to bud.



"If you are not accustomed to living in high altitude environments, this is something to keep in mind while in Colorado. While it did not deter too much from the overall experience, it was a big factor for day to day life for the first couple of weeks."

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 eclectic city where many students who go to Colorado University live. It is known to be a city for young, rich students or old, rich hippies. It has a very laid-back vibe and my favourite part about Boulder were the weekly farmer's markets with live music, a prepared food section, and various fruit, vegetable, eggs, and baked goods stands."

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

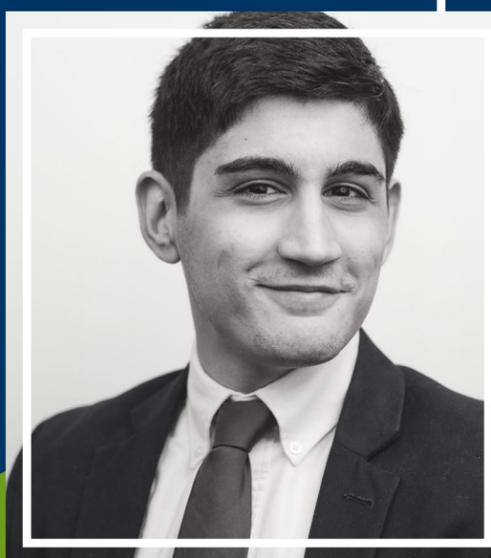
– "One of the highlights of the work experience was attending group interviews and potential employee job talks. For group interviews, the entire team was given an hour to talk with the candidate, pick their brain on their research interests, and see how well they mesh with the rest of the team. As a team-oriented environment, I found this to be a good practice. It was also educational for me to see how people interview for research-based positions, and the components of a good interview. Some of the interviewers were very strong in some aspects and weak in other aspects. This will be helpful when I start applying for OCL's and articling and hopefully I can transfer the lessons I learned from these interviews to those experiences."

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

– "Go to happy hours! Once a month, one of the programs hosts a happy hour and the food and refreshments are usually top notch. The secured fisheries happy hour provided smoked trout, delicious artichoke garlic dip, and various refreshments. Beyond the great food, these serve as great opportunities to talk to co-workers that you do not see often and gives you an opportunity to learn about different people, their work and where they come from."

TIRAN RAHIMIAN BAJGIRAN

Human Rights Watch
New York City, New York



Tiran marching with HRW at the NYC Pride Parade.

Tiran is a third year BCL/LLB student at the McGill Faculty of Law. Parallel to his studies, he clerks for the Chief Justice of the Quebec Court of Appeal, serves on the editorial board of the McGill Law Journal, and works as a research assistant.

Prior to that, he also served on the editorial board of the McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law, was an executive at Avocats sans frontières McGill, and volunteered at a range of legal clinics and research centres including the Clinique juridique itinérante, the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations, Action Réfugiés Montréal, and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. Tiran's interests include the rights of migrants and foreigners, victim-centred mechanisms of transitional justice, and the interface between international criminal justice and human rights.

Human Rights Watch investigates and reports on abuses happening in all corners of the world. We are roughly 450 people of 70-plus 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. We direct our advocacy towards governments, armed groups and businesses, pushing them to change or enforce their laws, policies and practices.

What sort of work did you do at HRW?

– "Throughout my internship, I had the chance to attend meetings at the UN headquarters on topics ranging from the rule of law to the 20th anniversary of the International Criminal Court. I also had the opportunity to contribute to the drafting of memoranda on various points of international law, and attend meetings where similar topics were discussed."

How did you enjoy the internship overall?

– "I thoroughly enjoyed my time in New York City and my internship at HRW, and am immensely grateful to the Human Rights Internship Program, the CHRLP and its generous donors for this incredible opportunity for personal and professional growth. The work was challenging but also rewarding, and I left this internship with a renewed sense of purpose for my legal studies, and an even greater appreciation of the tremendous work of Human Rights Watch. I highly recommend that the CHRLP continue with this internship."

"Communicating your interests with the counsels in the office is a great way for opportunities to come your way and for you to learn more about what drives you!"

LATIN AMERICA



ARGENTINA



Francesca Nardi
*Centro de Investigación
y Docencia en Derechos
Humanos*

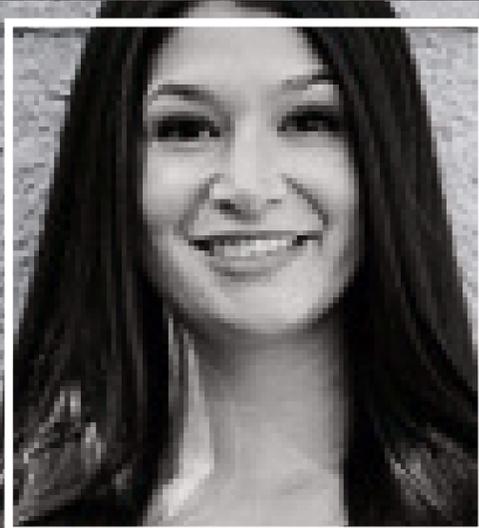
COSTA RICA



Sara Gold
*Inter-American Court of
Human Rights*

FRANCESCA NARDI

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



Originally from Halifax, Francesca is a first-year BCL/LLB student in the Faculty of Law. Before coming to McGill, she completed an undergraduate degree in Communication Studies at York University, and a Diploma in International Relations at Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid. She worked previously at the Center for Exchange and Solidarity in El Salvador, where she worked with women entrepreneurs in communities affected by gang violence, translated grant applications and reports, and liaised with international funding organizations. Francesca has also volunteered as a fundraiser and public speaker with a number of non-for-profit health organizations in Canada. A professional flamenco dancer and avid salsa dancer, she has travelled and trained extensively in Spanish-speaking countries in Europe, the Caribbean and Central America.



"I really recommend that you get involved in things in Mar del Plata. I was dancing, going to classes at a great gym, and got involved with some other students at the faculty."

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.

Can you tell us a bit about living in Mar del Plata?

– "Because Mar del Plata is a summer destination and I was there during "winter", it was easy and relatively cheap to rent a place. I had a large one bedroom apartment with ocean views right near the beach. The building I was living in was on a main street that was secure, well lit and ideally located. There were restaurants, bars, grocery stores and gyms all located nearby."

What was your first project?

– "The project I worked on for the first few weeks was with a group of students who collaborate with the center to complete a research analysis for an international publication examining the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities across other UN agencies. We were analyzing and cataloguing the annual country reports published by different agencies to see if their observations, and reports were effectively using the CRPD in their work."

SARA GOLD

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



Sara Gold is a third-year BCL/LLB student at McGill University. Sara completed an Honours B.A. in International Development and Women's Studies from McGill University. She has lived and travelled across several countries in Latin America and has held positions with organizations such as Employment and Social Development Canada, the Open Source Pharma Foundation and the Embassy of Canada to Argentina and Paraguay. At the Faculty, Sara is a Senior Editor for both the McGill Journal of Law and Health and Contours – Voices of Women in Law. Sara is also involved with Healthy Legal Minds and volunteers with the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. Outside of the Faculty, Sara works for the Canadian government on a team developing strategies to recruit youth and employment equity groups to the federal public service and on a Canada-wide public policy project on feminist government.



The interns and visiting professionals from May to August 2018. Canada, United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Australia and Italy were represented.

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.

Can you share a highlight of your summer?

– "I was lucky to be at the Court during its 40th anniversary. During this week, all of our regular work was suspended and we were expected to assist the Organizing Committee. As such, I was placed on the "Protocol" team where we provided logistical assistance for all of the events during the week. It was no small feat. On the Monday, the Court welcomed the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of Costa Rica for the official inauguration. We managed the entry of over 300 special guests to the Court's grounds. Can you tell us a bit about your relationship with your colleagues?"

– "As an intern or visiting professional, you will be part of a cohort of up to 40 people. Note that there is no distinction in the type of work you are offered as an intern or visiting professional. Your colleagues will be from all over the Americas, and some may even come from Europe or elsewhere. Many are academics or practicing lawyers. It was often quite intimidating to be working on a team with lawyers who have practiced law already. Nevertheless, we were all treated equally and it was an invaluable opportunity to learn from each other."

"I highly recommend this internship to individuals interested in the Inter-American System and in Latin America. Working at the Court allowed me to greatly improve my spoken and written Spanish, refine my legal research skills, participate in interesting events, develop a network of colleagues from across the Americas and gain greater understanding of regional and domestic court systems in Latin America."

AFRICA

MOROCCO



Renaude Morin
National Human Rights
Council of Morocco

SENEGAL



Guillaume Lebrun-Petel
RADDHO

THE GAMBIA



Caroline Schurman-Grenier
Institute for Human Rights
and Development in Africa
(IHRDA)

UGANDA



Catherine Labasi-Sammartino
Center for Health, Human
Rights and Development

NAMIBIA



Eleanor Dennis
Law Reform & Development
Commission in
Namibia

MALAWI



Yulia Yugay
Equality Effect

TUNISIA



Alix Génier
Aswat Nissa

RENAUDE MORIN

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



Renaude est en deuxième année de droit du programme BCL/LLB à l'Université McGill. Avant d'entamer ses études à McGill, elle a complété un DEC en sciences humaines dans le profil de développement international au Collège Dawson.

Ayant un intérêt particulier pour la sécurité alimentaire et la création de systèmes alimentaires résilients et durables, elle s'implique dans divers projets d'agriculture urbaine et au sein de la Société de droit alimentaire de McGill. Elle est aussi bénévole Pro-Bono à MultiCaf, un organisme de lutte contre la pauvreté œuvrant à l'atteinte de la sécurité alimentaire des personnes à faible revenu. En dehors de la faculté, ses intérêts incluent la transformation sociale par les arts, la consommation responsable, le plein-air et la danse.



" Je conseille de faire le Ramadan, si ta santé le permet et l'expérience te tente."

Le **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.

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

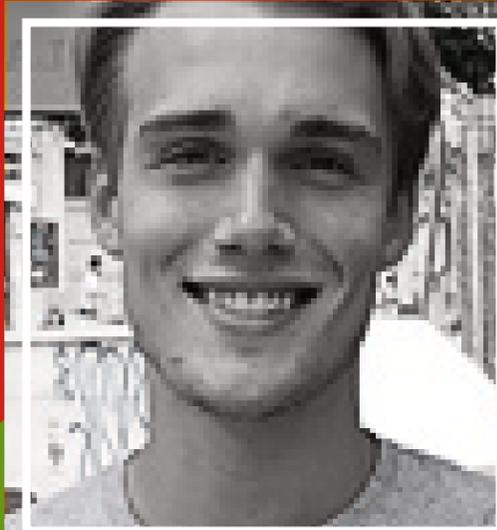
– "Ainsi, au sein du CNDH, j'ai donc acquis des connaissances sur divers sujets. Je me suis familiarisée avec les organes internationaux de protection et promotion des DH – plus précisément le système onusien, les réseaux régionaux des INDHs et la GANHRI). J'ai également pris connaissance de l'ampleur et de l'importance des tâches administratives dont dépend largement le travail en matière des droits de l'homme."

As-tu des recommandations pour les prochains stagiaires?

– "N'aie donc pas peur de discuter avec les gens autour de toi – ils ont été pour moi des puits de savoir qui apportèrent nombreuses réflexions à mon esprit assoiffé d'expérience humaine."

GUILLAUME LEBRUN-PETEL

RADDHO
Dakar, Sénégal



Guillaume conclut actuellement sa deuxième année du programme BCL/LLB. Avant son entrée à McGill, il obtient son DEC au Collège André-Grasset, où il s'est notamment impliqué au sein de l'Association étudiante et du programme Sport-études.

Pour l'année 2017-2018, il joint le comité de rédaction de la Revue de droit et santé de McGill en tant que rédacteur junior. Guillaume est présentement chef d'équipe pour l'initiative Law – Éducation – Connexion de la Faculté, un programme de sensibilisation et d'éveil au Droit qui œuvre dans les écoles secondaires et centres jeunesse de quartiers défavorisés du Grand Montréal.



La Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO) est une Organisation Non-gouvernementale, non partisane et laïque qui fut créée à Dakar le 21 avril 1990 par un groupe d'intellectuels africains, constitué en majorité de chercheurs et enseignants à l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar.

As-tu des recommandations pour les prochains stagiaires?

– "L'étudiant qui serait intéressé à aller faire un stage au Sénégal, ou dans la grande région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest plus généralement, doit savoir qu'il s'agit d'une expérience qui ne vise pas à bâtir des aptitudes ou un réseau professionnel, mais plutôt à grandir en tant qu'individu et à en apprendre plus sur les différentes façons d'approcher les problèmes reliés aux droits de la personne.

Et ce n'est pas un secret, les vaccins et la médication nécessaires avant d'aller en Afrique coûtent très chers. Par exemple, les trois doses contre la rage à prendre de manière préventive coûtent 600\$. Toutefois, étant donné qu'il s'agit d'un stage de 12 semaines, je recommanderais au stagiaire de ne pas prendre de risque et de s'équiper au maximum du possible."

"Vivre en Sénégal a été pour moi une belle façon d'en apprendre beaucoup sur moi-même, et de me pousser à m'adapter à des situations culturelles et sociales auxquelles je n'avais jamais été confronté."

CAROLINE SCHURMAN-GRENIER

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

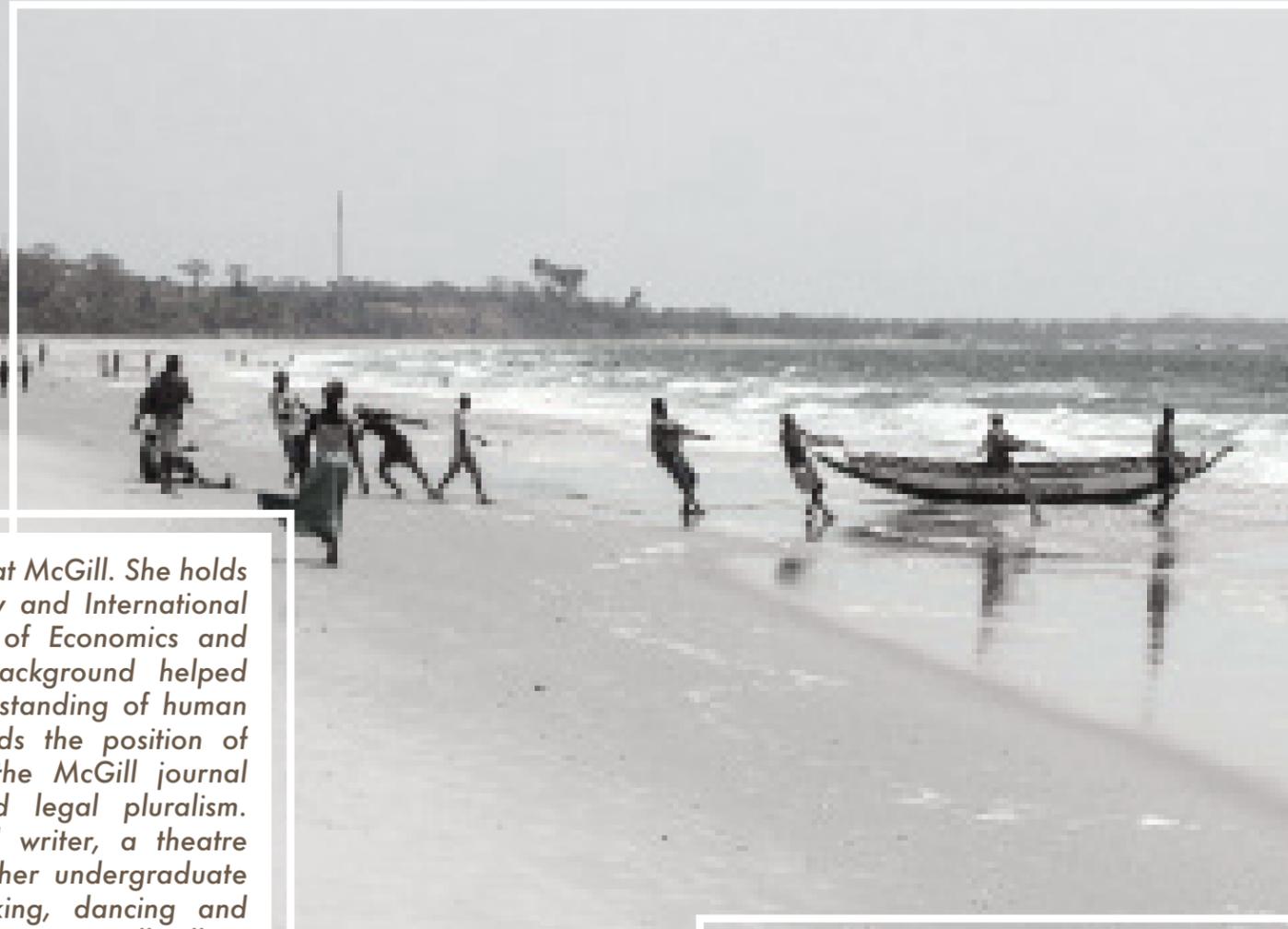
The **Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)** is a pan-African non-governmental organization (NGO) working to promote awareness of human rights in Africa and improve the effectiveness of the African Human Rights system. IHRDA envisions an African continent where all have access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

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

—"I was involved in translation of cases, meeting reports or schedules for training sessions that were taking place. I was given research to conduct on various themes the rights of moral persons in African human rights and the exhaustion of local remedies before presenting a case to the African Court and the African Commission. I attended meetings on transitional justice organised by the government or by other organizations and that was fun".

Were there times you were frustrated during your internship?

—"To the best of my knowledge, my internship was the one of the only ones that dealt very closely with transitional justice because The Gambia is seeking to implement a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission. I got to see the ins and outs of creating such a process and to be honest, most of the time it made me very frustrated. Working in human rights law is like spending your life as David fighting Goliath and you need to have a powerful motivation to fight your whole life. You need to accept that you are working towards a better system and that you may not see tangible change in your lifetime."

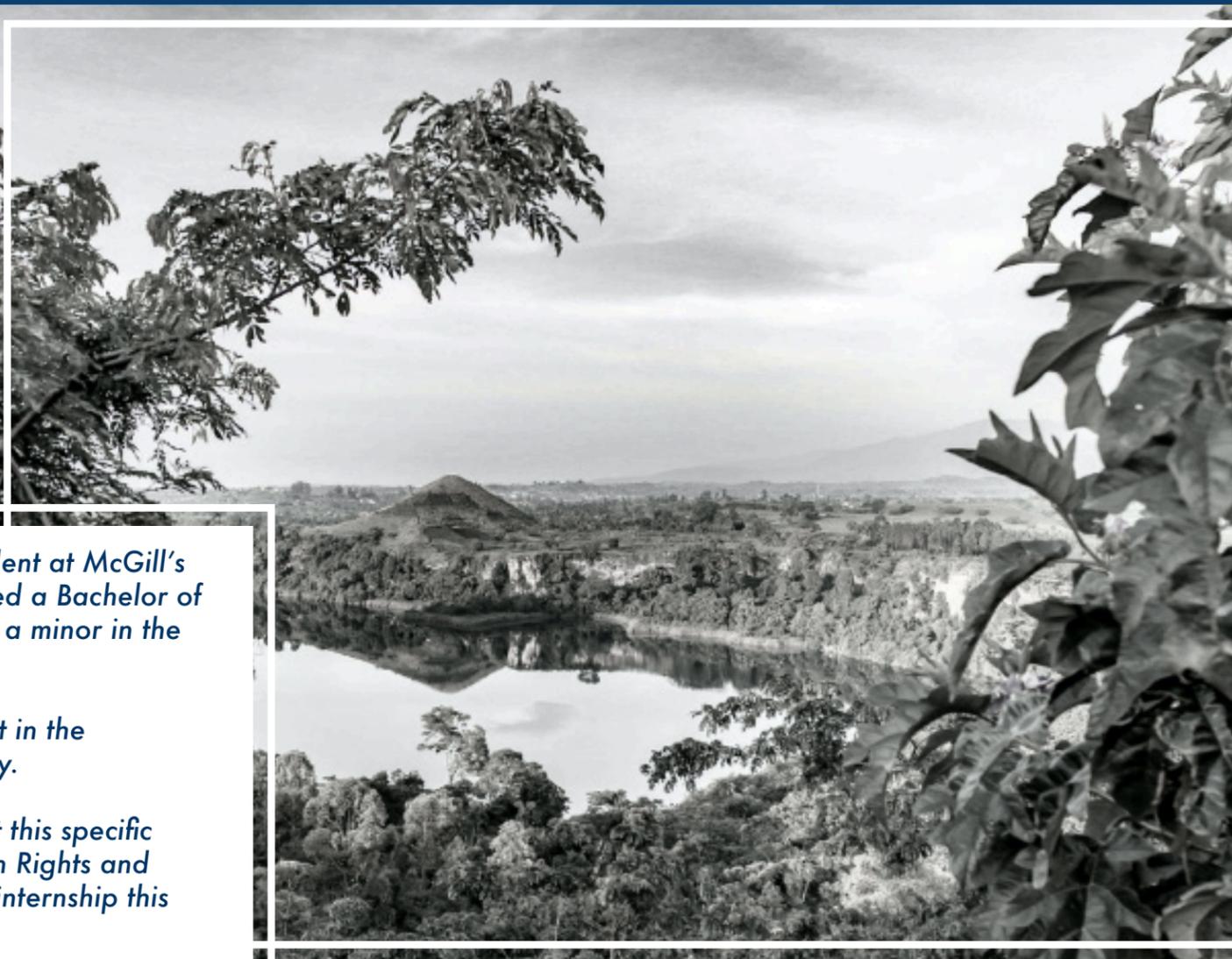
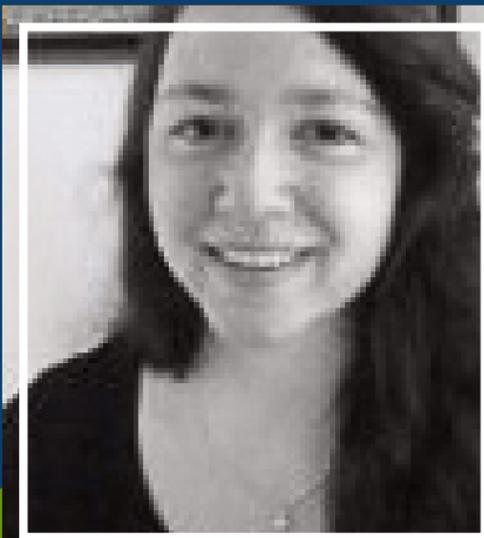


Caroline is in her second year of law at McGill. She holds an undergraduate degree in History and International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her academic background helped her build a strong theoretical understanding of human rights in history. She currently holds the position of associate editor at *Inter Gentes*, the McGill journal focusing on international law and legal pluralism. She worked as a food and travel writer, a theatre critic and a French teacher during her undergraduate degree. Her hobbies include cooking, dancing and travelling as much as her bank account will allow.

"My summer was incredible, challenging, hilarious, awful, lonely, hot, informative, fascinating and introspective and I wouldn't change my experience in any way."

CATHERINE LABASI-SAMMARTINO

Center for Health, Human Rights and Development
Kampala, Uganda



Catherine is a first year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Law Faculty. She previously completed a Bachelor of Science at McGill in Psychology with a minor in the Social Studies of Medicine.

Her past studies nurtured her interest in the intersection of law, health, and policy.

She was excited to learn more about this specific field at the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development in Uganda during her internship this summer.

"Explore Uganda and make friends! It's a beautiful country and people are very nice. Obviously there are things that require different means than if you were in Montreal, but don't be scared, it's really a wonderful place and it's a shame to miss out on it!"

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.

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

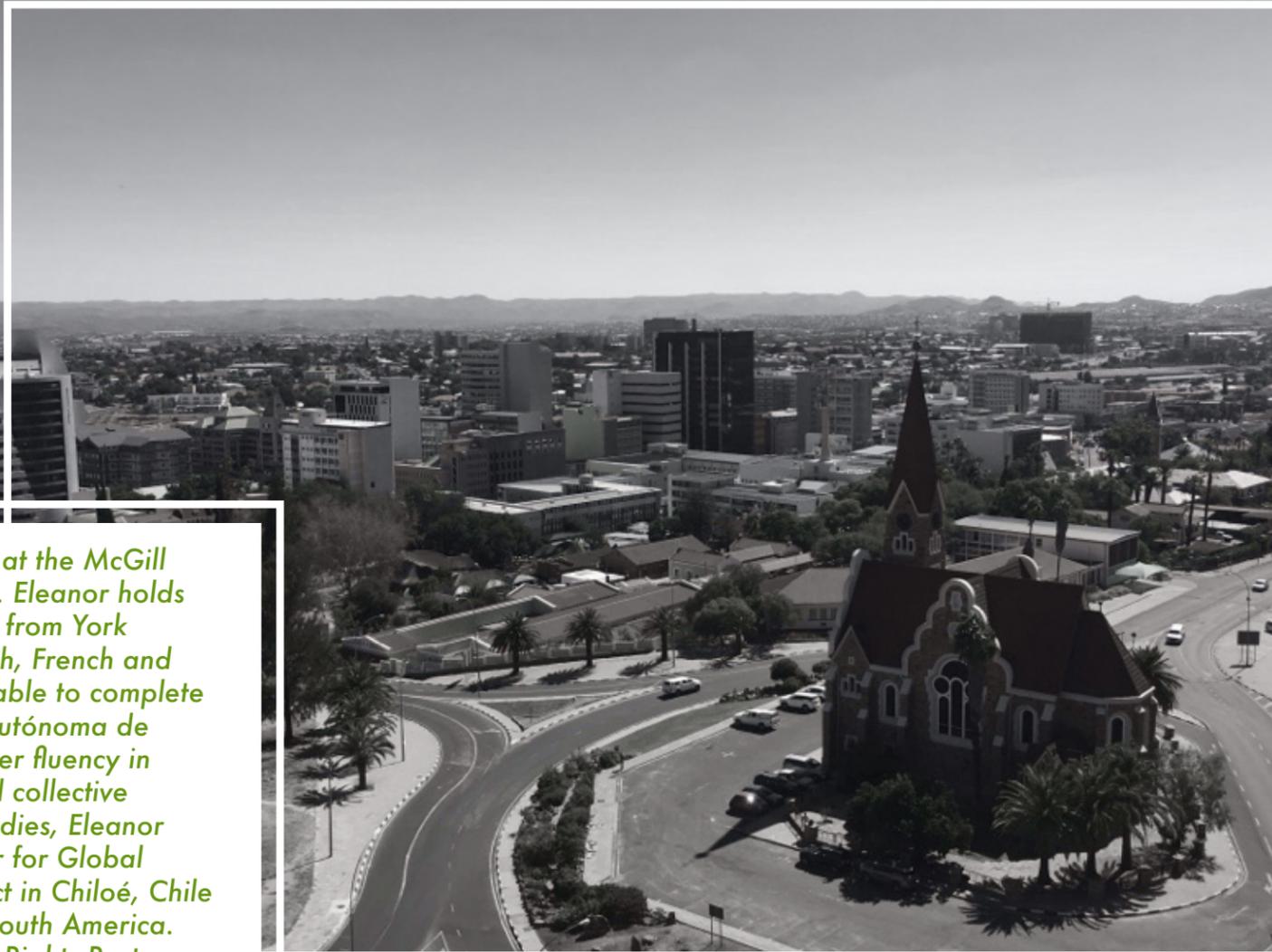
—"On my first day at CEHURD, I was assigned to the Strategic Litigation program. I sat with them and they gave me most of my work but I would sometimes also work with the research and grants team. For the Strategic Litigation team, I would write memos, legal opinions, grant applications, comment on upcoming legislation, review ideas for their annual moot and put together affidavits. I was asked to give my opinion on cases during team meetings, which I thought was really pertinent to my internship. The legal research aspect was also interesting since it was challenging to catch up with a country's jurisprudence, or lack of."

Any recommendations for future interns?

—" Past interns had recommended to meet with the executive director (Mr. Mulumba Moses) during the first week of the internship and I am very happy I followed their advice. I just wanted to introduce myself, ask him what his expectations were from me, and share what I expected from the internship. I even told him what my specific research interest was and he asked the Strategic Litigation Manager to assign me related project which I really appreciated. Make sure you clearly ask them what they expect from you, like writing an article or a grant application so you know how to plan your internship that goes by quickly. Also, don't be shy to let them know that you are curious about the work being done in other programs if they assign you to the Strategic Litigation team. I think that you get a better in depth experience if you stay in one program and then dabble in the others rather than having a full rotation. Furthermore, a lot of the Strategic Litigation programs go on for several weeks and it's nice to follow things through."

ELEANOR DENNIS

Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC)
Windhoek, Namibia



Eleanor is a first year BCL/LLB student at the McGill Faculty of Law originally from Toronto. Eleanor holds a trilingual BA in International Studies from York University's Glendon Campus in English, French and Spanish. During her degree, she was able to complete a year of studies at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in Spain where she perfected her fluency in Spanish and volunteered for the social collective Patio Maravillas. Prior to her legal studies, Eleanor worked as a translator and interpreter for Global Affairs Canada at the Wekimun Project in Chiloé, Chile before traveling extensively through South America. She was also a member of the Human Rights Roster at the Stahili Foundation, a child-rights NGO based in the Hague, Netherlands where she completed various research projects related to the rights of children. When in Toronto, Eleanor also performed as a stand-up comedian. Eleanor's interest in human rights stems from the often nebulous intersection of international law, forced migration and refugee protection. In line with her interest in international law, Eleanor is an Associate Editor for *Inter Gentes: McGill Journal of International Law and Legal Pluralism*.

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?

—"The task that I was given most frequently was to complete first reads of bills from the Cabinet Committee on Legislation before they made their way to Parliament. This would involve writing a short summary of the law, making comments on the bill, researching corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions for comparison and highlighting any areas of concern, overlap, or unconstitutionality."

Any recommendations for future interns?

—"I would recommend that future interns familiarize themselves with Namibia's political and social climate as much as they can before leaving, but ultimately the most learning you will do will be on the ground. I would recommend reading *The Kaiser's Holocaust: Germany's Forgotten Genocide and the Colonial Roots of Nazism* by David Olusoga and Casper W. Erichsen to better understand Namibia's colonial past and the strong influence that Germany still has on the country."

"My time living and working in Windhoek was absolutely incredible and I would recommend any intern going to Namibia to take every opportunity they can to explore, connect and experience all that the country has to offer."

YULIA YUGAY

Equality Effect (in partnership with Ripples International)
Meru-Kithoka, Kenya



Yulia is a second year BCL/LLB student at the Faculty of Law. Coming from a diverse background herself, Yulia very quickly fell in love with the city of Montreal that she now calls home.

Prior to beginning her studies at McGill, she completed a double degree in Pure and Applied Sciences and Commerce at Vanier College, where her interest for human rights and social justice began to grow. Yulia's commitment to access to justice led her to play an active role within organizations such as the Mobile Legal Clinic and Lawyers without Borders this year. Previously, she had been volunteering at the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations and the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. Among other things, Yulia is also passionate about environmental and Indigenous issues.

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.

What was primarily your work this summer?

—"Our main task consisted of monitoring how defilement cases are handled by the police and how they progress in courts. This involved visiting police stations and attending court hearings. Sometimes, we even accompanied defilement victims to court and conducted house visits to evaluate their situation and whether it is safe for them to stay home."

Can you tell us a bit about living in Meru-Kithoka?

—"Meru being so small and not at all touristic, you really stand out and receive a lot of attention on a daily basis, whether you want it or not. The Swahili word that you will hear most frequently is "mzungu", which means white person. It is not meant to be offensive or pejorative, it is the simplest way to refer to you/get your attention (even when you are not actually white). Be prepared for school kids walking by to touch your hair and/or your hand, drivers slowing down to say hi (and even ask you to marry them?), and hearing "mzungu" literally every step of your way."

"Over the three months of my stay in Kenya, I had the privilege to witness and partake in human rights work and meet fantastic people along the way. It was a very practical, hands-on experience that can never be made available in a classroom setting."

ALIX GENIER

Aswat Nissa
Lafayette, Tunisie



Alix est actuellement en deuxième année du BCL/LLB à la Faculté. C'est au courant de son baccalauréat en psychologie et en développement international à McGill qu'elle s'est découverte une passion pour la sécurité alimentaire et la justice sociale. Elle considère sa formation de juriste comme un outil qui lui permettra de faire une différence dans la vie des gens qui sont trop souvent oubliés ou mis de côté.

Avant d'arriver à la Faculté, elle a eu la chance d'être en contact avec de nombreux milieux différents par le biais de camps de vacances, d'expériences de bénévolat diverses et de voyages aux quatre coins de la planète durant lesquels la jeunesse s'est formée. Elle a aussi travaillé au sein d'une grande organisation non-gouvernementale et elle espère que son stage lui offrira une version complémentaire de ce que peut être le contact direct du travail en droit humain.

Entre des lectures de doctrine et de jurisprudence, elle reste impliquée dans le milieu communautaire agroalimentaire par le biais de son implication au sein du McGill Food Law Society, de son placement Pro Bono au sein d'une cafétéria communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges et dans son travail d'animatrice d'ateliers culinaires pour les jeunes de milieux plus défavorisés.

"Au-delà de mon stage au sein d'Aswat Nissa, j'ai découvert un pays, des gens et une culture riche et surprenante. Je me suis fait accueillir à bras ouverts par les Tunisiens et Tunisiennes et j'ai quitté le pays en laissant derrière moi une grande famille adoptive."

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. Comme c'était l'été, le rythme était plus lent et donc j'ai aidé ici et là selon les besoins, mais ça m'a aussi donné l'occasion de mener de front des projets personnels comme celui de créer un livre souvenir pour la promotion 2018 de l'Académie politique des femmes (inspire du travail d'une stagiaire précédente). J'ai assisté aux formations « Genre et Égalité de genre » et « Intégration de l'approche genre dans les lois ». Comme il s'agit d'un programme bien établi déjà (tout le matériel est prêt et le programme de formation avait débuté en janvier), mon rôle a été principalement de prendre des photos et de préparer des publications pour les médias sociaux."

As-tu des recommandations pour les prochains stagiaires?

—"Un élément très limitant à la participation et au travail d'Aswat Nissa est qu'une grande partie de leurs activités, de leurs communications (même entre eux) et de leur travail se déroulent en arabe. En ce sens, il est important de prendre des initiatives et de se proposer pour faire diverses tâches, ce qui est d'autant plus vrai au courant de la période estivale alors que les activités de l'organisation ralentissent. Être polyvalent et proposer de l'aide aux différents employés aident à se tenir occuper!"

ASIA & EUROPE

SERBIA



Elisabeth Beauchamp
*Mental Disability Rights
Initiative of Serbia*

THE PHILIPPINES



Alicia Blimkie
Ateneo HR Centre

CAMBODIA



Emilie Duchesne
LICADHO

SRI LANKA



Adriana Cefis
*International Center for
Ethnic Studies*

ELISABETH BEAUCHAMP

Mental Disability Rights Initiative of Serbia
Belgrade, Serbia



Elisabeth is a second year BCL/LLB student at the Faculty of law. Before joining the faculty, she completed a double DEC in health sciences and music. She is interested in the intersection between law and social work, as well as criminal law and disability law. She currently works as a research assistant in criminal law and mental health.

Previously, she has worked as a research assistant in cancer research, has tutored French, and has taught music to students in elementary school. Outside the faculty, she enjoys volunteering at the legal information clinic at McGill, singing in a choir and playing music with friends. She looks forward to discovering human rights work in practice when working for the Mental Disability Rights Initiative in Serbia.



"While the work experience itself presented some challenges, I enjoyed getting to know the Serbian culture and being exposed to the history of the Balkans, which I probably would have never known but for the internship."

Mental Disability Rights Initiative of Serbia (MDRI-Serbia) is an advocacy organization dedicated to the human rights and full participation in society of children and adults with mental disabilities in Serbia. MDRI-Serbia promotes citizen participation, awareness and oversight for the rights of persons with intellectual and mental disabilities, and participates in development of mental disability rights advocacy and self-advocacy movement in Serbia. The organization's special focus is on those children and adults who are at risk of or who are already residing in social and mental health institutions, since they represent the most endangered and marginalized group.

What was the highlight of your internship?

—"The highlight of my experience was a study visit to Bulgaria. I asked my co-workers to accompany them to meet lawyers and social workers working on disability rights in Sofia, the capital. I was very impressed with the professionalism and quality of the work of the Bulgarian legal team, as well as with the close cooperation they had with service providers."

What sort of work did you do over the summer?

—"During my time at MDRI, I touched upon two main intersecting topics in my work : the deinstitutionalization and monitoring of torture in residential institutions, and law reform on legal capacity for people with mental disabilities."

ALICIA BLIMKIE

Ateneo Human Rights Center
Manila, The Philippines



Alicia is a second-year BCL/LLB student at McGill University. Prior to her legal studies, she completed a B.A. in International Studies with a minor in World Literature, during which she spent time studying international law in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Her interests include international law, transitional justice, and immigration and refugee law. Building on these passions, she volunteers with the International Refugee Assistance Project and is a Senior Editor with *Inter Gentes: the McGill Journal of International Law and Legal Pluralism*. This past summer, Alicia was an intern with the Montreal-based Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, where she worked on a project related to political prisoners.



"As someone who loves to walk places, it took some time for me to get used to the fact that it is difficult to walk around Makati, partially because of the heat and the traffic, and partially because an abundance of gated communities and private property. Through this, the general friendliness and up-beat nature of Filipino people made these small adjustments easier."

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.

How was your experience overall?

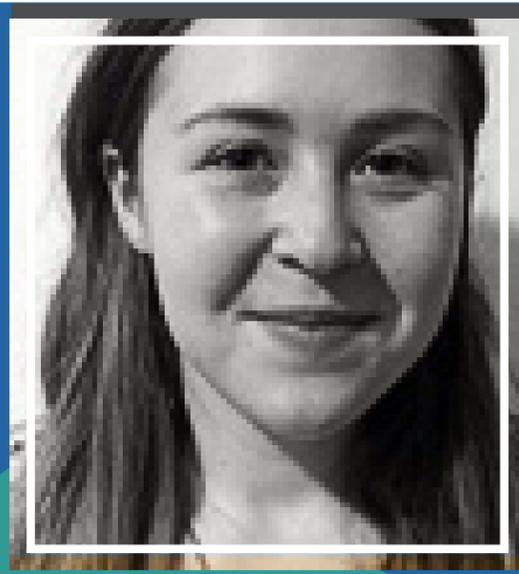
—"Overall, I had a positive experience in Manila, with the Ateneo Human Rights Centre (AHRC). I feel that I now have a better appreciation for the reality of human rights concerns in the Philippines, as well as some of the realities of living in a country that is less developed than Canada or Western Europe. The friendly staff and positive work environment made me quickly feel comfortable."

What sort of work did you do over the summer?

—"The variety of human rights issues that the AHRC works on allowed me to gain a broad understanding of the variety of human rights abuses plaguing the Philippines. Several topics that I worked on related to refugee issues, statelessness, a proposed bill to raise the age of sexual consent across the Philippines, implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the rights of indigenous peoples. There were also many human rights-related issues that were developing during my internship, such as the ousting of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, ongoing extrajudicial killings and the arrest of several lawyers."

EMILIE DUCHESCNE

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



Emily is a second-year BCL/LLB student at McGill. Before law school, she did a Bachelor's degree in English and philosophy at Carleton in Ottawa. Philosophy and novels are still passions of hers. Her best experience so far in law school has been volunteering at Project Genesis, a legal clinic in Côte-des-Neiges that helps low-income people navigate government bureaucracies and fight their terrible landlords. It's run by five badass women, and when (if) she is a lawyer, she'd like to be like them.



"I was often disturbed by the human rights violations that I learned about, and by the seemingly insurmountably political forces preventing any form of justice in the face of these abuses."

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?

—"I came to learn afterwards, in discussions with other interns, that many of the best aspects I experienced were unique to LICADHO or to the Cambodian context. Firstly, the work was extremely interesting, varied, relevant to current political developments, and abundant. My work was a mix of the practical and the theoretical- everything from research papers and legal memoranda to protest-monitoring and writing grant applications for the families of incarcerated activists. I found that there was plenty of support and that assignments depended on how much work I felt able to take on."

Is there something about your work that stood out?

—"LICADHO works closely with victims of human rights violations and with community activists, and I also felt that I was right in the thick of every new political development. I got to attend court and to interview Tep Vanny, a famous land activist. I feel lucky to have had such an array of interesting things to do in such a short time."

ADRIANA CEFIS

International Center for Ethnic Studies
Colombo, Sri Lanka



Adriana is currently a first year BCL/LLB student at McGill's Faculty of Law. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in refugee and forced migration studies. Prior to law school, she completed research on the topics of refugee law and human migration for the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers and for the Overseas Development Institute. Adriana's also interested in mental health and advocacy for persons with disabilities. During her undergraduate degree, she co-founded her college's mental health initiative and worked for AVATIL, an organization that provides services for people with mild social and cognitive disabilities. She also worked on community development projects in India and in the Dominican Republic. Adriana's currently conducting research for a legal clinic in an immigrant neighbourhood through Pro Bono Students Canada.



"In terms of exposure external to the centre, interns frequently received invitations to a variety of events organized by a number of different organizations. These included conferences on the right to information, war-affected women with disabilities, and missing persons to name a few."

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?

—"I ended up writing a report on barriers to both formal and informal mechanisms to the implementation of the CRPD. To do so, I conducted interviews with umbrella disability rights organisations that represent the country's main geographic areas, individual Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), International Non-Governmental Organisations, disability rights activists, and the country's Human Rights Commission's sub-committee on disability."

Any recommendations for future interns?

—"Sri Lanka is a beautiful country with lots of beaches and historic sites to explore, and lots of wonderful food to eat. I would strongly recommend that future interns make travel arrangements to visit the rest of the country."

FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

who make this program possible

**in alphabetical order*

Aurora Human Rights Internships Award

Enhanced Educational Opportunities Fund

Francine and Robert Wiseman International Human Rights Award

Francine and Robert Wiseman International Internship Award

Frank & Jocelyn Toope Award

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