

McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM 2016 ANNUAL REPORT





Director's foreword

The International Human Rights Internship Program (IHRIP) is the flagship for experiential learning in the Faculty of Law and one of the great jewels of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. For the students who participate, many cite it as the reason that they applied to McGill, and as one of the most transformative experiences of their lives. It is thanks to the generous support of the Faculty, private donors and the sustained engagement of its alumni that the program has expanded in size and pedagogical dimensions.

In 2015, we sent 24 students to a diverse range of organisations around the world, from a tiny grassroots organization in Cameroon to one of the biggest human rights NGOs in the world, Human Rights Watch in New York City, as well as courts, national human rights councils, research centres, and advocacy bodies. In 2016, we have new partnerships with entities in the Yukon, Peru and Namibia. The Peruvian placement came to us through an IHRIP alumnus, and the Namibia placement is a first for the Program, and saw a McGill student working directly with the chairperson of the Law Reform Commission in Windhoek. This Program is in full bloom, and it is a privilege to support it and the students who pass through it.

Nandini Ramanujam, Program Director

About the International Human Rights Internships 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 Internships Program (IHRIP) is a fully credited course that allows students to earn six (6) credits toward the completion of the BCL/LLB degree. The Internship Program is managed by the Faculty's Human Rights Committee under the direction of Professor Nandini Ramanujam.

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.



*Dr. Nandini
Ramanujam
Program Director*



*Sharon Webb
Administrative
Coordinator*



*Sarah Jackson
Student
Coordinator*

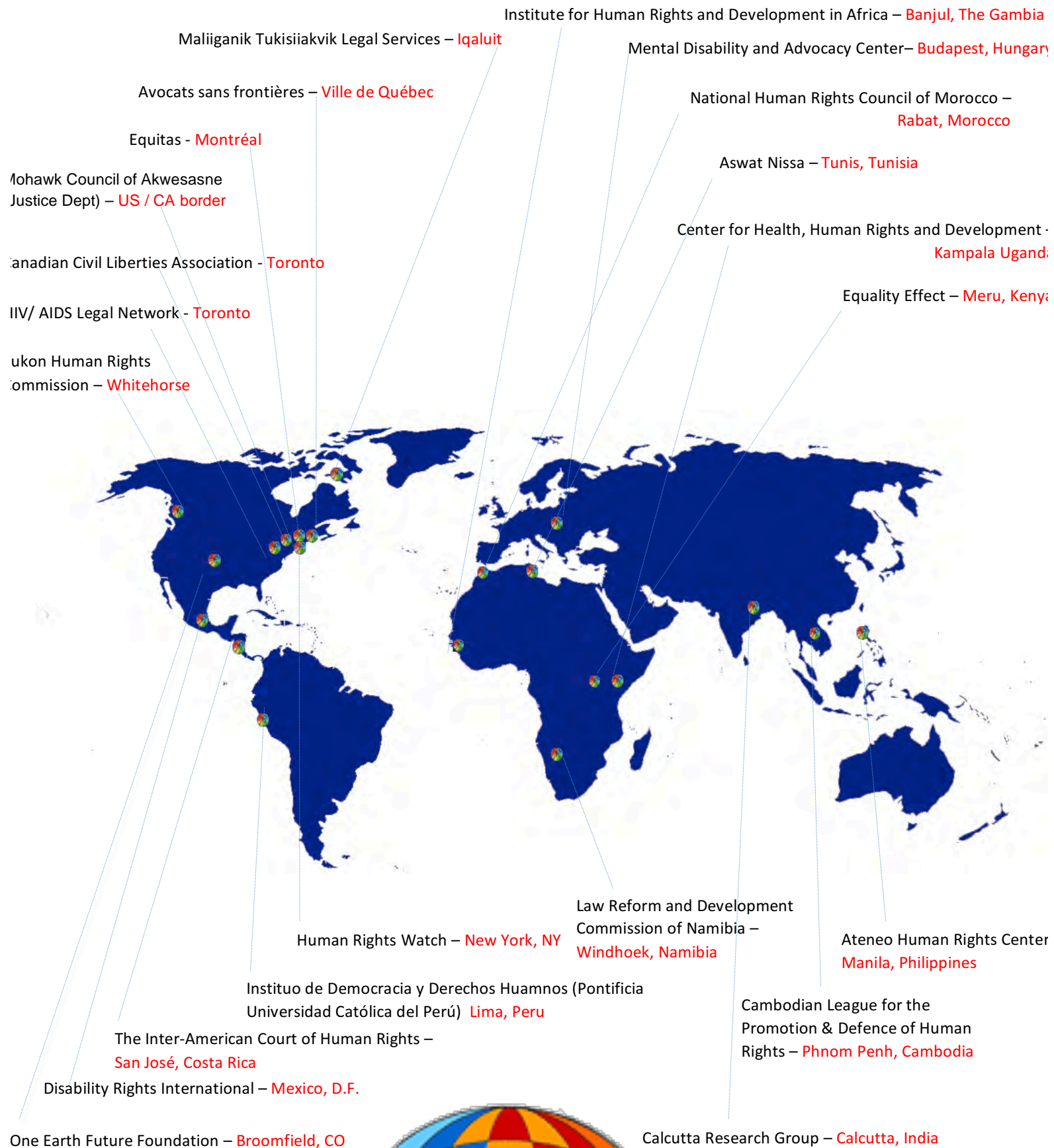


*Carly Meredith
Student
Coordinator*



*Alexander Agnello
Student
Coordinator*

The summer 2016 placements





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LEGAL SERVICES BOARD OF NUNAVUT
TAPKUAT MALIGALIGIYIT KIVGAQTIT KATIMAYIT NUNAVUTMI
LA COMMISSION DES SERVICES JURIDIQUES DU NUNAVUT

Internship overview - Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services, Iqaluit

The human rights internship at Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services in Iqaluit, NU, is an internship which focused on criminal defence. The legal intern is primarily responsible for conducting research for defence lawyers on a variety of topics. The intern may also assist criminal counsel in finding/interviewing potential sureties for bail hearings, interviewing witnesses before trial, reviewing disclosure with the accused, etc.

The internship at Maliiganik gives students a first hand experience of Nunavut's criminal justice system, including the Court's travel around the territory holding circuit courts. Étienne took a proactive approach and sought out various opportunities to assist and learn from his colleagues within the organization throughout the summer.

Last summer, Étienne's responsibilities included:

- ✓ Conducting research and drafting legal memoranda;
- ✓ Drafting facta;
- ✓ Summarizing recent legal developments;
- ✓ Attending court and assisting with motions and adjournments;
- ✓ Accompanying counsel to meet clients in jails and youth detention centers;

"Les juges du Nunavut sont appelés à infliger des peines dans un contexte sans pareil. Il n'est donc pas étonnant que ceux-ci se soient approprié les concepts reconnus dans l'ensemble du pays afin que leurs sentences reflètent l'unicité du territoire et de sa population. L'on pourrait ainsi qualifier la détermination des peines au Nunavut de sui generis. Toutefois, force est de constater que certaines préoccupations telles la promotion de la culture inuite et l'employabilité ne peuvent être pleinement prises en compte dans le cadre qu'impose la législation fédérale et la distribution des ressources. C'est dans ces circonstances qu'évolue la détermination des peines au Nunavut : confrontée d'une part par d'unique problématiques et d'autre part par les bornes qui lui sont imposées." Étienne Lacombe, July 2016

ÉTIENNE F. LACOMBE



A graduate of the University of Toronto, Étienne has engaged with many facets of the criminal law including organized crime, drug (de)regulation, community crime prevention, victimology and—most recently—prison law. He is involved with McGill's Innocence Project, the McGill Law Journal and a community anti-poverty organization.

Originaire de Toronto, Étienne est titulaire d'un baccalauréat en criminologie et en science politique. Ses études l'ont amené à suivre des cours au Canada, en Chine et en Angleterre. Avant d'entamer sa formation en droit, Étienne s'adonnait aux débats étudiants et à l'animation d'une émission de radio communautaire.



NOUR SAADI



Nour is a third-year law student at McGill University where she is also completing a minor in East Asian Studies. She holds an International Baccalaureate (I.B.) from the Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf.

Since her first year at McGill, Nour was a member of the Canadian Student Association for Children's Rights (CSACR) and developed workshops based on the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. She spent her first summer volunteering at the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. In her second year, Nour volunteered with Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) at the RAPLIQ, an organization advocating for the protection of persons with disabilities, while being an associate editor and managing editor for the International Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy (JSDLP). She is currently a member of the JSDLP's Executive Board, the PBSC Coordinator and CSACR's President.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Internship overview - HRW, New York

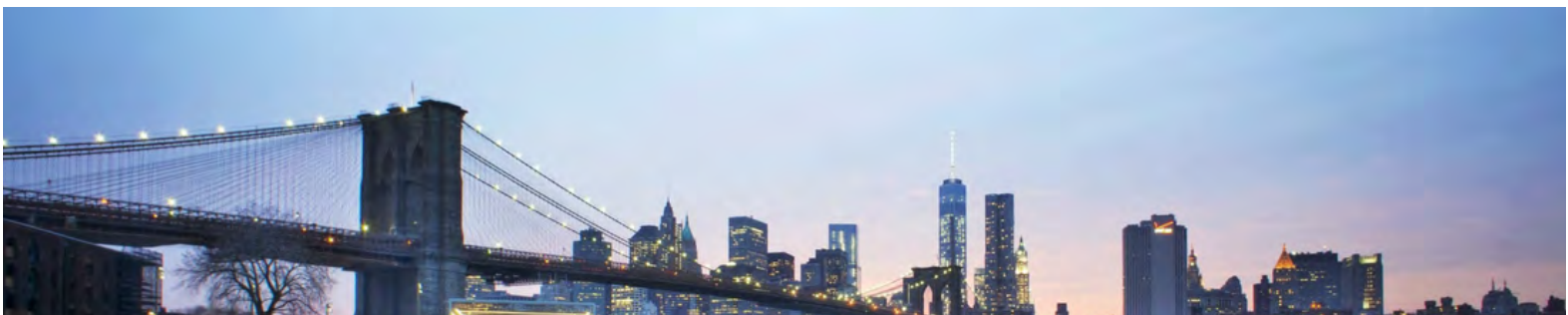
Nour's internship took place within the International Justice Program at HRW, which focuses entirely on advocacy related to international criminal tribunals. The Program produces reports, news releases and meets with State parties and diplomatic representatives or the ICC Prosecutor with respect to issues related to the prosecution of international crimes. This requires in depth research of particular countries as well as a variety of thematic issues. Nour undertook research on national and international proceedings in Guinea and Ivory Coast as well as legal situations in Syria, Palestine and El Salvador.

During her internship, Nour's responsibilities included:

- ✓ Conducting research on questions of international law;
- ✓ Preparing media round-ups;
- ✓ Drafting legal memoranda;
- ✓ Attending and taking notes at meetings with UN diplomats and ICC representatives.

"C'est frappant, malaisant, de se retrouver dans une position où, du haut du 35e étage de l'Empire State Building, je lis sur des massacres ayant lieu chez moi, puis, à l'indication de l'aiguille passant les 18 heures, je sors du bâtiment et marche dans les rues, presque comme si de rien n'était. Mettant les cris de ces personnes sur "mute", la vie de ces personnes en "stand-by", alors que je rentre, prends une douche, mange et dors, puis retourne à mon écran le lendemain matin."

Nour Saadi, July 2016



Aswat Nissa



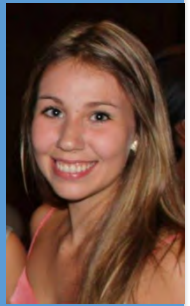
Internship overview – Aswat Nissa, Tunis

L'Association Aswat Nissa, qui signifie « voix de femmes », est une organisation locale tunisienne qui œuvre pour la défense des droits des femmes et milite pour l'égalité des genres en Tunisie depuis quatre ans. L'Association encourage la participation des femmes à la vie publique à travers le renforcement de leurs capacités, notamment de leadership. Le principal projet de l'Association, l'Académie politique des femmes, forme des femmes impliquées dans les partis politiques tunisiens. Aswat Nissa soutient ces femmes pour leur permettre d'accéder aux postes décisionnels au sein de leur parti, ou à des postes d'élues au sein d'institutions municipales et nationales. Pendant son stage avec l'Association, Élodie a occupé le poste de responsable des communications. Ses tâches incluaient la rédaction de documentation promotionnelle et de sensibilisation, l'entretien de la page Facebook et du compte Twitter de l'organisation et de la recherche d'informations à propos de la situation relative à l'égalité des genres en Tunisie.

Élodie a notamment travaillé sur:

- ✓ la rédaction de documentation promotionnelle et de sensibilisation ;
- ✓ l'entretien du site internet, de la page Facebook et du compte Twitter de l'Association ;
- ✓ la recherche d'informations à propos des droits des femmes en Tunisie et de l'état de la situation relative à l'égalité des genres ;
- ✓ la participation aux activités quotidiennes de l'Association telles que les formations données dans le cadre de l'Académie politique des femmes.
- ✓ la participation aux activités quotidiennes de l'Association telles que les formations données dans le cadre de l'Académie politique des femmes.

ÉLODIE FORTIN



Élodie Fortin entame sa quatrième année d'études à la Faculté de droit de McGill. Elle s'intéresse au droit public international, au droit pénal international et aux droits de la personne. Afin d'enrichir sa compréhension des enjeux internationaux et de nourrir son intérêt pour la théorie politique, Élodie a greffé à ses études en droit une mineure en sciences politiques.

Particulièrement sensible à la promotion de la dignité humaine, elle s'est impliquée au sein de plusieurs organisations et cliniques juridiques depuis son entrée à McGill. On y compte notamment Amnistie internationale, l'Itinéraire, la clinique juridique du Bouclier d'Athéna, la clinique juridique du Centre de recherche-action sur les relations raciales (CRARR) et la Clinique d'information juridique à McGill.

Élodie s'intéresse également aux questions féministes. Elle a occupé le poste de Vice-présidente au contenu et à la promotion de la revue Contours de la Faculté de droit de McGill lors de l'année universitaire 2015-2016.



ANDRÉ CAPRETTI



André is in his second year of the BCL/LLB program at McGill's Law Faculty, majoring in International Human Rights and Development. Prior to law school, he completed a DEC in Social Sciences, with a focus in Law & Social Justice, at Marianopolis College.

À la faculté, André s'implique en tant que membre du comité exécutif d'Avocats sans frontières McGill, et comme bénévole pour la Clinique d'information juridique et pour la Clinique juridique trans*. Il a aussi été bénévole en analyse des médias pour l'Institut montréalais d'études en génocide. André est aussi un fier membre du club de yoga et d'OCFC, l'équipe de soccer de la faculté.

André hopes to one day pursue a career with the Quebec Human Rights Commission. His love of languages, cultures and travel and a desire to work abroad make a career in international law just as likely.



Internship overview – LICADHO, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

LICADHO is a prominent and vocal human rights monitoring and advocacy organization in Cambodia that. Amongst other initiatives, LICADHO monitors protests, trials, and other situations where human rights abuses may occur. During André's internship, LICADHO was confronted with a particularly tense political climate towards civil society activism and persisted with its monitoring and advocacy activities within significant constraints. André was inspired by the passion and fearlessness of his colleagues at LICADHO and gained an invaluable perspective on the role of civil society activism.

At LICADHO, André's work included:

- ✓ Compiling and updating a list of key events related to an ongoing political crisis;
- ✓ Researching legal and social issues;
- ✓ Drafting public statements on political trials and significant events;
- ✓ Drafting donor funding proposals;
- ✓ Assisting in the development of a new trial monitoring project.

"There is so much going on here at the moment related to human rights abuses, that I find myself a bit overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of issues. That being said, I am reassured by the amazing work being done by organizations like LICADHO, and by the indomitable spirit of the Cambodian people, who are fighting for a long list of causes, including among others, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, labour rights, and land rights. My time here has only added to the admiration that I have for the sacrifices that LICADHO and other Cambodian rights groups and grassroots activists are willing to make in the name of civil resistance and human rights advocacy."

André Capretti, May 2016





Internship overview – MDAC, Budapest, Hungary

The goal of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) is to advance the rights of children and adults with intellectual or psycho-social disabilities. The Centre achieves this through creating a body of progressive jurisprudence, instigating law reform, empowering people with disabilities and promoting participatory politics.

As an intern, Jacinthe had the opportunity to explore issues central to MDAC's efforts including involuntary detention, cross-gender intimate care, and legal capacity. Jacinthe benefitted greatly from the expertise and helpfulness of her diverse colleagues and fellow interns, and enjoyed enriching discussions with them on human rights issues.

During her internship, Jacinthe's responsibilities included:

- ✓ Reviewing new jurisprudence;
- ✓ Summarizing cases;
- ✓ Drafting social media posts;
- ✓ Conducting research

"Law serves more purpose than the set of rules it outlines for our society; it has the power to promote or limit equality, justice, and fairness. Having laws in place is not the end point, but only the starting point. How can people know about these laws if they are not promoted? How can they be implemented if nobody sees to their enforcement? How can they be respected if no one is given the tools to apply them and ensure they are being respected? It is necessary to proactively work to create an environment in which everyone has the same chances to live a prosperous life. That is what I feel I am a part of this summer."

Jacinthe Dion, July 2016

JACINTHE DION

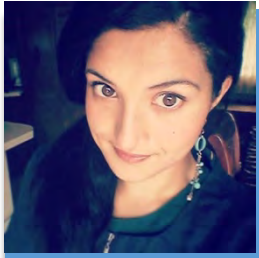


Jacinthe completed her internship as a 1L student in the BCL/LLB program at McGill. Before arriving at the Faculty, she completed an Honours Social Science DEC at Marianopolis College in Law and Social Justice. Her commitment, both at local and international levels, reflects her passion for children's rights. She is a Board Member of Warm Heart Initiatives which is an NGO that deeply cares about how the world treats children; it is currently working in a village in Malawi. She also works with children with disabilities as a swimming instructor at a public pool and as a volunteer at NOVA Montreal for the Children's Respite program, which provides respite for parents of chronically ill children.

Upon her arrival at the faculty, she joined other initiatives, mainly becoming co-coordinator of the Court Accompaniment Program as well as becoming Vice-President of External Affairs for the Canadian Student Association for Children's Rights. Human rights is a broad topic on which she wishes to expand her knowledge beyond her previous experiences in the field.



NIGAH AWJ



Nigah Awj completed her internship as a first year BCL/LLB student at McGill University. She has previously completed a Bachelor of Sciences at McGill. She worked in a fertility clinic and has also done research on prostate cancer in the Montreal Jewish Hospital. Her education, as well as her life experiences as a war refugee and immigrant to Canada, has shaped her strong interests in human rights and her desire to promote and protect them. She previously completed the International Baccalaureate program and traveled to Guatemala for a humanitarian mission. She also founded her own NGO in Montreal and is an active women's right advocate within her organization and the feminist collective of McGill.

Currently she got engaged with issues of international human rights law as a coordinator of International Justice Portfolio within the Human Rights Working Group of McGill. She is also advocating for immigrant workers' rights through *l'Association des Aides familiales du Quebec* as a *Pro Bono* student. Nigah aspires to be an agent for change and improve human life and condition locally and abroad.



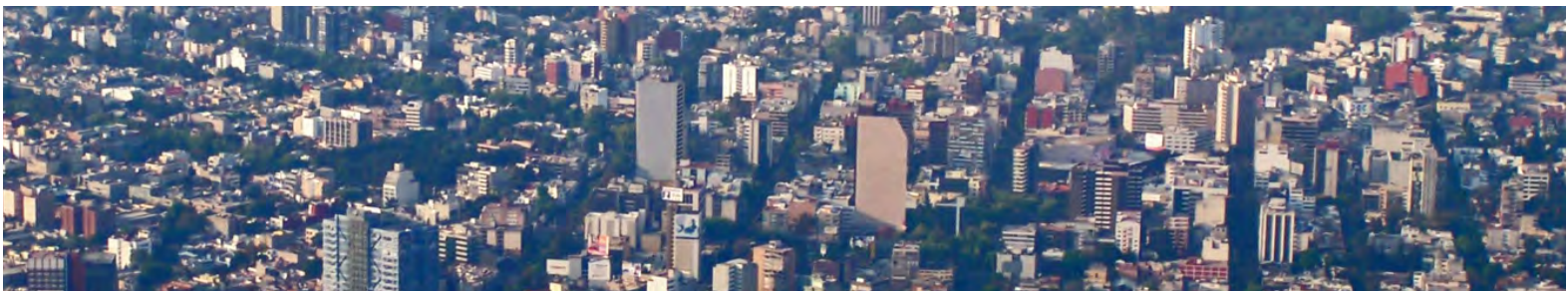
Internship overview - DRI, Mexico City

Disability Rights International's approach to human rights advocacy generally centres on evidence collection, report writing, media outreach, and in some instances, legal action. Notably, they raise awareness by visiting institutions, documenting abuses, and releasing reports detailing abuses in order to attract the attention of media outlets and politicians. When Nigah arrived at DRI, the organization's access to institutions had been severely limited by the government, which somewhat shifted the focus of the organization's activities. DRI's central projects during her time there included a campaign against sexual abuse and sterilization of women with disabilities, a campaign against the institutionalization of individuals with disabilities, and following up on the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights's ruling with respect to the closure of a Guatemalan hospital.

During her internship, Nigah's responsibilities included:

- ✓ Visiting two institutions to which DRI had access and assisting in the collection of evidence and documentation of human rights abuses;
- ✓ Conducting legal analysis for DRI's petition to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- ✓ Preparing document submissions related to UN Conventions and Special Rapporteurs

"The local presence is very important to understand the needs of people with disabilities and what impacts the programs might have on them. International models are of great use to help implement much needed programs and elevate the life conditions of persons with disabilities; however each country comes with their limitations and ways of doing things. Without local presence, awareness and understanding the implementation of such development programs might end in disaster. There has to be a change of mentality and understanding within the general society itself to push for respect and understanding of the rights of people with disabilities." Nigah Awj, August 2016.





LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS
AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
ABOGADOS SIN FRONTERAS
Canada

FIONA COOKE

Internship overview – ASF, Québec City

Avocats sans frontières Canada is an NGO that works in several countries around the world to support the defence and advancement of the rights of vulnerable individuals and groups. The organization engages with a number of different issues and strategies, including access to justice, the fight against impunity, transitional justice, women's and children's rights, as well as strategic litigation. Most of Fiona's work with ASF related to legal research in the fields of international criminal law and international humanitarian law which would inform ASF's engagement with the peace talks in Colombia. Fiona found this research and the application of the legal principles to a current situation very rewarding and benefitted from the critical thinking these challenging questions required.

She left her internship with a solid grasp of several new areas of law and human rights issues.

Fiona's responsibilities during the summer internship included:

- ✓ Researching legal questions regarding alternative sanctions for perpetrators of international crimes, the existence of a human right to peace, and the use of force by states, among others;
- ✓ Gathering information on situations ASF was monitoring.

"Reading peoples' personal stories helped me understand that everything feeds off each other. I experienced a fundamental, if almost imperceptible shift in my reactions to hearing about Aboriginal communities' difficulties. Before, my reaction would have been one of sympathy and frustration about the current state of things. Now when I think about it, to those reactions is added a recognition of my implication in it – of my duty to try to understand the cause and effects, and to understand and respect the anger and resentment. These are legitimate feelings, on a societal and personal level, that cannot be done away with by a simple apology."
Fiona Cooke, July 2016.



Fiona completed her internship after her first year in McGill's law program. Prior to this, she completed her undergraduate degree in International Relations and Modern Languages at the University of Ottawa. After graduation, her love of languages inspired a move to Vienna where she worked as a nanny for a year.

She then completed a Master's of Laws in International Security at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and an internship at the International Criminal Court. These experiences deepened her interest in international law and its political aspects, and ultimately motivated her application to law school in Montreal.





Esther est en deuxième année de droit à McGill. Avant d'entreprendre ses études en droit, elle a complété un Baccalauréat en études des conflits et droits humains à l'Université d'Ottawa. Dans le cadre de ses études, elle a été stagiaire pendant l'été 2013 à The Ark Foundation, Ghana, une organisation qui lutte pour le droit des femmes. Cette expérience a enrichi ses connaissances dans la mise en œuvre des droits humains et développé sa passion pour ceux-ci.

At the Faculty of Law, Esther is President of the student club Avocats sans frontières McGill which promotes human rights and access to justice. She also volunteers at the Legal Information Clinic at McGill where she values the interaction with community members and the satisfaction of providing them with legal information. In addition, Esther volunteers Chez Doris, a shelter for women in the Montreal region. She believes it is incredibly important to ensure that vulnerable populations have their rights protected and have access to services that improve their quality of life.



Internship overview - Equality Effect, Meru, Kenya

Equality Effect is a charitable organization that works for the protection and reaffirmation of women and girls' rights in Canada, Malawi, Ghana and Kenya. EE partners with Ripples International, a Religious Trust organization founded by a couple in 2002, which seeks to protect the rights of children through community empowerment. The organization aims to achieve its objective through three projects: the Customary Law, 3 to be Free, and the 160 Girls Project.

Esther's work centered around the implementation of the 160 Girls judgment which had increased standards for police response to defilement (rape) cases. In doing so, Esther monitored and reported on police responses to such cases. Esther deeply enjoyed the fieldwork components of her internship and her engagement with the community through public legal education and interacting with the girls being supported through the rescue centre.

Esther's responsibilities included:

- ✓ Investigating police treatment of defilement complaints;
- ✓ Facilitating public legal education seminars in the community;
- ✓ Raising awareness for the 160 Girls project and resulting decision;
- ✓ Attending court hearings.

"While the 160 Girls Decision is a step in the right direction, it does not mean that the road to real change is going to be easy. Addressing defilement and child abuse is something that every society struggles with, from Canada to Kenya. So many forces – social, economic, cultural, religious, legal, etc. – are at play when it comes to sexual violence against girls. Therefore, to make waves of change, Ripples International along with Equality Effect staff work together and adopt a multifaceted approach to tackle this epidemic of violence against girls in Kenya." Esther Dionne Desbiens, June 2016





Internship overview – CNDH, Rabat, Maroc

Le CNDH est une Institution Nationale des Droits de l'Homme accréditée par le Haut-Commissariat des Nations-Unies aux droits de l'Homme. Consacré dans la Constitution Marocaine de 2011 pour accompagner le gouvernement national marocain dans la mise en place d'un état de droit qui protège les droits et les libertés individuelles, le mandat du CNDH se déploie à travers trois missions : la promotion de la culture des droits humains ; la protection des individus contre les violations de leurs droits ; et la contribution aux débats publics concernant les droits et libertés fondamentales. Le CNDH bénéficie d'une légitimité institutionnelle en partie à cause du travail avant-gardiste réalisé par le CCDH en matière de justice transitionnelle.

Lors de son stage, Antoine a pu réaliser :

- ✓ La compilation des recommandations émises à l'égard du Maroc, que ce soit par le CNDH ou par les organes internationaux ;
- ✓ répertoirer des organisations non gouvernementales, des acteurs étatiques, des *think tanks* et d'autres acteurs en droits de la personne situés au Canada;
- ✓ La lecture de rapports, de projets de recherche, d'actualités et de législations marocaines.

« Profitant des longues journées de travail qui s'étalent parfois jusqu'à 18h00, j'ai désiré m'immiscer pleinement dans les grandes thématiques abordées par le CNDH afin de pouvoir y apporter des idées et des réflexions de l'intérieur. Le droit étant une science s'élevant pratiquement à la métaphysique, j'essayais d'en délimiter la portée et de rechercher des voies potentielles d'innovations en termes de droits humains. Une mission laborieuse, certes, mais ô combien gratifiante. » Antoine Beauchemin, juin 2016

ANTOINE BEAUCHEMIN



Antoine étudie en deuxième année en droit à McGill et désire compléter la Majeure en "International Human Rights and Development". Dès son arrivée à la faculté, il s'est impliqué dans de nombreux comités, notamment "L.E.X. -Law, Éducation, Connexion", qui consiste à planifier et à offrir des séances introductives sur le droit dans diverses écoles montréalaises. En outre, il s'est joint à "Avocats sans frontières - Université McGill", dont il est aujourd'hui membre du comité exécutif.

Depuis plusieurs mois, Antoine a eu l'occasion de mettre en pratique ses connaissances légales en travaillant, à titre de bénévole, à la Clinique d'information juridique à McGill et à la Clinique juridique itinérante.



BRIANNA GORENCE



Brianna completed her internship as a first-year student in the BCL/LLB program at McGill. Prior to her legal studies, she completed a Master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action at Sciences Po Paris. She received her BA in Philosophy from Suffolk University in Boston. Her studies as an undergraduate led her to participate in study abroad programs in Madrid, Spain and Prague, Czech Republic.

She has spent time working with UNICEF in Burundi and volunteering for a humanitarian advocacy group *No More Deaths* in southern Arizona. She is currently a co-coordinator for the International Justice Portfolio at the Human Rights Working Group, a volunteer with the International Refugee Assistance Project and an associate editor for the *Inter Gentes* McGill Journal of International Law and Legal Pluralism.



Corte Interamericana
de Derechos Humanos
Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Internship overview – IACHR, San José, Costa Rica

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the judicial institution responsible for applying and interpreting the American Convention on Human Rights.

Brianna joined the IACHR as part of a group of visiting professionals and interns from across the Americas and Europe. Interns are placed within a team generally composed of one senior lawyer, one junior lawyer, one legal assistant, a secretary and another intern. She benefited from working closely with the Court's lawyers to investigate the legal situations before the Court. Notably, she had the opportunity to attend an extra-ordinary session of the Court in Mexico City, where she provided support and met with victims.

Brianna's responsibilities at the IACHR included:

- ✓ Researching and drafting legal memoranda on comparative law, international public law and human rights law

"[...] the range of human rights covered are not just "traditional" human rights, designed to address violations such as those perpetrated by military dictatorships, but also include rights touching on issues dealing with indigenous, LGBTI and abortion, which often raises opposition from state and religious interest groups, further placing barriers and making obstacles for the functioning of this important human rights institution.

—Brianna Gorence, July 2016



Internship overview – CRG, Calcutta

The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) is a research centre first assembled in the late 1990s, whose primary focus is on issues related to migration, peacebuilding, labour rights, and gender. They publish two series: *Policies and Practices*, a collection of papers, and *Refugee Watch*, an academic journal. Their research emphasises empirical, ethnographic methodologies and the incorporation of gender in analysis.

The CRG also organizes workshops and conferences on many of the same topics on which they conduct research. Laetitia's internship involved completing an original piece of scholarship intended for publication. Her research paper discussed the international and national legal frameworks for labour in the Gulf, with a focus on Indian migration to the United Arab Emirates. Laetitia enjoyed the intellectually-stimulating environment of the research centre and benefitted from the insights and direction of her colleagues and advisor in developing her work.

Laetitia's work at the CRG included:

- ✓ Completing an 8,000 word research paper, to be published in the CRG's affiliated publication;
- ✓ Presenting her findings to the CRG membership;
- ✓ Writing press releases and blog posts.

LAETITIA BAYA YANTREN



Laetitia Baya Yantren is a second-year student at the Faculty of Law. She holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature and Society from Columbia University, as well as a M.Sc. in Economic and Social History from the University of Oxford. At the Faculty, she fell in love with tax law, critical race theory, and constitutional law (particularly religious freedom and multiculturalism). She recently joined the *Journal of Dispute Resolution*.

"Because CRG is a research group focused on migration that attracts academics knowledgeable about various aspects of migration—migration and development, social movements in Bengal, international migration, migration and gender—presenting to this crowd is both rewarding and nerve-wracking." Laetitia Baya Yantren, September 2016



RACHEL KOHUT



Prior to starting law school at McGill, Rachel completed her Masters of Public Health at Memorial University and an Honours in International Studies and Modern Languages at the University of Ottawa. She has held positions with organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, International Development Research Centre, Assembly of First Nations, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Carleton Centre for Community Innovation.

Beyond the walls of the faculty, Rachel has teamed up with Tahnee Prior to jumpstart a digital platform to facilitate storytelling about gender issues across the Arctic to better inform policy-making decisions in the region. She is also presently a research assistant for Professor Jill Baumgartner investigating the impact of housing on indoor air pollution in northern communities.



Internship overview – HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Toronto

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network promotes the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research and analysis, advocacy and litigation, public education and community mobilization. The Legal Network is Canada's leading advocacy organization working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS. Rachel's time at the Legal Network exposed her to the various facets of the organization's work and its international scope beyond their advocacy efforts to decriminalize HIV non-disclosure in Canada.

As an intern at the Legal Network, Rachel's responsibilities included:

- ✓ Creating a manual about international human rights standards for Global Fund grantors;
- ✓ Drafting a memo on the life impact of sex offender registries;
- ✓ Attending and reporting on the National Conference on Drug Policy;
- ✓ Preparation of a fact sheet for Aboriginal prisoners living with HIV.

“ “Before decriminalizing drugs, the former physician said that “it was impossible to find a Portuguese family that did not have (drug-related) problems”. But in treating drug-use as a public health problem, and not a criminal one, the theory goes that more people are likely to seek treatment and support.” *Rachel Kohut, June 2016*





Internship overview - Akwesasne Justice Department, Akwesasne, NY/ON/QC Border

The Akwesasne Justice Department deals with a large range of issues. In particular, they work directly with community members in contact with the criminal justice system and assist community members involved with other aspects of justice: family matters, property issues, and more.

Amelia felt extremely fortunate to be present for the coming into force of the Akwesasne Court Law, which marked the first ever independent court established by a First Nation. She has cherished the opportunity to work with an Indigenous community that is at the forefront of the indigenous sovereignty movement.

Among other things, Amelia's work included:

- ✓ Creating a resource folder detailing the structure and functioning of the Department;
- ✓ Drafting a press release announcing the coming into force of the Court Law;
- ✓ Assisted in planning and facilitating the Community Justice Program Youth Camp;
- ✓ Participating in legislative drafting.

"The mix of legal traditions informing the Court Law is also unique: In accordance with the expressed will of the community, the court is set up to be adversarial; operating in accordance with fundamental principles of Canadian justice. What sets it apart from Canadian courts is the incorporation of traditional restorative Mohawk principles into the institution's judicial framework." Amelia Philpott, August 2016

AMELIA PHILPOTT



Amelia Philpott holds an honours B.A. in Arabic and Latin America Studies from the University of Ottawa, and completed her first year at the McGill Faculty of Law. She is passionate about indigenous rights, migrant justice, and is a member of the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers McGill.

Amelia is a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has performed, taught and recorded in Germany, Brazil, Tunisia and Canada. In 2012 her political folk trio Three Little Birds was nominated for the Emerging Artist of the Year category of the Canadian Folk Music Awards. Their song "Uranium Mining" was chosen by the Ottawa Citizen as one of the top 10 songs of that year.



MATTHEW SQUIRE



Matthew is completing his first year of studies in the BCL/LLB program at McGill. Matthew graduated with an Honours degree in Political Science with International Relations from the University of British Columbia. His honours thesis explored the intersections of social identity with the colonial experience, a topic that continues to interest him.

Matthew's interest in social justice comes from his passion for working with people. Prior to coming to McGill, Matthew worked as a professional educator in China and as a caretaker for individuals with disabilities in North Vancouver, BC. In addition, Matthew is passionate about independent community-based tourism, with a particular interest in the history and cultures of Central Asia.



Internship overview – IHRDA, Banjul, The Gambia

The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) is a pan-African human rights organization tasked with the protection and promotion of human rights around the continent. IHRDA's three-fold mission is to defend (litigation), educate (capacity-building), and inform (information dissemination).

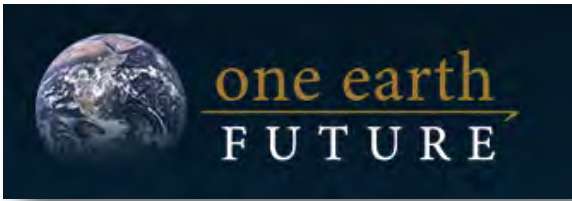
Matthew's legal research experience and bilingualism allowed him to engage significantly with IHRDA's work and undertake legal drafting work for many of the Institute's upcoming cases. This experience challenged him and contributed to his growth as a jurist and on a personal level. He is certain that his experience in The Gambia will influence his future endeavours and his trajectory as a lawyer.

Matthew's internship work included:

- ✓ Reviewing and summarizing evidence for strategic litigation;
- ✓ Drafting presentations on the African human rights system for training materials;
- ✓ Drafting factums for submission with respect to cases dealing with torture, extrajudicial killings, and illegal expropriations.

"Perhaps there is promise for change with these cases I have been preparing. The country against which these cases are being brought has been making progress in improving governance and human rights, especially in improving violations committed by the security forces. Maybe like with the Niger case, a decision from the ECOWAS court could strengthen trends of reform inside the country. However, even with the ECOWAS court, it will take time." – Matthew Squire, June 2016





Overview of the internships – OEF, Broomfield, Colorado

The One Earth Future (OEF) Foundation is a non-profit umbrella organization that regroups several departments, which have essentially grown into their own “micro- organizations”. These include: Shuraako, Research & Development (where Laura worked), Secure Fisheries, and Ocean’s Beyond Piracy (OBP) (where Amanda and Anna interned). OBP was launched in 2010 to support sustainable, long-term solutions to maritime piracy. Its geographical focus is Somalia, India and West Africa. All of OEF’s projects advocate for stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration and firmly believe that the private sector has a big role to play in bringing about peace.

During her internship, Anna’s work with the Oceans Beyond Piracy project included:

- ✓ Updating a database of laws relevant to piracy issues in Africa;
- ✓ Researching mandatory reporting laws with respect to crimes at sea;
- ✓ Summarizing a body of treaties and agreements regarding the prevention of maritime crimes between African states;
- ✓ Researching the regulatory and legislative tools applicable to Private Maritime Security Companies.

Within the Oceans Beyond Piracy project, Amanda’s work included:

- ✓ Researching employers’ duty of care to workers travelling overseas in the context of kidnap or injury across various legal systems;
- ✓ Research for a report on kidnap for ransom;
- ✓ Compiling instances of kidnap for ransom.



AMANDA ARELLA



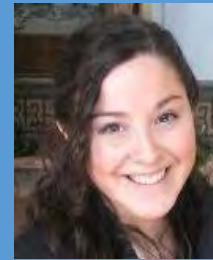
Amanda Arella is a first year law student at McGill University. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Women's Studies and Political Science from Concordia University. Prior to attending law school, Amanda worked at the High Commission of Canada to the United Kingdom and the United Nations Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Amanda is currently an associate editor with the McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy, and volunteers with Pro Bono Students Canada.

"After spending eight weeks documenting instances of kidnap for ransom in Somalia, I am left with the understanding that there is no straightforward or definitive response to this issue. Instead, I have a deeper understanding of the experiences of those who are taken hostage, and the difficulty and uncertainty that accompanies hostage negotiations. So too do I appreciate the conditions of instability and extreme poverty which create the conditions for piracy and heighten instances of kidnap for ransom." -Amanda Arella, July 2016

"One Earth Future's unique structure speaks to the reality of a large portion of international human rights work. With a lack of global governance, individual actors who care about specific problems try to make a difference in whatever way they can. The founders of One Earth Future saw maritime piracy as an issue that was receiving little attention, and focused their resources there as a result." -Anna Goldfinch, July 2016

ANNA GOLDFINCH



Anna Goldfinch is a first year law student at McGill who is originally from Lennoxville, Quebec. Previously, Anna was a policy analyst at the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, providing resources to the Task Force on Sexual Abuse of Patients by Registered Health Practitioners. Before this, Anna served as the Ontario Representative for the Canadian Federation of Students from 2013-2015. In this role she represented 350,000 university and college students and led the campaign for Bill 132, legislation to mandate all Ontario universities and colleges to have sexual assault policies and supports for students.

Anna holds a Bachelor of Arts in Community, Public Affairs and Policy Studies from Concordia University and a Masters in Public Policy from Carleton University.



Overview of the internships – Equitas, Montreal

Equitas (previously known as the Canadian Human Rights Foundation) is a human rights education organization that was founded in 1967 by scholars and social activists. Equitas develops and facilitates the teaching of human rights curriculum and educational tools for NGOs, governmental bodies, or various intergovernmental organizations such as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Marie-Laure took part in the 37th edition of Equitas International Human Rights Training Program. This program brings close to 100 human rights defenders across the world together in Montreal, who take part in an intensive three week session that aims to provide the tools to create change in the human rights culture of their respective communities.

During her internship, Marie-Laure's tasks included:

- ✓ Preparing a manual and survey for the participants and facilitators;
- ✓ Organizing debriefs with facilitators at the end of each conference day;
- ✓ Formatting and copy-edited materials to be used by both IH RTP participants and facilitators;
- ✓ Posting documents on Equitas' online community.

“La leçon que je retiens réellement ... est que l'éducation aux droits humains ne se produit pas à travers des méthodes conventionnelles et des cours formels, mais à travers diverses interactions sociales qui permettent de remettre en question nos perceptions, conceptions et méthodes.” Marie-Laure Saliah-Linteau, Juin 2016

MARIE-LAURE SALIAH-
LINTEAU



Marie-Laure est en première année de droit à l'Université McGill dans le programme B.C.L/LL.B. Avant d'entrer dans ce programme, elle a complété un DEC en sciences humaines dans le profil international au Collège André-Grasset. Marie-Laure se considère comme une « enfant du monde ». Fille d'une mère canadienne et d'un père africain, elle a des racines profondes ancrées sur différents continents et a été élevée avec l'influence de ces deux cultures distinctes.

Tant à travers son parcours scolaire que par ses engagements extrascolaires, Marie-Laure a développé un engouement pour les droits humains. Entre autres, considérant l'importance qu'elle porte à l'éducation, elle a initié et piloté un projet humanitaire visant à procurer des fournitures scolaires dans une école primaire du Niger, en Afrique de l'Ouest. Sa participation pour deux années consécutives au New York National Model of the United Nations (NMUN) lui a aussi permise d'aborder des enjeux d'ordre internationaux liés aux droits humains avec des étudiants provenant de partout dans le monde. Présentement, Marie-Laure s'implique en tant que bénévole pour *Avocats sans Frontières Canada- Université McGill*. Elle fait aussi partie du « *Human Rights Working Group* » de l'université McGill.





ANDRÉ MOREAU



Internship overview – CEHURD, Kampala, Uganda

The Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) is an indigenous, non-profit research and advocacy organization pioneering the enforcement of human rights and the justiciability of the right to health in Eastern Africa. Interns have the opportunity to work in all three of CEHURD's programs: (1) Human Rights Documentation and Advocacy, (2) Community Empowerment, and (3) Strategic Litigation.

André appreciated the interaction with his colleagues, who welcomed him warmly and taught him some of the local language. He enjoyed meeting new friends in Uganda took advantage of the country's beautiful landscape to engage in hiking, white-water kayaking, and go on safari.

André's work with the CEHURD included:

- ✓ Comparative legal research on abortion, patient's rights and sexual offences
- ✓ Drafting a grant proposal for increased external funding;
- ✓ Attending hearings in the High Court and Constitutional Court.

"The Ugandan Constitution states: "No person has the right to terminate the life of an unborn child except as may be authorised by law." As it stands, abortion is only permitted in Uganda when the mother's life is in danger. As CEHURD pushes to advocate for the rights of victims of sexual assault, the organization hopes to broaden the range of exceptions to include situations of rape, incest, and/or defilement." – André Moreau, June 2016

André is originally from Penetanguishene, Ontario. He is a first year student in McGill's B.C.L/LL.B. program. He holds an Honours degree in Speech Communication and Business from the University of Waterloo. Throughout his degree, he had the opportunity to study and work in Alberta, Prince Edward Island, France, and Israel.

André is actively involved in the Aboriginal Law Student's Association, the McGill Ski and Snowboard Club, and intramural dodgeball.

Before coming to McGill, André had been working for the University of Waterloo as their Aboriginal Liaison Officer where he promoted the University of Waterloo to Indigenous students throughout Ontario and Quebec.





Theo Lyons participated in the program following his second year of law school at McGill University. He previously completed a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science (Honours) with a focus on political theory. Before beginning his studies in law, he interned at the Gulf Region Advocacy Centre, a Houston-based organization which provides legal services to indigent clients facing the death penalty. During his 1L year he worked at the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations (CRARR), a non-profit organization which provides assistance and representation to victims of racism and other forms of discrimination.



Internship overview – Yukon Human Rights Commission, Whitehorse, Yukon

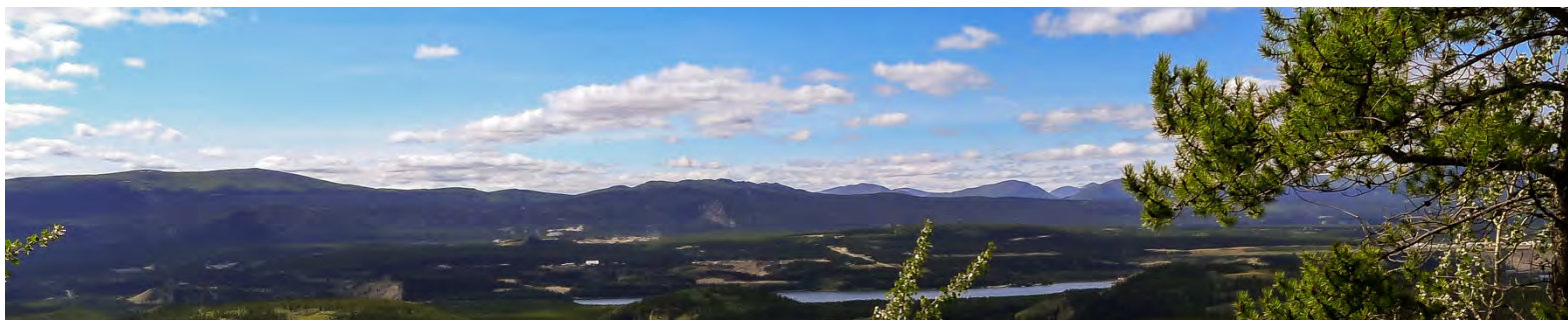
The Yukon Human Rights Commission promotes human rights in the Yukon by enforcing the Yukon Human Rights Act, receiving and investigating human rights complaints, advocating for legislative reform, responding to inquiries from employers and service providers, and conducting public education and outreach activities. The Commission investigates complaints and performs a “screening” function in deciding which complaints should not be pursued further. Theo was involved in practically all aspects of the Human Rights Commission’s work. Most notably, he was briefed on all the cases the Commission is currently working on (about 35 different complaints), participated in interviews with several complainants, and began work on a report about a complex and particularly harmful form of systemic discrimination against persons with mental disabilities.

Theo’s tasks during his internship at the YHRC included:

- ✓ Working on legal cases at various stages (investigations, research, interviewing, etc.).
- ✓ Learning about the Yukon Human Rights Action & Regulations and the structure and procedures of the Commission and the Board of Adjudication.
- ✓

“At its most fundamental level, I think that Canada’s various federal, provincial, and territorial human rights legislation is about fairness and equality. It is unfair that a woman should lose her job simply because she has become pregnant. It is unfair that a person should be treated unfavourably on account of their race. And it is also unfair that a person should be denied a job opportunity because they have a disability that an employer could accommodate without experiencing undue hardship.”

–Theo Lyons, July 2016





Internship overview – CCLA, Toronto, Ontario

CCLA advocates for the civil liberties, human rights, and democratic freedoms of all people across Canada. Founded in 1964, CCLA is 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. At the CCLA, Didier was involved in a project on mental health concerning a program of treatment (Community Treatment Project) targeting mostly schizophrenic patients discharged from hospitals. More specifically, he considered whether this program, which temporarily deprives patients of the freedom to withdraw from medication, engages Section 7 of the Charter. Didier also conducted research on youth justice, studying the effectiveness of different provincial programs of youth diversion.

Didier's responsibilities during his internship at CCLA included :

- ✓ Memorandum drafting related to issues engaging the Charter;
- ✓ Legal and policy oriented research related to the Youth Criminal Justice Act ;
- ✓ Reporting potential reasons why victims of crimes do not make police reports

"Because the Charter is enforced by courts, its impact is often assessed only with reference to strategic litigation. Yet if the only function of constitutional guarantees was to secure court victories, the vast majority of citizens would stop caring for them. The CCLA enforces them first and foremost by selecting volunteers reflecting the diversity of Canadian society, and seeing to it that they uphold Charter values not just in their work but also in their interactions. "

Didier Chelin, October 2016



Didier Chelin participated in the program as a second year Law student at McGill. He holds a Master's Degree in Philosophy from Concordia University, focusing on feminism and minority rights. He received the McGill Stephen A. Scott Award in Constitutional Law. His overarching goal is the self-empowerment of marginalized groups underrepresented in the current legal system.

Over the past year, he has volunteered for the McGill Legal Information Clinic. He also participates in a project spearheaded by Solidarity Without Borders helping refugees to apply for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. He currently contributes to the Talk Rights project of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) through a placement with Pro Bono Students Canada, focusing on the status of refugees. He has also worked as a Research Assistant for Professor Vrinda Narain, investigating the history of Charter Jurisprudence concerning religious minorities.



ZACHARY SHEFMAN



Zachary completed his internship as a second-year law student in the BCL/LLB program at McGill University. Before coming to McGill, he completed a bachelor's degree in philosophy, with a particular focus on ethics, at Carleton University.

Since he began his studies in law, Zachary has interned with the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations, a civil rights organization devoted to combatting discrimination, and volunteered regularly with the Legal Information Clinic at McGill. He currently works as an editor for the McGill Journal of Law and Health, and as a researcher and coordinator with the Medical Student Study Group on Physician-Assisted Suicide, a non-partisan research initiative directed towards investigating policy questions and legislative responses related to physician-assisted suicide.



Internship overview – Law Reform and Development Commission of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia

The Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC) is a government commission established in 1992 that renders recommendations for legal reform. The LRDC is an independent panel of experts from the government that is responsible for the reform of the full ambit of Namibian law. Zachary was frequently provided with bills to review, flagging problematic areas of the bill, such as potential conflicts with the constitution, incoherence among its provisions or unintended consequences of its provisions.

Zachary's responsibilities included:

- ✓ Examining bills before their review by the executive branch of government;
- ✓ Writing legal memoranda and assisting Commission legal researchers with legislative drafting;
- ✓ Conducting workshop and presenting a lecture on academic and legal writing.

"My experience in Namibia has been immersive, eye-opening and all around life-changing. I have learned immensely about a new legal system and culture. I have had deep and intimate exposure to the most inner-workings of Namibian government. I have had the opportunity to contribute to the reform of Namibian domestic policy. Most important of all, however, I have found elements that I will look for in a future career in law."

Zachary Shefman, August 2016





Internship overview – AHRC, Manila, Philippines

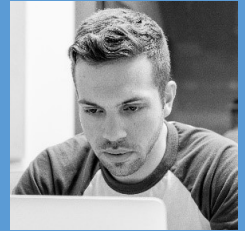
The Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC) is the Secretariat of the Working Group for the Establishment of an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism. AHRC aims to promote and protect human rights in the Philippines. AHRC is a university-based institution that pursues its mandate through a variety of services and programs. It also maintains partnerships with organizations both nationally and international. AHRC works closely with other groups, including government, NGO, academe, civil society, and grassroots organizations. Amongst other initiatives, the Centre engages in research in publication, law and policy reform advocacy, training and education, and values formation. During his time in the Philippines, Alex was part of a nation-wide court monitoring project that consulted functionaries of the criminal justice system as a first step in proposing mechanisms to mitigate court congestion and delay. He also helped run a human rights education program for children on cyber safety (Unicef ChildTALK), and was later invited to be part of a consultation group that proposed a Sex Offender Registration and Notification Bill to the Philippine Senate for sponsorship.

Alexander's responsibilities at AHRC included:

- Drafting policy reports on human rights standards
- Participating in consultation workshops for new legislation
- Participating in a national court monitoring project

"I had the fortune of being the first McGill/foreign intern to attend the Orientation Seminar of Ateneo Human Rights Center's flagship program: The Human Rights Internship. The purpose of the Orientation Seminar is to provide training on human rights advocacy, focusing on the practice of alternative lawyering for marginalized groups... It gave students a glimpse of the way alternative lawyers practice law: they work with clients and not for clients"

Alexander Agnello, July 2016



Alexander is a first year law student at McGill University. Before coming to McGill, he was working as a journalist based in Vancouver. His interest in human rights grew out of a successful SSHRC proposal, which focused on the worry of stigmatizing vulnerable populations through prevailing and hypothesized systems of redistribution.

His aim for the internship was to maintain a broad vision for future work in the field, since at least some human rights issues are interlinked, and require more than just the exercise of legal measures for their resolution.



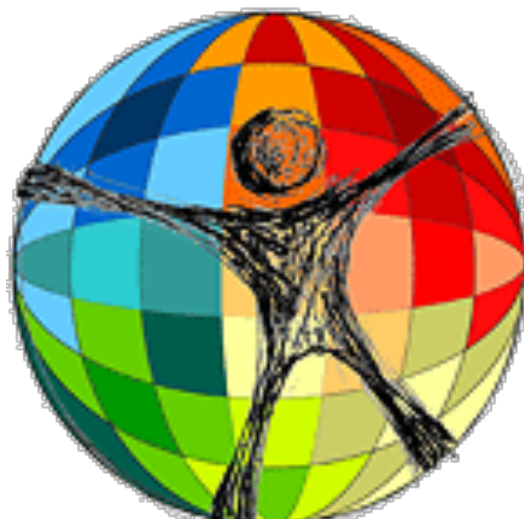
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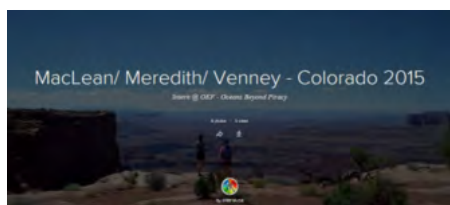
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- *M. Novak and K. Weil Human Rights Internship Fund*
- *Honourable Mr. Justice Morris J. Fish Award.*
- *J. Schull and A. Yang Student International Programme Fund*
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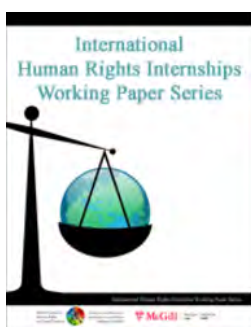


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