Opportunities with International Tribunals and Foreign Courts
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Yale Law School Career Development Office
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1. Why work at an International Tribunal or Foreign Court?

Law students and graduates seek short-term positions with a court outside of the U.S. for a variety of reasons. For some, it is an opportunity to work in an international setting and have a clerkship experience. Others have an interest in the particular issues that the court hears, such as the arbitration of commercial intellectual property disputes by the World Intellectual Property Organization Arbitration & Mediation Center or violations of humanitarian law by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Gaining experience with these issues may also fit in with their long-term career plans.

2. What is in this Guide?

This guide provides information regarding some of the courts outside of the U.S.—international tribunals and intergovernmental courts, as well as national courts—where current law students and graduates may find temporary positions, paid and unpaid. Some of these courts, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, offer structured programs that are open to law students and recent graduates throughout the world. In these cases, the courts provide instructions on how to apply (e.g., International Court of Justice) or detailed application forms (e.g., International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea).

Other courts have no structured system. Judges do not typically have law clerks, and non-citizens are rarely employed in the court system. They may be open to the possibility of allowing law school students and recent graduates from the U.S. to work on a temporary basis, provided they are fluent in that country’s language and willing to work without pay.

The information in this guide is taken directly from the indicated websites, or obtained in telephone conversations and correspondence with court staff. If you have information about opportunities with other courts, please email cdo.law@yale.edu.

3. How to Pursue a Position with a Court Outside the U.S.

Never say “never”

Despite the “official” work limitations that the national courts and international tribunals around the world impose, you may be able to find, or create, an opportunity if you are flexible and persistent; willing to research, track down people, or follow up on personal connections; and willing to work without pay.

The experience of one Yale Law School graduate provides a useful example. He was under the impression that U.S. citizens had previously clerked for the Supreme Court of India. After sending a letter and résumé to the Chief Justice, he learned that the Supreme Court of India had never employed a clerk in its history. Nevertheless, the Chief Justice and the YLS graduate continued corresponding and began to construct a proposal under which he could be the “guinea pig” clerk for the Supreme Court of India. The experiment would allow the justices to decide whether such a clerkship system would be of value to them, and then to build the experiment into a national pilot project for one-year clerkships. Ultimately, the graduate was awarded a grant for a project in a different country (never put all your eggs in one basket, either) and had to defer the clerkship project. At least he started them thinking about it—and ultimately they did start hiring law clerks!
Research
Contact professors, alumni, or fellow students who may have experience with international tribunals or the legal system in another country, and could have information about individual judges. Do not overlook the overseas-trained LLM and JSD students at the law school. Many of them have practiced or taught law before starting the graduate program, and some have worked for courts. To find alumni with international court experience, see Appendix A, and search the Courtyard, the law school’s student/alumni online engagement platform.

If you are interested in clerking in a country that is not covered in this guide, there are three websites that provide further court links. The World Legal Information Institute website (click on the “Courts & Case-Law” link under the Catalog/All Categories section) at www.worldlii.org; the Council of Europe, Venice Commission website at www.venice.coe.int/webforms/courts/; and the International Justice Resource Center at ijrcenter.org/. The World LII site also links to international tribunals.

You can also contact the embassy or consulate for that country in the United States. The State Department maintains contact information for embassies and consular offices in the U.S. at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/consularnotification/ConsularNotificationandAccess.html. Another resource LeadershipConnect, is an online database to which the YLS law library subscribes. It provides contact and staff information for embassies and consulates in the U.S., as well as websites. To search the database, you must be on Yale VPN or a Yale computer; go to www.leadershipconnect.io/ and click on “Sign In” at the top of the page. Select the Advanced Search, choose “Foreign Embassies” in the “Organization Group” filter, then “United States – Cities” in the “Office Location” filter, and from there you can use keywords to refine your search.

Consider starting with summer
Though certainly not required, a short-term stint with a court or tribunal can be useful in several ways. It can give you an overview of the work and help you decide whether a post-graduate placement is right for you—or what particular type of post-graduate placement might suit you best. A prior (positive) work history with the tribunal can also be advantageous in the post-graduate application process. Finally, as a practical matter, law school funding may be more readily available for summer work than for a post-graduate clerkship.

Think ahead
Funding. It is rare to find a foreign court or international tribunal that can pay interns or clerks. Many students finance their internships with travel and research grants awarded through their schools or through programs such as the Fulbright grants. Those funding applications, however, must be submitted six to twelve months in advance. If you are able to create a term-time externship, you may be able to retain your eligibility for student loans or other financial aid, but you will also have to arrange that well in advance.

Some of the online resources for researching sources of funding are:

- Yale Student Grants and Fellowship database, which contains announcements and application instructions for all funding administered by Yale (direct link is yale.communityforce.com/Funds/Search.aspx).
- Grant Forward, at www.grantforward.com/index: Sign up using your Yale email address to access this grants database service (formerly IRIS).
- Candid, a merger between the former Foundation Center and Guidestar, offers Foundation Grants to Individuals Online, to which YLS subscribes, at https://grantstoindividuals.org. See Appendix B for login information.
You must first create an account (free) and you may upload your résumé. Select “Search Jobs” under Refine Search on the Search Jobs & Employers tab, choose a “Fellowship” option under Job Type, and refine your search with the Practice Area list or other options.

Documents. You will probably have to get a visa, and perhaps a work permit. Obviously, the paperwork will vary depending on the length of your stay and the type of position you take. Regardless, plan on a time-consuming process. Find out the details from the appropriate consulate when you are doing your initial research and get as much of a head start as possible.

Be flexible
The more flexibility you can show in the amount of time that you can work, the time that you can start, and the type of work that you can do, the easier it will be for you to find a position. Consider working for three months or six months, not a year. If you can take a semester away from law school for an intensive learning experience, this type of work could be a good fit. Think about seeking a position after you have worked for a year or more since this legal experience could make you a more appealing candidate. In addition, if you can save part of your salary, you may not need to find grant funding. Bear in mind that courts do not follow a uniform hiring schedule. Some courts may hire two years in advance, others may hire six months ahead.

Provide application materials
Naturally, if you find specific application requirements for an internship, follow them. If there is no formal application process, send or email a résumé with a cover letter that details your interest in working for the court and highlights your qualifications.

Follow up
You must do more than simply make initial contact and wait to see what happens, particularly if you are not applying through a formal program. Plan to follow up with telephone calls or emails to make sure that you have the correct information, confirm that your materials arrived at the right place, provide updated information when necessary, and monitor the status of your application.

CHAPTER 2
INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS

A. Tribunals Offering Opportunities

The following is a description of international tribunals and intergovernmental courts that offer opportunities for temporary employment that may be suitable for law school students and recent graduates.

1. African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

The African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Court) is a continental court established by African countries to ensure protection of human and peoples’ rights in Africa. It complements and reinforces the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

The Court was established by virtue of Article 1 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Protocol), which was adopted by Member States of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso, in June 1998. The Protocol came into force on January 25, 2004 after it was ratified by more than 15 countries. As of July 2017, only eight of the thirty State Parties to the Protocol had made the declaration recognizing the competence of the Court to receive cases from NGOs and individuals: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Malawi, Tanzania, and Rep. of Tunisia. The Court is composed of eleven Judges, nationals of Member States of the African Union, and they are elected for a six-year or four-year term, renewable once.

African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights
P.O. Box 6274
Arusha, Tanzania
Tel: +255 732 979506/9
Fax: +255 732 979503
Email: internship@african-court.org
Web: en.african-court.org/

Opportunities: The Court offers internships allowing participants to gain practical working experience and develop skills in areas of relevance to their careers under the guidance of a qualified member of staff. The duration of internships shall range from one to three months, although internships exceeding a period of three months may be authorized on an exceptional basis. The Court welcomes applicants from all over the world, although priority will be given to citizens of the Members States of the African Union. Interns must have an excellent command of at least one of the AU working languages (English, French, Arabic or Portuguese), and knowledge of any of the other three will be an added advantage. Specific requirements and the internship application form can be found online at en.african-court.org/index.php/vacancies-tenders/internship. There is no deadline for applying, although the Court encourages prospective interns to apply at least six months prior to the date scheduled for the commencement of the internship.

2. Court of Justice of the European Union

The Court of Justice has presided since 1952 over cases involving European Community (EC) law, which is independent, uniform in all member countries of the EC, and separate from, yet superior to, national law. Its 28 Judges are charged with ensuring that EC law is interpreted and applied uniformly in each member country. The Treaty of Lisbon in 2009 established the legal personality of the European Union as successor to the European Community, and what was formerly known as the “Court of Justice of the European Communities” became known as the “Court of Justice of the European Union.”

The Court of Justice of the European Union consists of three courts: the Court of Justice, the General Court (previously known as the Court of First Instance), and the Civil Service Tribunal.

Court of Justice of the European Union
Boulevard Konrad Adenauer
Kirchberg
L-2925 Luxembourg
Tel: (+352) 4303.1
Fax: (+352) 4303. 2600
Web: curia.europa.eu/

Paid Traineeships: Every year, the Court of Justice of the European Union offers a limited number of paid traineeships for a maximum duration of five months. There are two traineeship periods:

1. March 1 – July 31 (applications to be made between July 1 and September 15 of each year).
2. September 16 to February 15 for the traineeships in the Members' chambers and October 1 to February 28 for the traineeships in the administrative departments (applications to be made between February 1 and April 15 of each year).

Applicants must hold a degree in law or in political sciences (majority content of law) or, for traineeships in the Interpretation Directorate, a diploma in conference interpreting. Applicants must apply using the EU CV Online application within the above time limits, together with a detailed curriculum vitae and copies of diplomas and/or certificates. In view of the nature of the working environment, a good knowledge of French is desirable.

Dean Acheson Legal Stage Program: The Dean Acheson Legal Stage Program allows for a limited number of students from approximately thirty U.S. law schools, including YLS, to work as stagiaires (assistants) at the Court of Justice and the General Court.

There are three different types of stage assignments. Stagiaires may work with a judge of the Court of Justice, with an Advocate General of the Court of Justice, or with a judge of the General Court. These stage opportunities are offered for three months during the spring and fall terms of the Court. Because of Luxembourg's visa restrictions on non-European Union (EU) citizens, the maximum length of a stage is three months, although there may be some flexibility with individual start/end dates. The positions are unpaid, and stagiaires are responsible for the full cost of their transportation, room and board while participating in the program. Typically there are two internship periods, each less than 90 days: Fall Term (mid-September to mid-December) and Spring Term (mid-February to mid-May).

Candidates must apply through YLS, which can submit a maximum of three applications. Applications for both terms typically must be received by the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg in April. Priority will be granted to applicants who have completed three years of law school and who have strong knowledge of European Community Law. Some knowledge of French is required, varying with the type of stage. Knowledge of an EU language other than French and English is an advantage, and is generally necessary for a stage with an Advocate General. The Stage Program is open to U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents only. Contact CDO for current application details. Applications and inquiries can be submitted to:

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Embassy Luxembourg
LuxembourgPublicAffairs@state.gov
Tel. +352 46 01 23 27

3. European Court of Auditors

The treaty establishing the European Union (EU) confers upon the European Court of Auditors (ECA) the main task of auditing the accounts and the implementation of the budget of the EU. The treaty also confers the dual aim of improving financial management and reporting to the citizens of Europe on the use made of public funds by the authorities responsible for their management.

The European Court of Auditors consists of 28 Members originating from the 28 Member States who are appointed for a term of six years. They are independent and have specific experience in the audit of public finances. The Court of Auditors examines whether EU budgetary revenue has been received and the corresponding expenditure incurred in a legal and regular manner. It places a particular emphasis on examining whether the financial management has been sound, i.e. it checks whether management objectives have been met while assessing to what extent and at what cost this has been done.
Opportunities: The ECA offers a limited number of traineeships for a maximum period of five months. Applicants must either hold a recognized university-level degree or diploma giving entitlement to the European Union category AD or have completed at least four semesters of university studies in a field of interest to the Court. The ECA occasionally accepts trainees from countries outside of the European Union, when derogation has been granted by the appointing authority. Traineeship may be paid or unpaid depending on the budgetary appropriations available.

4. European Court of Human Rights

The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms was drawn up within the Council of Europe in 1950 and entered into force in 1953 in an effort to enforce the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 within Europe. In addition to codifying civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms, the Convention laid the groundwork for the European Court of Human Rights to protect these rights and freedoms. Increased caseload led to the creation of a new European Court of Human Rights in 1998, which put into action an entirely new procedural protocol so as to hear grievances and try cases more efficiently. The European Court of Human Rights is composed of the number of judges equal to that of the States party to the Convention, which currently is 46.

Traineeships: The European Court of Human Rights offers eight week to five-month, paid traineeships to students who are nationals of one of the Council of Europe’s member states. Traineeships are available in the following divisions: Legal, Case-Law Information and Publications, Just Satisfaction Division, Research Division, Press Unit, Visitors’ Unit, or the Public Relations Unit. Trainees must have a very good knowledge of one of the Council of Europe’s official languages (English and French). A good knowledge of the other language is desirable. Trainees are usually recent law school graduates, and they may serve a member of the Court during one of two periods throughout the year, from March through July or September through January. Please monitor the court website for updates on the period of enrollment. Refer to www.coe.int/en/web/jobs/traineeships for more information.

The Assistant Lawyers’ Scheme: Attorneys at the start of their career can work at the Registry for one year and may extend their employment up to four years. Their principal task is to deal with individual applications originating from their own legal system, written in their own language. To be eligible, you must be a national of, and hold a law degree obtained in, one of the Council of Europe’s member states.
5. European Free Trade Agreement Court

The European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) Court fulfills the judicial function within the EFTA system, interpreting the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) with regard to the EFTA States party to the Agreement. At present those EFTA States are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The aim of the EEA Agreement is to guarantee the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital; to provide equal conditions of competition; and to abolish discrimination on grounds of nationality in all 30 EEA States—the 27 EU States and the 3 EFTA States.

The EFTA Court deals with infringement actions brought by the EFTA Surveillance Authority against an EFTA country regarding EEA rules. It also settles disputes between EFTA countries. Thus, the jurisdiction of the Court over EFTA nations corresponds to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union over EU states.

EFTA Court
1, rue du Fort Thüngen
L-1499 Luxembourg
Tel: (+352) 42 10 81
Fax: (+352) 43 43 89
Email: eftacourt@eftacourt.int
Web: www.eftacourt.int

Opportunities: The EFTA Court offers up to eight paid traineeships annually for terms of two to four months; preference is given to citizens of the EEA/EFTA nations (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). The working language of the Court is English; command of French, German, Icelandic, or Norwegian is an asset. Generally, traineeships are offered from January 15-April 15 (applications must be received by November 15) and September 15-December 15 (applications must be received by July 1). Trainees are appointed to one of the three Judges’ Cabinets. Application forms and further details are available on the Court’s website. The trainees receive a monthly stipend. Refer to eftacourt.int/the-court/trainees/ for more information.

6. Inter-American Court of Human Rights

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) was created by the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1979 as an autonomous judicial institution charged to apply and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights, a treaty adopted by the OAS in 1969. The Court’s competence has been recognized by 20 states: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, República Dominicana, Surinam and Uruguay.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
Avenida 10, Calles 45 y 47 Los Yoses
San Pedro, San José, Costa Rica
Tel: 506 2527 1600
Fax: 506 2280 5074
Email: corteidh@corteidh.or.cr
Web: www.corteidh.or.cr

Internship and Visiting Professionals Program: These positions are unpaid, and interns and visiting professionals are responsible for all expenses (including living costs and arrangements) during their
assignment to the Court. The work can include researching human rights issues, writing reports, analyzing international human rights jurisprudence, assisting with the process of contentious cases, advisory opinions, provisional measures and supervision of the compliance of the Court’s judgments, providing logistical assistance during public hearings, and developing legal arguments for specific cases. Interns and visiting professionals may also be required to conduct more intensive research about specific issues of law. The interns and professional interns must also participate in the daily activities of the Court, such as the review and translation of documents, and other administrative tasks.

Student applicants must be committed to the subject of human rights. With respect to attorney applicants, academic knowledge and professional experience related to the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, public and private international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international comparative law are highly valued. Good oral and written skills in Spanish and English are essential; Spanish is the principal language used at work. In addition, knowledge of other official languages of the Court, such as Portuguese and French, is greatly valued. A minimum of three months of availability is required and applications for internships longer than three months are highly valued. The application deadlines are as follows: apply before February 1 for a position during the months of January-April of the following year; before June 1 for May-August positions the following year; and before October 1 for September-December positions the following year. For more details, visit the Court’s website, at www.corteidh.or.cr/programapasantias.cfm.

7. International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration

The International Court of Arbitration (ICA) was created in 1923 as the arbitration body of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), a private organization established in 1919 that currently represents business enterprises and associations from over 180 countries. Working closely with its Secretariat, the Court’s primary role is to administer ICC Arbitrations. The ICA is not a court in the judicial sense of the term, but performs the functions entrusted to it under the ICC Rules of Arbitration, assisting parties and arbitrators to overcome any procedural obstacles that arise. The ICA is mindful of its duty to make every effort to ensure that awards are enforceable at law. However, it does not itself resolve disputes or decide who wins or who loses an arbitration. It also does not award damages or costs; these functions are reserved for independent arbitral tribunals appointed in accordance with the Rules.

Specific functions of the ICA include: fixing the place of arbitration; assessing whether there is a prima facie ICC Arbitration agreement; taking certain necessary decisions in complex multi-party or multi-contract arbitrations; confirming and replacing arbitrators; deciding on challenges filed against arbitrators; monitoring the arbitral process; scrutinizing and approving arbitral awards; settling and managing (or, in some cases, adjusting) costs of arbitration; and overseeing emergency arbitrator proceedings. Usually, the parties involved in a case will be of different nationalities, with different linguistic, legal, and cultural backgrounds. The ICC provides international businesses with alternatives to government court litigation. Even in a domestic context, disputing businesses sometimes prefer alternatives to government courts that are less costly and time-consuming.

Secretariat of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce
Headquarters
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France
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Fax: +33 (0) 1 49 53 28 59
Email: courtinternship@iccwbo.org
Opportunities: ICC Dispute Resolution Services offers students who wish to complement their studies through contact with the professional world the opportunity to acquire practical experience in an international organization. Internship placements exist with the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris and in Hong Kong. The ICC Dispute Resolution Services Paris-based internship program is full time, for a period of three months, and offers monthly gratification of €500.51, meal vouchers, and partial compensation of public transport costs. The incoming intern will be under the supervision of two case management teams of the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. Arbitration internships in Hong Kong are also full-time and for a period of three months (November to January, applications are due mid-August); however, internship positions are unpaid.

Tasks include: reading, commenting and drafting of documents related to arbitration cases; legal research and drafting; preparation of conferences; translation of legal documents; and ad hoc assignments as requested by the teams. Preference will be given to students in international commercial law arbitration with strong academic credentials and prior work experience.

Candidates are requested to submit a short CV (two-page maximum) highlighting relevant experience, a cover letter describing any classes and professional experiences related to arbitration/mediation. Candidates applying to the internship program in Paris must also submit two letters of reference and an academic writing sample in English. Please note that there is a legal requirement under French law that interns at the ICC in Paris must be simultaneously registered students at a University or School; documentation from the intern’s University or School will be requested upon acceptance of the internship. Applications should be addressed in English and submitted via email to the Selection Committee (Attn. Ms. Claudia Pansa) at courtinternship@iccwbo.org. Accepted candidates are required to handle their own visa, travel, and accommodation arrangements for the duration of their stay. Visit iccwbo.org/careers/internship-opportunities/ for more information.

The ICC also offers Paris-based traineeships, which are for a period of 6 months. All requirements, tasks, compensation, and preferences pertinent to the internship program in Paris are also applicable to the traineeship program in Paris.

The International Court of Arbitration of the ICC also offers internships based in New York City. SICANA Inc., the provider of ICC Arbitration and ADR services in North America, is currently accepting intern applications. There are three internship terms offered: September – December, January – April and May – August. Application deadlines are July, November and March, respectively. Tasks include: reading, commenting on and drafting documents related to current arbitration cases; doing research for the preparation of work documents, conferences, presentations and publications; and assisting with tasks related to educational events and conferences. For further information, please visit iccwbo.org/careers/internship-opportunities/internship-opportunity-w-sicana-inc/

8. International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It began work in 1946, when it replaced the Permanent Court of International Justice, which had functioned since 1922. The first case entered in the General List of the Court was submitted on May 22, 1947. Since then, 177 cases have been entered in the General List.

The ICJ acts as a world court and has a dual role: it decides, in accordance with international law, disputes of a legal nature that are submitted to it by States (jurisdiction in contentious cases); and it gives
advisory opinions on legal questions at the request of the organs of the United Nations or specialized agencies authorized to make such a request (advisory jurisdiction). Only states (which include all members of the United Nations) may be parties to contentious cases.

The ICJ is competent to rule upon a dispute only if the nations concerned have accepted its jurisdiction. The ICJ rules in accordance with international treaties and conventions in force, international custom, the general principles of law, judicial decisions, and the teachings of the most highly qualified authors and commentators. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.

International Court of Justice
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Carnegieplein 2
2517 KJ The Hague
The Netherlands
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Fax: (+31) (0)70 364 99 28
Email: recrutement-recruitment@icj-cij.org
Web: www.icj-cij.org

Judicial Fellows Programme: The ICJ has a formal traineeship program, with individual judges, which is available to students and recent graduates of law schools around the world which commit to providing financial support to their candidates. The program has a ten-month term, typically September – June. The funding currently is approximately $37,500, as well as reimbursement for one round-trip economy class airfare from the United States to The Hague (up to $1,000) and, if necessary, a contribution towards health insurance. Trainees assist members of the court in tasks such as drafting opinions, orders, and other court documents; preparing case files; and researching a variety of legal issues. Once the trainees are chosen by consensus of all members of the Court, the individual judges also use the application materials to designate which trainee they wish to have assigned to them. The position is open to JDs, LLMs, and JSDs from YLS, and has been most frequently filled by an LLM. Candidates must be proficient in at least one of the ICJ’s official languages, English or French, and a very good working knowledge of the other is desirable. Applicants should also have an excellent academic record with proven research and writing skills. Applicants should submit a cover letter, application form, résumé/CV, official law school transcript, writing sample, and letters of recommendation to CDO. The Law School submits a list of recommended candidates, along with their materials, to the ICJ. The ICJ sets the application timetable; this year, application materials were due by February 4. Specific deadline information is posted on the Fellowships page of the Yale Law School website at www.law.yale.edu/student-life/career-development/students/career-pathways/public-interest/vls-public-interest-fellowships as soon as it is available in late fall or early winter.

Internships: The Court offers unpaid internships of one to three months, under the supervision of the Registry staff, to students and young professionals who are in the early stages of their careers. Given the size of the organization, only a limited number of internships can be offered throughout the year. Placements are, however, possible in all departments and divisions of the Registry. The working languages of the Court are English and French. Details regarding the internships may be found on the Court’s website, at www.icj-cij.org/en/internships. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis via an online application form accessed from the Internships web page cited above.
9. International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the first ever permanent, treaty-based, international criminal court established to promote the rule of law and ensure that the gravest international crimes do not go unpunished (namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes). The Court is complementary to national criminal jurisdictions. The jurisdiction and functioning of the Court is governed by the provisions of the Rome Statute. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was established on July 17, 1998, when 120 States participating in the “United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court” adopted the Statute. The Statute entered into force on July 1, 2002. Anyone who commits any of the crimes under the Statute after that date is liable for prosecution by the Court.

There are 18 judges on the Court, which is organized into Appeals, Pre-Trial, and Trial Divisions and respective Chambers of the Court. The Appeals Division is composed of the President and four other judges, the Trial Division and the Pre-Trial Divisions of not less than six judges each. All the judges are nationals of state parties to the Rome Statute; the U.S. is not a party. The working languages of the Court are English and French.

International Criminal Court
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Fax: +31 (0)70 515 8555
Email: applications@icc-cpi.int
Web: www.icc-cpi.int

Internships and Visiting Professionals: The Court has available internships for periods of three to six months. Knowledge of one of the Court’s official languages (English and French) is required; knowledge of any of the other official languages of the court (Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish), or of other languages relevant to the situations pending before the Court will be considered an asset. Visiting professionals may work for one to six months. Positions are to be filled preferably by a national of a state party to the ICC Statute, or of a state which has signed and is engaged in the ratification process or which is engaged in the accession process. Nationals from non-state parties may also be considered. Visit the recruitment section of the Court’s website at www.icc-cpi.int/jobs/Pages/internships-and-Visiting-Professionals.aspx for extensive details on the application process.

10. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is an independent judicial body, established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention). An international treaty adopted in 1982, the Convention is one of the most comprehensive international treaties ever completed. The Convention pronounces the deep seabed as the common heritage of mankind. It defines the outer limits to which coastal States can claim jurisdiction over their adjacent waters, provides regulations for
maritime issues of potential international dispute, and regulates prominent issues such as fisheries and navigation. The Convention also established the International Seabed Authority, which is devoted to organizing and controlling activities in the deep seabed. An entire chapter of the Convention is devoted to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment.

The Tribunal is the central forum for the settlement of disputes arising from the Convention. Five Special Chambers exist: The Chamber of Summary Procedure, the Chamber for Fisheries Disputes, the Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes, the Chamber for Maritime Delimitation Disputes and Ad-hoc Chambers. The Tribunal is open to States Parties to the Convention and, in certain cases, to entities other than States Parties (such as international organizations and natural or legal persons). The jurisdiction of the Tribunal comprises all disputes submitted to it in accordance with the Convention. The Seabed Disputes Chamber, which is composed of 11 judges, is competent to give advisory opinions on legal questions arising within the scope of the activities of the International Seabed Authority. The Tribunal may also give advisory opinions in certain cases under international agreements related to the purposes of the Convention.

The Registrar
International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1
22609 Hamburg
Germany
Tel: (49) 40 35607-0
Fax: (49) 40 35607-275
Email: itlos@itlos.org
Web: www.itlos.org

Opportunities: The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea employs students interested in the law of the sea, public international law, international organizations, international relations, public relations, and political science, library science, and translation in an unpaid, three-month program intended to give participants an understanding of the work and functions of the Tribunal and to enable the Tribunal to benefit from the assistance of persons with relevant knowledge and skills. Applicants should be enrolled in a degree-granting program and should speak English and/or French. To apply, complete the application form available on the Tribunal’s website and submit it along with a résumé, transcript, and, if available, a brief sample of relevant research work in English or French. There are four internship periods: January to March (application to be submitted by September 30 of previous year), April to June (application to be submitted by December 31 of previous year), July to September (application to be submitted by March 31) and October to December (application to be submitted by June 30). For more information visit www.itlos.org/the-registry/training/internship-programme/.

11. Iran-United States Claims Tribunal

The Iran-United States Claims Tribunal came into existence as one of the measures taken to resolve the crisis in relations between Iran and the U.S. arising out of the detention of 52 U.S. nationals at the United States Embassy in Tehran which commenced in November 1979, and the subsequent freeze of Iranian assets by the U.S. The government of Algeria served as intermediary in the search for a mutually acceptable solution. Having consulted extensively with the two Governments as to the commitments which each was willing to undertake in order to resolve the crisis, the government of Algeria recorded those commitments in two Declarations made on January 19, 1981: the “General Declaration” and the “Claims Settlement Declaration,” also known as the “Algiers Declarations.”
The Tribunal consists of nine members, three appointed by each government and three third-country members appointed by the six government-appointed members. The Tribunal has jurisdiction to decide claims of U.S. nationals against Iran and of Iranian nationals against the U.S., which arise out of debts, contracts, expropriations or other measures affecting property rights; certain “official claims” between the two governments relating to the purchase and sale of goods and services; disputes between the two governments concerning the interpretation or performance of the Algiers Declarations; and certain claims between U.S. and Iranian banking institutions.

Opportunities: In the past, the three U.S. Judges have hired law clerks. The length of the clerkship is typically a matter for negotiation, depending on the Tribunal’s hearing schedule. Prior clerkship or work experience is valued. Because there are only three U.S. Judges, vacancies occur unpredictably. Applications will be kept on file even if no opportunity is available at the time it is submitted.

12. Permanent Court of Arbitration

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) offers services for the resolution of disputes involving various combinations of states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. These services include arbitration, conciliation, and fact-finding. In addition, the International Bureau of the PCA offers hearing facilities and ancillary administrative services to tribunals operating ad hoc or under the rules of other institutions, and is available to facilitate arbitrations conducted under the UNCITRAL Arbitral Rules.

Fellowships: The Yale Law School Fellowship at the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague program provides graduating Yale law students and recent alumni with the opportunity to work at an international arbitration institution for one full year. Responsibilities include significant legal research and drafting, as well as organizing and observing hearings and deliberations; helping negotiate and resolve issues among arbitrators; and working with the Secretary General to promote the PCA. Applications are invited from YLS students and alumni, including JD and LLM students in their final year; YLS doctoral candidates; and recent graduates (up to three years after graduation). Applicants are required to submit a cover letter, law school transcript(s), curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation. For more
information, please see www.law.yale.edu/student-life/career-development/students/career-pathways/public-interest/yls-public-interest-fellowships.

Internships: The PCA Internship Program is for law school students and recent law school graduates interested in gaining experience in an international arbitration institution. Internships are for a period of three months and are unpaid. Interns participate fully in the regular functioning of the organization, often conducting research for arbitration tribunals, drafting memos, and assisting at hearings. Complete application packages can be submitted at any time up to four months prior to the beginning of the desired term. Application deadlines are: September 1, for Term 1 (January through March); December 1, for Term 2 (April through June); March 1, for Term 3 (July through September); and June 1, for Term 4 (October through December). Applications can be mailed to the address above or sent electronically to: internships-stages@pca-cpa.org. Applications should include a cover letter stating the desired term, explaining the applicant’s interest in the program, and how they expect to contribute to the organization, including particular legal interests and knowledge; complete curriculum vitae (CV); copies of academic transcripts; a letter of recommendation; and proof of proficiency in a PCA working language. Fluency in English or French is necessary. Additional language skills are a strong advantage, particularly Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, or Russian. Complete application procedures and guidelines, as well as up-to-date program requirements, are available on the PCA website at pca-cpa.org/en/about/employment/internship-program/.

The PCA also offers an internship in association with the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). A PCA-ICCA intern will undertake legal research, legal editing and organizational tasks, including work on ICCA publications, ICCA outreach projects (such as ICCA’s work worldwide on harmonization in the implementation of the 1958 New York Convention) and Young ICCA seminars and projects. Interns will in principle not be engaged in arbitration case work conducted under the auspices of the PCA. PCA-ICCA internships are available in three terms as follows: Term 1, January through March; Term 2, April through June; and Term 3, October through December. Please see the website listed above for complete application procedures and guidelines.

13. World Bank International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), established in 1966, is an autonomous international organization and part of the World Bank Group, and is considered to be the leading international arbitration institution devoted to investor-State dispute settlement. The primary purpose of ICSID is to provide facilities for conciliation and arbitration of international investment disputes. The ICSID Convention is a multilateral treaty that was opened for signature on March 18, 1965, and entered into force on October 14, 1966. The Convention sought to remove major impediments to the free international flows of private investment posed by non-commercial risks and the absence of specialized international methods for investment dispute settlement. ICSID was created by the Convention as an impartial international forum providing facilities for the resolution of legal disputes between eligible parties through conciliation or arbitration procedures. Recourse to ICSID conciliation and arbitration is voluntary. Once the parties have consented to arbitration under the ICSID Convention, neither can unilaterally withdraw consent.

ICSID
1818 H Street, N.W.
MSN J2-200
Washington, DC 20433
Tel: (202) 458-1534
Fax: (202) 522-2615
Opportunities: ICSID offers unpaid internship opportunities at its Centre in Washington, DC, to currently enrolled JD (rising 3L), LLM, or PhD students. Up to six internships are offered during three periods (September-December, January-April, May-August). Interns work a minimum 12 weeks and a minimum of 10 hours per week. Under the supervision of experienced ICSID Team Leaders and Counsel, interns will assist in the administration of cases and with institutional projects. Qualifications include fluency in English and preferably in at least one of the other official languages of ICSID, French and Spanish; along with strong drafting skills and ability to conduct research on a range of issues in arbitration and investment law. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, ICSID internships are being held remotely and the application deadline has been extended to February 15, 2021. Please consult the Internships page for additional details and requirements. icsid.worldbank.org/en/Pages/about/Internships.aspx

14. World Intellectual Property Organization Arbitration & Mediation Center

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center was established in 1994 to offer alternative dispute resolution options for the resolution of international commercial disputes between private parties. Developed by experts in cross-border dispute settlement, the procedures offered by the Center are appropriate for technology, entertainment, and other disputes involving intellectual property.

To date, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center has administered some 400 mediation, arbitration, and expert determination cases. Most of the mediations and arbitrations have been based on contract clauses; however, some cases were submitted to WIPO mediation and arbitration as a result of a submission agreement once a dispute had arisen. The particular subject matter of the mediation and arbitration cases so far administered by the WIPO Center includes artistic production finance agreements, art marketing agreements, consultancy and engineering disputes, copyright issues, and patent infringement issues. Thus, parties include collecting societies, individuals such as artists and inventors, large and medium-sized companies, producers, and universities.

Proceedings have taken place in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland, the UK, and the U.S., and have been conducted in several languages. These languages include English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.

World Intellectual Property Organization
Arbitration and Mediation Center
Geneva
34, chemin des Colombettes
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 338 8247
Fax: +41 22 740 3700
Email: arbiter.mai@wipo.int
Web: www.wipo.int/amc

Opportunities: The WIPO Internship Program is open to students and young professionals from any region in the world that have a background in law, particularly in intellectual property, or in other related fields of interest to WIPO. Graduate students may work as interns for an initial period of three months, which may be extended to a maximum of twelve months, if justified by the specific needs of the
employing Division/Department. Applicants must have completed a first-level educational degree or higher, and graduates will be eligible to apply for an internship no more than two years after completion of their most recent degree or postgraduate studies. Applicants must have good knowledge of English or French, as well as computer and analytical skills. Applicants are requested to submit their CV and cover letter by applying to the WIPO Internship Roster: www.wipo.int/jobs/en/internships/. If selected for a WIPO internship, candidates shall be required to provide certified copies of their diplomas and, where applicable, proof of enrolment in their postgraduate studies. The internship program includes a monthly stipend, local transport allowance and reimbursement for travel expenses as of January 2020. Further information can be found on the WIPO Internship Program Guide and on the Center’s website at www.wipo.int/jobs/en/internships/index.html.

WIPO also runs a “Summer School” program, whose objective is to provide an opportunity for students and young professionals to acquire a working knowledge of intellectual property and to be exposed to the work of the Organization. Registration information can be found on the WIPO website: www.wipo.int/academy/en/courses/summer_school/.

15. World Trade Organization Appellate Body

The World Trade Organization (WTO) resolves trade disputes under the Dispute Settlement Understanding to ensure that international trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. At the same time, the WTO, under certain circumstances, supports the maintenance of trade barriers in order to protect consumers or prevent the spread of disease. As of July 29, 2016, there are 164 member states.

A dispute arises when a member government believes another member government is violating an agreement or a commitment that it has made in the WTO system. If disputing WTO Members cannot reach a mutually agreed solution, a panel is established at the complainant’s request. Either party can appeal a panel’s ruling; sometimes both parties appeal a ruling. Appeals have to be based on points of law such as legal interpretation—they cannot reexamine existing evidence or examine new issues. Each appeal is heard by three members of a permanent seven-member Appellate Body set up by the Dispute Settlement Body and broadly representing the range of WTO membership. Members of the Appellate Body have four-year terms. They have to be individuals with recognized standing in the field of law and international trade, not affiliated with any government.

Director, Human Resources Division
World Trade Organization
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154,
Case postale
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 739 51 11
Fax: +41 22 739 5772
Email: humanresources@wto.org
Web: www.wto.org

Opportunities: The WTO Secretariat maintains a limited internship program for post-graduate university students, including law students, wishing to gain practical experience and a deeper knowledge of the multilateral trading system. There are three internship programmes at the WTO. (1) The WTO Internship Programme is open to post-graduate students from all WTO members and countries or customs territories engaged in accession negotiations; (2) The China LDC and Accessions Programme (also known as the
At the WTO Internship Programme, all interns work in Geneva, Switzerland. Intake to the program is on a continuing basis, with no specific recruitment period. Interns are recruited from among nationals of WTO Members and countries and territories engaged in accession negotiations. Interns must have completed their undergraduate studies in a relevant discipline (e.g., economics, law, political science, international relations), and have completed at least one year of their postgraduate studies. The minimum age for an intern is 21 years and the maximum age is 30 years. A roster of suitable candidates is maintained from which interns are selected. In addition to the regular internship program, the need may also arise to recruit interns at short notice for particular tasks. These recruits are also drawn from the roster. Names will not be maintained on the roster for longer than one year. Internships last a maximum of six months.

China's LDCs and Accessions Programme, sponsored by the Government of China, aims to help recent graduates and young professionals from least-developed countries (LDCs) and developing countries gain work experience at the WTO. The Accessions Division, in close coordination with the Human Resources Division, manages the implementation of the programme. The internship can last up to 10 months. Interns receive a daily allowance of CHF 60 (including weekends and official holidays falling within the selected period). No other remuneration of any kind shall be paid; interns are responsible for all travel expenses and insurance. The WTO may also employ unpaid interns funded from external sources. Internships can extend up to 24 weeks, but the term will depend on the project the intern is requested to work on, and on the needs of each Division. Internships can start at any time during the year. Prospective interns meeting the criteria should apply online at: erecruitment.wto.org. Online applications are strongly encouraged to enable WTO to store applicant profiles in a permanent database through erecruitment.wto.org/public/index-wto.asp?lng=en.

B. Additional Tribunals

The following tribunals have no information regarding temporary employment opportunities or do not offer temporary employment programs. If you are interested in working with any of these tribunals, contact them about the possibility of designing a volunteer internship.

1. Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is the Caribbean regional judicial tribunal established on February 14, 2001 by the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice. The Agreement was signed by the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) states of: Antigua & Barbuda; Barbados; Belize; Grenada; Guyana; Jamaica; St. Kitts & Nevis; St. Lucia; Suriname; and Trinidad & Tobago. Two further states, Dominica and St. Vincent & The Grenadines, signed the agreement on February 15, 2003, bringing the total number of signatories to 12. The Agreement came into force in 2003, and the CCJ was inaugurated in 2005 in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, the seat of the Court.

The Caribbean Court of Justice has been designed to be more than a court of last resort for CARICOM member states. It is also vested with an original jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation and
application of the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community. In effect, the CCJ exercises both an appellate and an original jurisdiction.

In the exercise of its appellate jurisdiction, the CCJ considers and determines appeals in both civil and criminal matters from common law courts within the jurisdictions of member states which are parties to the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice. In the discharge of its appellate jurisdiction, the CCJ is the highest municipal court in the region. In the exercise of its original jurisdiction, the CCJ discharges the functions of an international tribunal applying rules of international law with respect to the interpretation and application of the Treaty.

The Caribbean Court of Justice
134 Henry Street
P.O. Box 1768
Port of Spain
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: 1 868 623 2225
Fax: 1 868 627 1193
Email: info@ccj.org
Web: www.ccj.org

2. Central American Court of Justice

The Central American Integration System (SICA) is the institutional framework of Regional Integration in Central America, created by the States of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. SICA was established on December 13, 1991, by the signing of the Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) or Tegucigalpa Protocol, which amended the Charter of ODECA, signed in Panama on December 12, 1962, and formally came into operation on February 1, 1993. The Statute of the Central American Court of Justice was signed in 1992 by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, pursuant to Article 12 of the Protocol of Tegucigalpa. The Protocol establishes that the Court is part of the bodies of the Central American Integration System with the purpose of guaranteeing “respect for the law in the interpretation and execution of the present Protocol and its supplementary instruments or acts pursuant to it.”

The Court is composed of two Regular Magistrates for each of the States that signed the Statute; each will have a Deputy Magistrate. The Court has a President and a Vice President who serve for one year.

The Court has subscribed to and adheres itself to several collaboration treaties with Central American and international institutions, in which internships are provided to law students. The internship’s goal is for students to gain knowledge on the Court’s job, and to strengthen their knowledge in Community Law and Integration Law.

Magistrado Corte Centroamericana de Justicia
Reparto Bolonia, de la Rotonda el Güegüense 1 cuadra al este,
1.5 cuadra al norte.
Calle del Palmar,
Casa 1804, Apartado Postal 907.
Managua, República de Nicaragua
Tel: +505 2266-6146
Fax: +505 2266-4604
Web: portal.cci.org.ni/ccj/
3. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Court of Justice

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a regional grouping of 19 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, spreading all the way from Egypt in the north, to Swaziland in the south, and including the adjacent Indian Ocean nations of Comoros and Seychelles. It was established in 1994 to replace the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA), which had existed since 1981. The PTA treaty had envisaged the area’s transformation into a common market, and it was in conformity with this vision that the treaty establishing COMESA was signed in 1993 in Uganda and ratified a year later in Malawi.

The COMESA Court of Justice is modeled after the European Court of Justice. In short, the Common Market, as established by its member nations, exists within a system of rules originally embodied in the PTA Treaty, updated in the COMESA treaty, and the Court exists to enforce those rules. It replaced the three judicial bodies that existed under the PTA, and thereby provides one integrated, strong judicial body with one Registry instead of three relatively weak ones. The Court addresses the issue of enforcement of decisions taken collectively and allows legal or natural citizens affected by regulations, directives or provisions of the PTA Treaty to request the Court to determine their legality under the Treaty.

COMESA Court of Justice
AL Tijani Almahi Street
No. 3-4-0-7
P.O. Box 12222
Khartoum Town
Khartoum-Sudan
Tel: +249 18376 0591/2/3/4
Fax: +249 18376 0595
Email: info@comesacourt.org
Website: www.comesacourt.org

4. Court of Justice of the Andean Community

In 1969, five South American countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru) signed the Cartagena Agreement in order to raise the living standards of their people through integration and economic and social cooperation. The Court of Justice of the Andean Community was subsequently created in 1979 as the Court of Justice of the Cartagena Agreement by the signing of the Treaty Establishing the Court of Justice of the Cartagena Agreement. The Treaty entered into force on May 19, 1983 and is regarded as the primary source of the Andean Community law. Subsequently, the 1996 Protocol of Trujillo renamed the Court to its present name of the Court of Justice of the Andean Community. The Court has jurisdiction over actions of nullification and actions of noncompliance. The current Member States are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The Court is composed of four judges, representing each member country, who are appointed for a period of six years. A President of the Court is elected for a period of one year, and this function is held by each of the judges.

Dr. Gustavo Brito Garcia, Secretary General of the Court
Court of Justice of the Andean Community
Street Juan de Dios Martinez Mera No. 34 -380 and Portugal
P.O. Box: 17079054
Quito-Ecuador
Tel: (593) 2 380-1980
5. East African Court of Justice

The East African Court of Justice is one of the organs of the East African Community established under Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. The East African Community was revived on November 30, 1999, when the Treaty for its re-establishment was signed. It came into force on July 7, 2000, 23 years after the total collapse of the defunct Community and its organs. Members of the Community include the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. The East African Court of Justice became operational in 2001, and its major responsibility is to ensure the adherence to law in the interpretation and application of and compliance with the Treaty.

The Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine disputes on the interpretation and application of the Treaty; disputes between the Community and its employees arising from the terms and conditions of employment or the interpretation and application of the staff rules and regulations; disputes between the Partner States regarding the Treaty if the dispute is submitted to it under a special agreement; disputes arising out of an arbitration clause contained in a contract or agreement which confers such jurisdiction on the Court to which the Community or any of its institutions is a party; and disputes arising out of an arbitration clause contained in a commercial contract or agreement in which the parties have conferred jurisdiction on the Court. The jurisdiction of the Court may be extended to human rights at a suitable date to be determined by the Council. There are five judges on each of the Court’s Appellate and First Instance Divisions.

East African Court of Justice
EAC Headquarters, 1st Floor,
Africa Mashariki Road,
EAC Close,
P.O. Box 1096
Arusha, Tanzania
Tel: +255 27 2506093
Fax: +255 27 27 2509493
Email: eacj@eachq.org
Web: eacj.org/

6. Economic Community of West African States Community Court of Justice

The Community Court of Justice was created pursuant to the provisions of Articles 6 and 15 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS was established on May 28, 1975 to promote cooperation and integration among West African countries. There are now fifteen Member States making up the community, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The Mandate of the Economic Community of West African States Community Court of Justice is to ensure the observance of law and of the principles of equity and in the interpretation and application of the provisions of the Revised Treaty and all other subsidiary legal instruments adopted by ECOWAS. The
Court has both advisory and contentious jurisdiction. Decisions of the Court are not subject to appeal, except in cases of application for revision by the Court; decisions of the Court may also come under objection from third parties. Decisions are binding and each Member State shall indicate the competent national authority responsible for the enforcement of decisions of the Court. The Court is composed of seven independent Judges who are appointed by the Authority of Heads of State of Government from nations of Member States, for a four-year term of office, upon recommendation of the Community Judicial Council.

Community Court of Justice—ECOWAS
10 Dar Es Salaam Crescent,
Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II,
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: (234) (9) 5240781
Fax: (234) (9) 6708210
Email: info@courtecowas.org
Web: www.courtecowas.org

C. Organizations Engaged in Tribunal Work

1. War Crimes Research Office

The War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) was established at the American University Washington College of Law (WCL) in 1995 in response to a request from the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda for legal research assistance in the areas of international criminal and humanitarian law. Since that time, several new war crimes tribunals have been established under the auspices or with the support of the United Nations, each raising novel legal issues. This, in turn, has generated growing demands for the expert assistance of the WCRO. As a result, the Office has in recent years provided research support to the Special Panels for Serious Crimes in East Timor, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, and the International Criminal Court. With the participation of WCL students and faculty, as well as a variety of other international experts and consultants, the WCRO completed more than 80 major research projects in its first ten years.

The core mandate of the WCRO is to promote the development and enforcement of international criminal and humanitarian law, primarily through the provision of specialized legal research assistance to its client institutions. The WCRO also plays a prominent role in initiatives relating to the establishment of new internationalized criminal justice mechanisms. In addition, the Office periodically conducts trainings on issues of international criminal and humanitarian law.

War Crimes Research Office
4300 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Attention: Matt Bowers
Tel: 202-274-4067
Email: warcrimes@wcl.american.edu
Web: www.wcl.american.edu/warcrimes
Opportunities: The WCRO occasionally has consulting or pro bono legal research opportunities available. Please email the WCRO Staff Assistant at the above email address with a résumé or CV if interested.

The WCRO also sponsors a summer abroad program at the T.M.C. Asser Institute in The Hague, and a major topic of the program is international criminal justice. Additional information can be found at: www.wcl.american.edu/impact/initiatives-programs/warcrimes/summer-law-program-in-the-hague/. Questions can be directed to hagueprogram@wcl.american.edu.

CHAPTER 3
NATIONAL COURTS

A. Opportunities

Some national courts offer opportunities for U.S. law school students and graduates. Others reserve positions within their court systems, temporary and permanent, paid and unpaid, for their citizens, or give preference to their citizens. If you are not a citizen, check to see if there are any exceptions to the citizenship requirement that might apply to you. You might also succeed by contacting a judge personally and offering your services for free.

Still other courts do not offer specific temporary employment programs for current law school students or recent law school graduates. They follow the European model, where assistants to judges and courts tend to have at least two years of experience working in a legal capacity outside of law school and are typically hired on a permanent basis. Furthermore, such assistants also tend to have received their legal training inside the country in which they work and thus are familiar with the country’s particular legal system. Recent law school graduates from the U.S. are not precluded from these positions, though proficiency in the language of the court is absolutely necessary.

The following national courts provide specific opportunities for temporary employment that may be of interest to U.S. law school students and recent graduates.

1. **High Court of Australia**

The High Court is the highest court in the Australian judicial system. It was established in 1901 by the Australian Constitution, but the appointment of the first Bench had to await the passage of the Judiciary Act in 1903. The functions of the High Court are to interpret and apply the law of Australia; to decide cases of special federal significance including challenges to the constitutional validity of laws; and to hear appeals, by special leave, from Federal, State, and Territory courts.

The subject matter of the cases heard by the Court traverses the whole range of Australian law. It includes arbitration, contract, company law, copyright, courts-martial, criminal law and procedure, tax law, insurance, personal injury, property law, family law and trade practices. During hearings, barristers representing the parties present their arguments orally to the Court.

High Court of Australia
Parkes Place
Canberra ACT 2600
Opportunities: The High Court of Australia offers 12-month associateship opportunities. Competition for appointment is very strong and there are sometimes upwards of 200 applications for potential vacancies. The normal expectation is that a person appointed as an associate will have graduated with first class honors, or its equivalent, and will preferably have research experience (and often experience working for a law firm or university or another court). Citizenship is not required, but a successful applicant from outside Australia must ultimately obtain a work permit. Applicants should write directly to the Justice(s) with whom they seek employment. Alternatively, if you are interested in working for any one of the Justices without any preference then you should write to the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar, Mr. Andrew Phelan, and he will raise your interest at a meeting with the Justices. You should include a current CV and an academic transcript with your letter. There are no specific closing dates for applications but it is common for the Justices to appoint their associates two and three years in advance. In any application, applicants should include the years they would be available. The address for correspondence with the Court is High Court of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra ACT 2600. For more information and the judges’ hiring availability, visit: [www.hcourt.gov.au/employment/applying-for-an-associateship-with-a-justice-of-the-high-court-of-australia](http://www.hcourt.gov.au/employment/applying-for-an-associateship-with-a-justice-of-the-high-court-of-australia)

2. Federal Court of Australia

The Federal Court of Australia was created by the Federal Court of Australia Act 1976 and began to exercise its jurisdiction in 1977. The Court is a superior court of record and a court of law and equity, having assumed jurisdiction formerly exercised in part by the High Court of Australia and the whole of the jurisdiction of the Australian Industrial Court and of the Federal Court of Bankruptcy. It sits in all capital cities and elsewhere in Australia from time to time. The Court exercises appellate jurisdiction over decisions of single judges of the Court, and from the Federal Circuit Court of Australia (previously the Federal Magistrates Court) in non-family law matters. The Court also exercises general appellate jurisdiction in criminal and civil matters on appeal from the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island.

Principal Registry
Federal Court of Australia
Locked Bag A6000
Sydney South NSW 1235
Australia
Tel: +612 9230 8567
Fax: +612 9230 8824
Email: query@fedcourt.gov.au

Opportunities: The Federal court offers a number of associate positions each year for law graduates. Associate positions in the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit of Australia can be found on [APSJobs](https://www.apsjobs.gov.au). Associates are employed as part of the personal chambers staff of a particular judge. They provide legal research, in-court duties and other support for that judge. Associate positions are generally not advertised and the selection of associates is conducted directly by the judge(s). Generally, associates are employed on a contract basis for up to 12 months, usually commencing early in the law term, but may also be engaged at other times throughout the year. Interested applicants should forward their materials (including a CV, academic transcript, and general application) directly to the judge or to the District Registrar in the appropriate registry. If selected for an interview, the applicant will be contacted directly.
by the judge or registry concerned. For more information, visit www.fedcourt.gov.au/about/employment/associates.

3. Courts of Denmark, Faroe Islands, and Greenland

The Courts of Denmark that deal with all kinds of cases, both civil and criminal, are divided on hierarchical lines. At the bottom there are 24 district courts; then the two High Courts—the Western High Court and the Eastern High Court—and finally the highest court in the country, the Supreme Court. In addition to the ordinary courts there are courts that deal with special areas of law on a permanent basis, such as the Maritime and Commercial Court and the Land Registration Court. In Denmark, there is no separate constitutional court or separate administrative court as in Germany and France, as cases relating to these matters are dealt with in the ordinary courts. Unlike a number of other European countries, Denmark has not established specific administrative or constitutional courts. Such cases are taken up in the ordinary courts.

The National Board of Justice
Store Kongensgade 1-3
1264 København K
Denmark
Email: post@domstolsstyrelsen.dk
Web: www.domstol.dk

Opportunities: The Danish courts hire student interns throughout the year, and Proficiency in the Danish language is necessary. The individual courts decide who they would like to hire and interested students may apply directly to them.

Danish Courts employ approx. 1,850 office clerks employed by the courts all over the country, in the Procedural Licensing Board and in the National Courts Agency. Tasks include preparing notes on the individual cases with a review of the facts of the case, a legal review and a recommendation on how the board should decide the case. The working method of the board implies that the individual representative is present during the board's handling of the person's cases. It is sought to have an interaction between the Court of Justice and the Process Appropriations Board on the one hand and the courts on the other. Thus, some of the proxies on the Board and the Process Appropriations Board come from an appointment as a magistrate, just as several employees at the courts come from an employment with the Court Board or the Process Appropriations Board Secretariat. For more information visit www.domstol.dk/om/jobidanmarksdomstole/jobtyper/fuldmaegtig/procesbevillingsnaevnet/Pages/default.aspx.

The Court of Justice is an independent state institution that has been operating since July 1, 1999. The Board is headed by a Board of Directors and a Director. The Board of Directors is the Supreme Management of the Court of Justice and has overall responsibility for the Board's activities. The day-to-day management is handled by the director. As a clerk of the Court of Justice, you will enter into a collaboration with many peers, legal colleagues, in an informal environment. Through the treatment of a number of specific and general cases, one will, among other things, learn to find the core of legal issues, to come up with viable solutions and communicate them in a clear and easy to understand language. Some of the delegates also carry out secretariat duties for the Court's many committees and working groups. Through the work of the Board, the clerks have daily contact with the employees of the courts, citizens, public institutions and private companies.

There is the possibility to switch between the Process Appropriations Board and the Court of Justice as well as within the individual centers of the Board. During the employment, the clerks have the opportunity to participate in an in-house basic education, including among other things. good
administrative practice / case management, the central government's budget and appropriation system, conflict resolution and cooperation, dissemination and minutes, etc., and possibly in other courses relevant to the employment, e.g. on topics such as administrative law, employment law, the death row, the process etc. For more information visit www.domstol.dk/om-os/job/.

Other openings can be updated and posted on the website (choose "Clerk" under "Job Type"). A map of the judicial districts and contact information for all Danish courts can also be found on the website.

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4. Supreme Court of Israel

Israel has a three-level system of general law courts: the Supreme Court, the district courts, and the magistrates’ courts. While the latter two are mostly trial courts, the Supreme Court is essentially an appellate court, which also operates as the equivalent of the British High Court. This means that the Supreme Court acts as the court of first and last instance, exercising broad powers of judicial review over other branches of government.

The Supreme Court of Israel
Sha’arei Mishpat Street
Kiryat David Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem, Israel 9195001
Tel: 077-2703333
Email: jobs@court.gov.il
Web: www.court.gov.il

Opportunities: Unlike many common law systems that have a long, rich, and plentiful jurisprudence from which to draw upon, the State of Israel, a relatively young country, has a comparatively small body of jurisprudence. Thus, the Israeli Supreme Court often looks to American and Commonwealth precedent, as well as European countries, for inspiration in rendering its decisions. As a result, Justices of the Israeli Supreme Court solicit individuals trained in the American and Commonwealth legal tradition, as well as European traditions, to work as Foreign Clerks.

Pending cases that are grounded in Israeli law often require a comparative law analysis. Foreign Clerks are assigned to a specific Justice for the duration of their clerkship. They conduct legal research and draft memoranda regarding specific legal questions that pertain to pending cases, providing the Court with substantive support for legal decisions it renders. Research and memoranda provided by the Foreign Clerk will, where applicable, be taken into consideration in opinions rendered by the Court.

During their clerkship, Foreign Clerks will likely find themselves working in several different areas of the law, such as public international law, criminal law, civil procedure, tort law, constitutional law, corporate law and contract law.

The clerkships are unpaid and last for a minimum of three months. No language proficiency other than in English is required and there are no citizenship restrictions. Preference is given to those law students who are at least in their second year. Applications can be sent during four periods every year: February 15 – March 15, May 15 – June 15, August 15 – September 15 and November 15 – December 15. Application details are available on the court’s website at elyon1.court.gov.il/eng/Clerking_opportunities/index.html.
5. Courts of New Zealand

New Zealand’s general courts are structured like a pyramid. At the top is the Supreme Court. Below it, in descending order, are the Court of Appeal, the High Court and the district courts. These are “courts of general jurisdiction.” The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and the district courts are defined by statute. The High Court has both statutory jurisdiction and inherent common law jurisdiction. Most criminal cases are heard in the district courts, as well as a large number of civil cases, but there is a statutory ceiling on the cases that the court can hear. Though the High Court has broad general jurisdiction, it tends to hear the more serious jury trials, the more complex civil cases, administrative law cases and appeals from the decisions of courts and tribunals below it.

A case that is decided in the district courts, for example, can be appealed to the High Court, or directly to the Court of Appeal where the law allows it. The Supreme Court is the final appellate court. Because the Supreme Court hears only a small proportion of cases, the Court of Appeal is in reality the last court for an appeal for most cases in the legal system.

Outside the pyramid for courts of general jurisdiction are specialist courts and tribunals (e.g., Employment Court, the Environment Court, the Māori Land Court, and the Waitangi Tribunal). The courts of general jurisdiction may hear appeals from these courts and tribunals, and the High Court has supervisory jurisdiction of them through the judicial review process.

Recruitment Team Leader
Ministry of Justice
The Vogel Centre
19 Aitken St.
P.O. Box 180
Wellington 6011
Tel: 64 4 918 8800
Fax: 64 4 918 8820
Email: Recruitment@justice.govt.nz
Web: www.justice.govt.nz or www.courtsofnz.govt.nz

Opportunities: The Courts of New Zealand offer positions for recent law school graduates to work as a Judge’s Clerk in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, or in a District Court as a Research Counsel. Both positions are paid and can be held for a maximum of two years. Traditionally, these positions have been filled by graduates of New Zealand law schools. Applicants must submit a CV and a verified copy of their academic transcript. New Zealand citizenship is not required, but successful applicants must obtain a work permit. Go to www.immigration.govt.nz for information about obtaining a work permit. Generally, recruitment to vacant positions of Judge’s Clerk or Research Counsel is conducted in October or November each year at the end of the New Zealand academic year. To find out if any openings are available, check the Vacancies section of the websites above, or contact the Ministry of Justice Recruitment Team.

6. Constitutional Court of South Africa

The Constitutional Court of South Africa was established in 1994 according to the terms of South Africa’s first democratic constitution—the interim Constitution of 1993. According to the Constitution of 1996, the Court established in 1994 continues to serve its original role.
The Constitution requires that a matter before the Court is heard by a quorum of at least eight judges. In practice, all 11 judges hear every case. If any judge is absent for a long period or a vacancy arises, an acting judge may be appointed. Decisions of the Court are reached by majority vote of the judges sitting in a case. Each judge must indicate his or her decision, and the reasons for the decision are published in a written judgment.

Physical:     Postal:
Constitutional Court    Constitutional Court
1 Hospital Street    Private Bag X 1
Constitution Hill    Constitution Hill
Braamfontein    Braamfontein
2017      2017
Tel: +27 11 359 7400
Fax: +27 11 339 5098
Application email: applications@concourt.org.za
Web: www.concourt.org.za/

Opportunities: Each judge in the Constitutional Court of South Africa has two South African law clerks and may also have a foreign clerk. Roles and duties include: writing analytical summaries of written argument or evidence and assessing arguments in the light of academic legal literature and case law; carrying out detailed research on particular topics; preparing pre-hearing memoranda, media summaries and opinions as well as identifying key issues in matters to be heard; assisting the judge in Court; taking detailed notes of oral argument during hearings; assisting the judge in Court-related work such as committees, organizational work and international human-rights work; cite-checking draft judgments before delivery; taking part in various clerks’ committees; administration of Court papers and case management; and public relations.

Clerks may serve for a period of 6 to 12 months and are unpaid. Appointments for South African clerks are ordinarily made in May of the preceding year for appointment as a law clerk for the following January to December or July to June. Applications by foreign clerks are also considered each year in May but for the following July to December (12 months later) and for the January to June of the year after that (18 months later). All applications must be received by no later than March 31 each year. Applicants must have an LLB (or equivalent) or be in their final year of study. Foreign applicants are appointed for a minimum of six months and are self-funded; applicants should email their applications to Ms. Elizabeth Moloto at moloto@concourt.org.za.


7. Supreme Court of Canada

The Supreme Court of Canada is the highest court in Canada’s judicial system and Canada’s final court of appeal. The Court was established in 1875 by an Act of Parliament, nearly a decade after the groundwork was laid for Canada’s judicial system through the Constitutional Act of 1867. The Supreme Court of Canada is governed by the Supreme Court Act, and is responsible for hearing appeals from the decisions of the highest courts of final resort of the provinces and territories, the Federal Court of Appeal, and the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada. Moreover, the Court’s role as the final court of appeal gives it jurisdiction over legal disputes in all areas of law and principle responsibility in guaranteeing the “uniformity, consistency and correctness in the articulation, development and interpretation of legal principles throughout the Canadian judicial system.”
Opportunities: The Supreme Court of Canada has 36 positions of law clerks to the 9 judges of the Supreme Court of Canada. Law clerk terms are for a period of one year, commence in August or September, and are remunerated. Law clerk duties include researching points of law, preparing memorandums of law, and assisting the Judge in all the general workings of the Court. Applicants are required to have a Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor from a recognized Canadian university or its equivalent. In order to apply, applicants must have Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status in Canada or a work permit for Canada. Preference is given to Canadian citizens. Applications made by persons who are not Canadian citizens are accepted; however, if there are sufficient qualified applicants who are Canadian citizens, the selection will be confined to those applicants. Candidates are required to submit the following: a cover letter, curriculum vitae; official transcripts of grades obtained in all post-secondary studies, including law school, an application form and any other post-graduate courses; and four letters of reference addressed to: Keshani Leblanc, Law Clerk Program Coordinator, and should be sent to lcp-paj@scc-csc.ca in PDF format. For more information, refer to the Court’s website: www.scc-csc.ca/empl/lc-aj-eng.aspx.

8. Supreme Court of India

One of the unique features of the Indian Constitution is that, notwithstanding the adoption of a federal system and existence of Central Acts and State Acts in their respective spheres, it has generally provided for a single integrated system of Courts to administer both Union and State laws. At the apex of the entire judicial system is the Supreme Court of India, and below it, High Courts in each State or group of States. Below the High Courts lies a hierarchy of Subordinate Courts.

The Supreme Court has original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction. Its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any dispute between the Government of India and one or more States; or between the Government of India and any State or States on one side, and one or more States on the other; or between two or more States, if the dispute involves any question (whether of law or of fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends. In addition, Article 32 of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in regard to enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

The appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court can be invoked by a certificate granted by the High Court. The Supreme Court has also a very wide appellate jurisdiction over all Courts and Tribunals in India in as much as it may, in its discretion, grant special leave to appeal under Article 136 of the Constitution from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any Court or Tribunal in the territory of India.

The Supreme Court has also special advisory jurisdiction in matters which may specifically be referred to it by the President of India. Finally, of late, the Supreme Court has started entertaining matters in which interest of the public at large is involved and the Court can be moved by any individual or group of persons either by filing a Writ Petition at the Filing Counter of the Court or by addressing a letter to Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India highlighting the question of public importance for invoking this
jurisdiction. Such concept is popularly known as "Public Interest Litigation" and several matters of public importance have become landmark cases. This concept is unique to the Supreme Court of India only and perhaps no other Court in the world has been exercising this extraordinary jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court of India comprises the Chief Justice and 30 other Judges appointed by the President of India. Judges sit in smaller Benches of two and three - coming together in larger Benches of five or more only when required to do so or to settle a difference of opinion or controversy.

The Registrar
Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001
Tel: (011) 23388922-24
Fax: (011) 23381508
Email: supremecourt@nic.in
Web: main.sci.gov.in/

Opportunities: Students obtaining law degrees from a recognized institution in India are eligible to apply for one-year "Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistant" positions at the Supreme Court of India. Candidates are selected based on their performance on a written test and an in-person interview. Consult the "Recruitment" section of the website above for additional details. U.S. students have secured unpaid summer internships by direct outreach to individual judges on the Supreme Court. A postgraduate position may also be possible via the same means, but candidates would need to find their own funding.
Appendix A

YLS Clerks Outside the U.S.
Appendix B

Passwords for Online Resources
YLS Passwords for Online Resources

Foundation Grants for Individuals Online

YLS has purchased a subscription to Foundation Grants to Individuals Online, go to https://grantstoindividuals.org/search/ and then enter “ylscdo1” for the username and “fellowship” as the password. This is a searchable database of sources of funding, some of which might be available to you to help finance your international clerkship. It includes a very helpful online tutorial for structuring searches.