Opportunities with International Tribunals and Foreign Courts
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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 International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. 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 Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia).

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 was 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 resume 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 YLS Career Connections, available online through the YLS Career Management System (CMS).

If you are interested in clerking in a country that is not covered in this guide, three websites that provide court links are 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 www.ijrcenter.org. The WorldLI 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 www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/.

Another resource is the Foreign Representatives in the U.S. Yellow Book, published by Leadership Directories, Inc., which is available in print and online. YLS maintains a subscription to the online service. The Foreign Representatives Yellow Book lists contact and staff information for embassies and consulates in the U.S., as well as websites. To conduct an online Yellow Book search, go to www.leadershipdirectories.com. If at a Yale computer or using a Yale VPN, click “Log in to Leadership Online” (yellow box just to the right at the top of the web page). If not, log in using the information in Appendix B; Once logged in, click on the drop menu under “Explore Organizations.” Select “Foreign Governments,” and click “Go.” Next you will have the option of “Foreign Nations.” Click this, and then the country of your choosing.

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 typically 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 University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) at www.yale.edu/graduateschool/funding/index.html which provides links to 1) the GSAS Fellowships and Exchanges database which you can search for grants and fellowships at Yale and beyond; and 2) the Yale Student Grants and Fellowship Programs database, which contains announcements and application instructions for all funding administered by Yale (direct link is http://studentgrants.yale.edu/).
- Grant Forward, at www.grantforward.com: Sign up using your Yale email address to access this grants database service (formerly IRIS).
- The Foundation Center at http://foundationcenter.org/ including Foundation Grants to Individuals Online, to which YLS subscribes and which can be found under “Get Started/Individual Grantseekers.” See Appendix B for login information.
- PSJD, at www.psjd.org: You must first create an account (free) and you may upload your resume. Select “Search for Job Postings” under Advanced Search on the Search Jobs & Employers tab, choose
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 resume 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

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. Court of Justice & Court of First Instance 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 27 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 First Instance was created in 1989 to strengthen the judicial safeguards available to individuals by introducing a second tier of judicial authority and enabling the Court of Justice to concentrate on its essential task, the uniform interpretation of Community Law.
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: March 1-July 31 (applications to be postmarked before September 30) and October 1-February 28 (applications to be postmarked before April 30).

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 print and complete the application form available on the website and mail it to the Human Resources Unit of the Court of Justice of the European Union, Bureau des stages, TA/04 LB0019, L-2925 Luxembourg, 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 two dozen 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.

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 LuxembourgPublicAffairs@state.gov.

2. 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.

European Court of Auditors  
12, rue Alcide De Gasperi  
1615 LUXEMBOURG  
Tel: +352 4398-1  
Fax: 352 4398 46410  
Email: eca-stage@eca.europa.eu  
Web: www.eca.europa.eu

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 a derogation has been granted by the appointing authority.

3. 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 laying down a catalogue of civil and political rights and 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 contracting nations which is currently 47.

European Court of Human Rights  
Council of Europe  
67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
France  
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 20 18  
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 27 30  
Email: recruitment@coe.int  
Web: www.echr.coe.int

Traineeships: The European Court of Human Rights offers eight week to five-month, unpaid 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 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.

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.
4. 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 three EFTA States.

The EFTA Court deals with infringement actions brought by the EFTA Surveillance Authority against an EFTA country regarding EEA rules. It settles disputes between EFTA countries. Thus, the jurisdiction of the Court over EFTA nations corresponds with the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Communities over EC 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 or to the Registry of the Court. Application forms and further details are available on the Court’s website.

5. 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.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
P.O. Box 6906-1000
San José, Costa Rica
Tel: 506 2527 1600
Fax: 506 2234 0584
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 November 1 for a position during the months of January-April; before March 1, for May-August positions; and before July 1, for September-December positions. For more details, visit the Court’s website, at www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en/about-us/programa-pasantias.

6. 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 120 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
33-43 avenue du Président Wilson
75116 Paris
France
Tel: +33 1 49 53 29 05
Fax: +33 1 49 53 29 33
Email: courtinternship@iccwbo.org
Web: www.iccwbo.org/about-icc/organization/dispute-resolution-services/icc-international-court-of-arbitration/
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 working languages of the Court are English and French so applicants will be expected to have a good command of English, with French being an asset. The program is full time, offers no pay, and is designed to be for a maximum of a two-month period (beginning each year from January to February, and continuing every two months (March to April, May to June, and so on). The incoming intern will be under the supervision of one of the seven case management teams of the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. Tasks include reading; commenting on and drafting documents related to current arbitration cases; researching specific laws; helping with the preparation of international conferences; and translating legal documents.

Accepted candidates are required to handle their own visa, travel, and accommodation arrangements for the duration of their stay. Candidates are requested to submit a short CV (two-page maximum) highlighting relevant experience, as well as a cover letter describing any classes and professional experiences related to arbitration/mediation. 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 by email only to Mr. Emmanuel JOLIVET, General Counsel, ICC International Court of Arbitration at courtinternship@iccwbo.org.

The organization of the 10th ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris offers two internships of a six-month period. The interns will assist with the organization and management of the 10th ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition taking place from February 6-11 in Paris. The application is due by April 30, 2014, and should include a CV, cover letter, as well as names of at least two references. The application should be sent to Hannah Tümpel at hte@iccwbo.org and Sara Debenedetti at sdi@iccwbo.org. Additional information on tasks and qualifications can be found on the website: www.iccwbo.org/Internship-opportunities/2014/Internship-with-the-ICC-International-Centre-for-ADR-for-the-organisation-of-the-2015-Mediation-Competition/.

7. 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, 160 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.
Traineeship Program: The ICJ has a formal traineeship program, with individual judges, which is available to students and recent graduates of YLS and other designated schools. The ICJ has made available to YLS a nine-month traineeship position that is funded by the Law School. The funding currently is approximately $33,000 and includes a contribution toward health care. 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, the individual judges also use the application materials to designate which trainee they wish to have assigned to them. It is possible that the YLS trainee will work with more than one judge. 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 good working knowledge of the other is desirable. Applicants should submit a cover letter, application form, resume/CV, law school transcript, writing sample, and two 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; last year, application materials were due by the beginning of February. Specific deadline information is posted on the Fellowships page of the Yale Law School website 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/registry/index.php?p1=2&p2=6. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis via an online application form accessed from the Internships web page cited above.

8. 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
Street Address:
Maanweg, 174
2516 AB, The Hague
The Netherlands
Postal Address:
P.O. Box 19519
2500 CM, The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)70 515 8515
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. 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. Interns must be under 35 years old; there is no age limit for visiting professionals. See the recruitment section of the Court’s website for extensive details on the application process.

9. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

The United Nations Security Council created the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in late 1994 to help contribute to the process of national reconciliation in Rwanda and to help maintain peace in the region. The ICTR prosecutes persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Rwanda during the 1994 calendar year. It also has jurisdiction to prosecute Rwandan citizens responsible for genocide and other such violations of international law committed in the territory of neighboring states during the same time period.

The ICTR consists of three departments: the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, and the Registry. The Chambers is comprised of three trial chambers and an appeals chamber. The Office of the Prosecutor has two divisions: the Appeals and Legal Advisory Division which handles all appeals and provides legal advice to trial teams and the Prosecution Division which is comprised of an investigative section and trial teams. The Registry provides overall administration and management of the Tribunal, performs certain legal functions, and is the Tribunal’s channel of communication.

Internship Coordinator
UNICTR
P.O. Box 6016
Arusha, Tanzania
Attention: Ms. Felicia Madigane
Tel: 212-963-2850 (via New York)
Fax: 212-963-2848/49
Email: madigane@un.org
Web: www.unictr.org

Opportunities: The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda offers an unpaid internship for graduate and post-graduate students. The internship program seeks to provide practical experience to the
participants in their field of study, while providing necessary assistance to the offices to which the intern is assigned. However, the program has no standard format. Each individual’s internship is formed around the specific needs of the ICTR at the time. Candidates must be endorsed by their educational institution and are expected to be at an early stage of their career, holders of public office, or expecting to hold public office. Candidates must state clearly and precisely their particular field of interest and/or submit a topic for a thesis or paper on international humanitarian law/human rights/international criminal law/comparative law/international law. Proficiency in English or French is required, and knowledge of Swahili or Kinyarwanda is helpful, though not necessary. Interested applicants should submit an application (available from the ICTR website), two references, their most recent university transcript, a cover letter explaining the applicant’s interest in the internship, a sample of research/coursework relevant to the preferred assignment area (prepared in English or French), and an official endorsement by the university. The deadline for receipt of applications is three months before the intended period of internship and applications should be submitted to the above contact.

Accepted interns will be responsible for transportation and the necessary visas. They will also be responsible for housing, living expenses, daily transport to the ICTR office, and obtaining both regular and major medical health insurance. Interns seeking permanent employment must wait six months following the end of the internship to apply for permanent positions with the ICTR.

10. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is a United Nations court of law dealing with war crimes that took place during the conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990s. Since its establishment in 1993, it has irreversibly changed the landscape of international humanitarian law and provided victims an opportunity to voice the horrors they witnessed and experienced. In its precedent-setting decisions on genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Tribunal has shown that an individual’s senior position can no longer protect them from prosecution. The ICTY also ensures that individual criminals cannot hide behind the notion of “collective responsibility.” The ICTY is divided into three general departments: the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, and the Registry.

The Chambers are organized into three Trial Chambers and an Appeals Chamber. The Trial Chambers must ensure that each trial is fair, expeditious, and conducted in compliance with the Tribunal’s Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Appeals Chamber consists of seven permanent judges.

The Office of the Prosecutor investigates and prosecutes persons, especially those in positions of authority or leadership, who were responsible for the planning, implementation, and execution of the most serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The Registry is responsible for the administration of the courtrooms and fulfills the tasks of the administrative body of a UN organ. The offices of the Registry are responsible for bringing witnesses to testify in court, protecting them when necessary and providing them with expert psychological support. The Registry oversees the UN Detention Unit (UNDU) in The Hague. It is also responsible for contacts between the Tribunal and the international community.
Opportunities: The majority of the internship positions available at the Tribunal are of a legal nature. A candidate for a legal internship who has already completed a four-year undergraduate university degree must have completed at least one year of graduate legal studies by the time the internship commences. All applicants must be proficient in English and/or French, both written and oral. Applicants must be nominated by an educational institution, government body or private organization. The duration of an ICTY internship can range from a minimum of three months to a maximum of six months. Applicants are advised to submit their application approximately six months prior to their proposed official starting date. ICTY internship job openings are posted on the UN Careers Portal page at https://careers.un.org, and applications are accepted only in response to these current internship job openings. The following documents must be attached to each UN Careers Portal application for an ICTY internship job opening (all documents must be in English or French): completed ICTY Intern Acceptance and Undertaking; completed Internship preference and availability form; two letters of recommendation; copies of university/law studies transcripts; and a photocopy of valid medical insurance OR a signed statement confirming your intent to obtain medical insurance while you are in the Netherlands. If applying for a legal internship, a sample of written work (not longer than ten pages) is also required, preferably in a field relevant to the work of the Tribunal. For further information, please contact Human Resources at internshipoffice@icty.org.

11. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is an independent judicial body, which has been 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 sets up 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. It also regulates prominent issues such as fisheries and navigation.

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.
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 resume, transcript, and, if available, a brief sample of relevant research work in English or French. Applications should be sent to the Tribunal no later than three months before the start of the internship.

12. 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.

Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
Parkweg 13
2585 JH
The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel: +3170 3520064
Fax:+3170 3502456
Email: registry@iusct.org
Web: www.iusct.net
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.

13. 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.

Internships
Permanent Court of Arbitration
Peace Palace
Carnegieplein 2
2517 KJ The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 70 302 4165
Fax: +31 70 302 4167
Email: bureau@pca-cpa.org
Web: www.pca-cpa.org

Internships: The PCA offers an internship program for law school students and recent graduates. The program is unpaid and lasts three months. Interns participate fully in the regular functioning of the organization, often conducting research for arbitration tribunals, drafting memos, and assisting at hearings.

Applications can be mailed to the address above or sent electronically to: internships-stages@pca-cpa.org. The Court does recommend, however, that electronically-submitted applications be followed up with a hard copy sent in the mail. 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, and/or Russian. 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; December 1, for Term 2; March 1, for Term 3; and June 1, for Term 4. Complete application procedures and guidelines as well as up-to-date program requirements are available at the PCA website.

14. 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, NW
MSN J2-200
Washington, DC 20433
Tel: (202) 458-1534
Fax: (202) 522-2615
Email: ICSIDsecretariat@worldbank.org
Web: https://icsid.worldbank.org

Opportunities: In the past, the ICSID has offered two 12-month internships per year, starting in January and taking place at the seat of the Centre in Washington, DC. Currently, this Internship Program has been put on hold and is under review. If the ICSID decides to reinstate the Program in 2015, information will be posted on the ICSID website.

15. 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 over 350 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 the 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
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel: +4122 338 8247
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 six 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 to erecruit@wipo.int.

WIPO also runs a “Summer School” program, whose objective is to provide an opportunity for senior 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/.

16. World Trade Organization Appellate Body

The World Trade Organization (WTO) resolves trade disputes under the Dispute Settlement Understanding to ensure that international trade flows smoothly. 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.

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. If disputing WTO Members cannot reach a mutually agreed solution, a panel is established at the complainant’s request. Either side can appeal a panel’s ruling. Sometimes both sides do so. 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
154 Rue de Lausanne
1211 Geneva 21
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. 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.

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 https://erecruitment.wto.org/public/hrd-vac-newuser.asp?vaelng=en. Online applications are strongly encouraged to enable WTO to store applicant profiles in a permanent database.

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 regional judicial tribunal established in 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 CCJ. 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.
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.

Magistrado Corte Centroamericana de Justicia
Rotonda el Güegüense 1c al este
1½c al norte.
Edificio #1804
Reparto Bolonia
Managua, Nicaragua
Centroamérica
Tel: 505 2266 6146
Fax: 505 2266 4604
Web: http://portal.ccj.org.ni/ccj2/

3. Commission for Environmental Cooperation

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is an international organization created by Canada, Mexico, and the United States under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. The CEC was established to address environmental issues of continental concern, including the environmental challenges and opportunities presented by continent-wide free trade. The Agreement complements the environmental provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement.
4. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Court of Justice

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Court of Justice is a regional grouping of 19 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, spreading all the way from Egypt in the north, down 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.

The Registrar
COMESA Court of Justice
P.O. Box 30051
Lusaka 10101
Zambia
Tel: +260 1 229726/32
Fax: +260 1 225107
Email: nmbatia@comesa.int
Web: http://comesacourt.org/en/

5. 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. This 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 Martínez Mera N° 34 -380 and Portugal
P.O. Box: 17079054
Quito - Ecuador
Tel: (593-2) 3331417
Fax: (593-2) 3331443
Email: secretaria@tribunalandino.org
Web: www.tribunalandino.org.ee

6. 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: http://eacj.org/

7. 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, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The Mandate of the Court 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: information@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.
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 resume or CV if interested.

The WCRO also sponsors a summer abroad program in The Hague, and a major topic of the program is international criminal justice. Additional information can be found at: www.wcl.american.edu/hague/.

D. Narratives

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
T. Josiah Pertz, J.D. ’12

I served as a judicial clerk and researcher at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, the first American in history to work in this capacity for a full year.

I contributed writing and research to Judge András Sajó of Hungary for use in Chamber and Grand Chamber decisions. Issues included freedom of expression in broadcast media, access to education for children from a minority group, disability pensions, and limits on the length of detention before trial.

In addition, I researched a wide variety of topics on American and other foreign law for the Research Division, including municipal bankruptcy, employment discrimination, embryonic stem cell experimentation, medical licensing requirements, retroactivity in criminal sentencing, and extradition.

The judge and I co-authored an article-length scholarly paper, analyzing the bioethics jurisprudence of the Court in a comparative perspective. In addition, I performed supplemental research on the Court’s case law for both individual judges and the Research Division. In perhaps my greatest contribution to European law, I taught the Maltese judge to use Westlaw.

Since I was presented with the parties’ submissions, and could search the previous jurisprudence of the Court, it was possible to weigh in on cases even without prior training in European law or ECHR jurisprudence. The judge understood that my training in this law was limited, was kind about my limitations, and took on a teaching role as much as an employer role. In general I enjoyed my discussions with him; he is a real master, and is deeply engaged with the issues.

Though the pace of work at the Court can be swift, there also may be periods of downtime. The fellow should be prepared to seek out ways to be productive and helpful. Drafting the scholarly article soaked up any free time I had, and continued to demand attention as we prepared for submission and publication even after the fellowship ended. I recommend that future fellows develop a similar project.

Over the course of the year, I hope to have made contributions, however modest, to the work of the institution and the field of human rights adjudication, and gained experience in research and writing that will allow additional contributions in the future. Beyond the work aspect, the fellowship greatly enriched my life. Living in Strasbourg introduced me to new ways of thinking, wonderful people, a new language,
the joys of pork and sauerkraut, the advantages of dedicated bicycle lanes, and so much more. I count my blessings every day for this experience.

2014

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
Jay Butler, J.D. ’11

I worked at the International Court of Justice as a trainee law clerk sponsored by Yale Law School from 2011 to 2012. The cases considered by the Court in that period raised a variety of issues in international law (from sovereign immunity to the obligation to extradite or prosecute persons suspected of torture and war crimes to maritime delimitation) and so my time at the Court was both rigorous and fascinating. Working at the ICJ was a highly rewarding experience and I would recommend it to anyone with a strong interest in public international law.

The Court accepts eight trainees per year (each sponsored by a different law school). Ordinarily, each trainee works for two judges and each judge also has a professional grade (P-2) law clerk and a secretary working for him or her. My experience was somewhat different for two reasons. First, for the initial part of my clerkship, I worked exclusively for the President of the Court (Judge Hisashi Owada). This meant that, while I often received assignments quite similar to those given to other trainees (research on discrete questions of law and/or fact raised by cases before the Court and memo-writing), a more significant portion of my time was allotted to drafting and editing speeches to be delivered by the President. Second, from the expiration of Judge Owada’s term as President of the Court until the end of my time there, I was concurrently assigned to the then newly elected Judge Giorgio Gaja. As Judge Gaja had not yet hired a P-2 clerk, I was his sole research assistant and so I was able to take on a wider range of assignments than some of my colleagues.

Each judge on the Court works differently and I was fortunate to have been assigned to two who were excellent mentors and teachers. Assignments usually focused on elucidating particular aspects of cases that each judge thought pertinent. The facilities for research at the Court are excellent (as a trainee you have access to both the Court library and the Peace Palace Library) and trainees are able to pursue their own scholarly projects if not otherwise occupied.

The Court is fully bilingual (English and French). While each judge usually works in one language or the other and most staff are bilingual, it is advisable that those interested in working at the Court have at least an intermediate knowledge of French (as this will be expected).

Dutch law requires that trainees possess health insurance. Neither Yale nor the Court provides insurance, but the fellowship stipend is intended to cover the cost of an individual health insurance plan. I found Aetna Global Health to be particularly good.

Finally, the Court adjudicates disputes between states and issues advisory opinions requested of it by designated organs within the United Nations system. The Court does not try or hear cases against individuals (though states may press claims on behalf of their own nationals in cases of diplomatic protection). When your friends and family learn you will be or have been in The Hague, they will ask you about criminal cases before other international courts and tribunals (Charles Taylor, Karadzic, etc). Be prepared to explain the difference.

2014
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
Diane A. Desierto, J.S.D. ’11, LLM ’09

I clerked for H.E. Judge Bruno Simma and H.E. Judge Bernardo Sepulveda-Amor at the International Court of Justice from September 2010 to June 2011. Before joining the Court, I had practiced commercial litigation and international arbitration with one of the largest law firms in Manila; taught public international law and administrative law for some years as a professor in two of the top Philippine law schools; trained Philippine diplomats on public international law and dispute settlement at the Foreign Service Institute and trained Philippine government counsels at the Office of the Solicitor General on international investment and trade law. I had also published international and comparative public law articles and book chapters, and presented the same in international conferences in the U.S., Asia, and Europe; and worked on my research agendas at institutions such as the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, the National University of Singapore Centre for International Law, and the Xiamen Academy of International Law in China.

I joined the ICJ in 2010, the year that 8 University clerks were appointed by the Court under its own rules for the annual traineeship/clerkship program, and about 8 to 10 P-2 law clerks were appointed by the Court under the United Nations recruitment system. Prior to this year, the Court relied almost exclusively on the few annual University clerkships awarded on a competitive basis. Under the current system which commenced in 2010, a P-2 law clerk now works exclusively for one Judge, while the university clerks worked for one or two Judges. The “chambers” of an ICJ Judge thus had one P-2 law clerk (for a term of four years), a university clerk (for a term of one year), and the permanent secretary who valuably possessed institutional knowledge, considerable experience with Court rules, procedures, and protocols, as well as personal familiarity with the judge’s work requirements. The registrar (through the Department of Legal Matters) administers the clerkship program in consultation with the judges of the Court. On paper, there are some confidential differences between the work expected of the P-2 law clerk and that assigned to the university clerk. In practice, the Judges themselves determine whether such differences are indeed maintained for their respective chambers, and the extent of such differences.

The quality of the work dynamic of a full-time P-2 law clerk (exclusive to one judge) and a University clerk (working for two judges, as in my case) depends on the professional and personal relationships within and outside chambers. In my case, I benefited from having had the chance of working with three outstanding P-2 law clerks, who had considerable prior experience at the Court (whether as a University clerk, or as part of the very few P-2 clerks assigned from the Department of Legal Matters to the senior Judges). My P-2 law clerks seamlessly managed the work distribution for our respective chambers, clarified expectations on work product and teamwork, and were also kindred scholars and became some of my greatest friends at the Court. The law clerk community at the ICJ is a rich and helpful fellowship network of friends and colleagues who share deep interests and passion for international law work. Even while we tended to work in smaller units within our chambers following the strict confidentiality rule, we nonetheless socialized and spoke of general scholarly and professional interests outside of our court work. For clerks moving to the Hague for the first time and learning Dutch customs, the law clerk community is a great resource. Meeting other legal officers in other international tribunals at the Hague is also a valuable part of being within the ICJ network. The logistical challenges of moving to the Hague (such as visas, health insurance, finding an apartment, etc.) were more easily met because of valuable help from the ICJ law clerks and the Deputy Registrar, alongside the incredible support of the public interest program at Yale Law School and the YLS faculty themselves.

The ICJ clerkship experience provides valuable direct insight into the processes of international adjudication at the highest level. During my clerkship year, we had the unique experience of being able to work on live disputes involving all phases of ICJ adjudication—a judgment on an application for provisional measures, a judgment on jurisdiction, judgment on an application for intervention, an
advisory opinion, a judgment on the merits, and judgment on a request for interpretation of an ICJ judgment. The questions we were confronted with in that particular year were certainly novel gray areas in public international law, which have continued to elicit much insightful comment in the scholarly literature long after the judgments were rendered. We also followed the oral hearings closely (whether at the Great Hall or within the internal office webstream) where we had the direct opportunity to witness the world’s top international litigators at work, as well as to study and analyze the parties’ written submissions penned by some of the world’s best international lawyers. Working firsthand at the Court also enabled me to witness the full spectrum of ideological persuasions, philosophical and legal traditions that informs the decisions of the Court and the separate opinions of its diverse membership. This unparalleled experience deepened my practical and theoretical understanding of the work of the Court, and contextualizes the latter’s prospects and limitations within the spectrum of international dispute settlement mechanisms and responsiveness to the needs of States Parties in a given dispute.

Work assigned to the law clerks varies according to the preferences and methods of the ICJ Judges. In my particular case, I drafted legal opinions, research memoranda, and other needed documents as requested by my judges, and benefited from regular discussions with them on various questions of international law. I also assisted with the preparation of academic articles, speeches, and lectures to be delivered by the Judges in international law conferences or other international organizations. I actively collaborated with my P-2 law clerks in a team setting to provide whatever would be required to assist our respective Judges for their judicial deliberations and other administrative work of the Court, such as the assessment of its rules of procedure and internal case management matters. The quality of research expected was extremely precise and rigorous, sometimes including archaeological examinations of legal doctrines as well as public facts.

Despite this full year, there was more than sufficient time to look up other international law materials from the tremendous resources of the Peace Palace Library, write other articles on my own and finalize my JSD dissertation in preparation for graduation, and enjoy the general community of fellow international legal scholars and practitioners at the Hague. Judges Simma and Sepulveda-Amor were very careful in delineating and distributing research and other work to their respective law clerks. They have given me tremendously valuable guidance and remain mentors who kindly extend warmth and advice long after I have left the Court. To the best of my knowledge, the Judges of the Court exhibit the same solicitude towards their law clerks and serve as role models for their professionalism and deep passion for international law. During my clerkship year, the Judges of the Court conducted various separate individual talks throughout the year specifically for the law clerks to ask questions about international law issues and professional decisions after leaving the Court. The Judges also freely gave advice concerning our next steps to further develop international legal expertise.

I would recommend this clerkship/traineeship to future YLS students. From navigating living conditions (including the interesting Dutch seasons) and establishing deep personal and professional ties at the Hague to pursuing fundamental doctrinal and policy questions on international responsibility, I find that one year spent at the ICJ helps one develop a steep learning curve quite enjoyably, and afterwards opens innumerable doors to international legal scholarship, practice, or advocacy work with a sense of global community uniquely fostered by the Court. The ICJ law clerk “alumni” continue to stay in touch, and the Members of the Court continue to welcome their former and present clerks. Joining the ICJ for the year gives one the opportunity to learn and build relationships with some of the most influential exemplars of public international lawyering.

2014
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
Philippa Webb, LL.M. ’04

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is the institution to which certain U.N. organs and specialized agencies may turn to seek an advisory opinion on a legal question, and it is the court to which States may refer their legal disputes with each other for resolution. A diverse range of cases come before the International Court, ranging from disputes over the use of force and human rights violations to questions about land and maritime borders, diplomatic protection, and environmental concerns. The Court has its seat in The Hague, in the impressive Peace Palace.

A unique insight

Each year the Court selects around 8-10 recent law graduates nominated by various universities, including Yale, to come for a clerkship at the Court from September to May. Each law clerk (known internally as a “University Trainee”) works for one to two Judges, undertaking tasks such as legal research related to the cases, organization of the case file, and assistance with background research for speeches and articles related to the Court. In general, law clerks coordinate their work with the Associate Legal Officer assigned to each Judge. Law clerks may also be asked to undertake work for the Court’s Department of Legal Matters, including indexing, checking of references and proofreading. Each law clerk is financed by the nominating university.

It is a truly international environment. There are 15 Judges at the Court. In 2014, the Court was composed of Judges from: Slovakia, Mexico, Japan, France, New Zealand, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Brazil, Somalia, the United Kingdom, China, the United States, Italy, Uganda and India. The law clerks themselves come from around the world to work at the Court. The common languages are French and English.

During the clerkship, law clerks have the opportunity to attend hearings related to an average of three to four cases during the clerkship period, involving a variety of questions of international law and states from around the world. Research is greatly facilitated by access to the Peace Palace Library, one of the largest collections in the world in the field of public and private international law, foreign national law, international relations and diplomatic history.

The Hague is home to many other international bodies, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Court, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal. There are opportunities to meet people working at these institutions and to attend hearings or lectures at Leiden University’s Grotius Centre or the TMC Asser Instituut.

Post-clerkship opportunities

The clerkship is non-renewable, as with U.S. judicial clerkships. Former clerks have gone on to practice international law and commercial arbitration at law firms in New York, to teach international law at a university, to conduct doctoral research, and to work with the U.N. I myself have had the opportunity to return to the International Court to work as the Special Assistant to President Higgins. I am now a tenured academic at King’s College London.

Application Process

The application consists of a cover letter, curriculum vitae, writing sample and two reference letters.
Each application is reviewed by the Judges and they select one law clerk from each nominating university. It is not necessary to have an LLM degree and applications from JD graduates are welcomed. The qualities that the Judges look for include: excellent legal research and drafting skills, demonstrated knowledge of public international law, and fluency in English or French. Fluency in the other language would be a plus, as would international work experience and publications in the field of international law.

2014

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
Chiara Giorgetti, J.S.D. '09, LL.M. '02

From September 2002 to June 2003, I had the good fortune to clerk at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judicial organ of the United Nations, in The Hague, The Netherlands thanks to a YLS fellowship.

I came to YLS to study public international law and international dispute resolution was a specific interest of mine (before coming to YLS for my LLM, I had worked in Africa for the U.N. and had also worked on two international boundary disputes) so when the possibility of working at the ICJ presented itself, it was natural for me to apply. I was delighted to be chosen.

It was a great experience and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in international public law. All ICJ clerks are sponsored by law schools, both American and European. The program was first created by NYU Law School, who still sends the highest numbers of clerks. I was the first clerk to be sent by YLS. Other law schools included Columbia and Strasbourg. Many more schools participate in the program now. The number of clerks varies: it was five when I was there, but I believe it is more than 10 now. The application is quite simple. You need to include a CV, a statement explaining why you want to be a clerk, copies of your law school grades, and two letters of recommendation. It is important to underline all past experiences in public international law in the application, as this is probably the most important requirement for the position. Most clerks have worked in some aspects of international law prior to joining the Court. CVs of all selected candidates are then circulated among members of the Court. Each Judge may decide to select a clerk. Not all Judges have clerks, and Judges can select more than one person. A clerk may work for one or more than one Judge. For example, I worked for four Judges.

An important factor for selection, besides experience in public international law, is the knowledge of other languages. The Court is a bilingual environment, and Judges work either in French or in English. Typically, a Clerk only works in one of these two languages, but is required to know both.

At the Court, I was involved in all cases in the Court’s docket. I received copies of all the submissions and studied all cases. Each Judge would ask me to focus on specific aspects of the case, both factual and legal. I typically would write several short memos a month (research facilities at the Court are great) in reply to their questions and discuss them with each Judge. It is also important to be pro-active with some Judges, and propose research topics and other ways to assist them. Often, I also raised issues that I found particularly interesting and worth pursuing. At times my memos would be circulated to the entire Court, which was very rewarding. I also assisted in researching and reviewing separate and dissenting opinions and in preparing opinions summaries for press releases. Clerks also participated at public hearings and at some court’s committees meetings. No clerk, however, is allowed to attend deliberations. When one of the judges I worked for was elected President of the Court, I also wrote some of his speeches.
I enjoyed very much having the opportunity to discuss different aspects of the cases with the Judges and to gain an inside look at judicial decision-making. Moreover, because I worked with four different Judges, I could examine different angles of each case. I found it most fascinating to see how each Judge is interested by distinct aspects of the case. I learned a lot from seeing international law in action, and also gained interesting insights on international litigation. I also enjoyed getting to know other lawyers working in other Courts in The Hague. The Hague is the headquarters of many other international organizations and courts (including the International Criminal Court and the Court for the Former Yugoslavia) and it is interesting to be amidst such an environment. My experience was excellent. I just loved being at the Court and felt I was at the heart of international law.

The main drawback of my clerkship derived from the fact that law school clerks are not officially employed by the Court, but are considered as staff on loan from law schools. This means that the Court does not assist clerks with, for example, health insurance, obtaining visas, or finding flats in The Hague. Also, because clerks are not members of staff, they cannot participate in staff activities. However, I got great support from YLS on all administrative issues, and colleagues and peers at the Court are also very helpful.

A clerkship at the ICJ offers several career prospects. Clerks have typically joined international law practice groups of major law firms, or have often joined other international courts, including the International Criminal Court and the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. A fair amount of clerks also ultimately pursued an academic career, like me. A few clerks have also remained at the Court and have become full-fledged Court employees, but this is very rare. I found my experience at the ICJ very interesting and rewarding and I would do it again. I would wholeheartedly recommend it to other YLS students.

2014

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
Jenia Iontcheva, J.D. ’02

Studying international relations in college seemed a natural choice for me—I had arrived in the United States from Bulgaria just a year earlier and had a keen interest in politics and current affairs. I coupled my classes with as much practical experience as possible: at the college chapter of Amnesty International, the Baltimore Office of International Trade, the European Parliament, and the Bulgarian Civil Society Development Foundation. I also spent a year studying International Relations and International Law at Cambridge University, where I became convinced that international law was not a fiction and that I should study it in greater depth.

By the time I came to Yale Law School, I thought I had clear view of the subject I wanted to master. I was particularly interested in the role of nongovernmental actors in international law and the development of international criminal law. During the second semester of my first year, I enrolled in Ruth Wedgewood’s War Crimes and Michael Ratner’s Litigating International Human Rights in U.S. Courts, participated in the Human Rights Workshop, and became an articles editor of the Yale Journal of International Law. These experiences not only taught me about international law, but also brought me together with students and faculty who shared my interests. Interactions with this community increased my desire to do international law work.

During the first summer, I decided to explore my interest in transitional justice and international criminal law, so with the help of the Orville H. Schell Jr., Center for International Human Rights at Yale, I applied for internships in nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations that worked in the area. I was happy to find a place at the institution of my choice—the International Criminal Tribunal for the former
Yugoslavia (ICTY), created in 1993 by the Security Council to bring to justice persons responsible for violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated in the former Yugoslavia since 1991. I began my internship at the Public Information Office, which publicizes the work of the Tribunal and maintains relations with the press and the public at large. Then I moved to the Appeals Chamber, which hears appeals by defendants and the Prosecution and services both the ICTY and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). My primary tasks there were research and writing on procedural and jurisdictional issues. I was directly supervised by the legal officers at the Chamber, but also occasionally performed research for Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen. I learned as much from talking with the dedicated and experienced lawyers at the Tribunal as from working on cases.

The dilemmas of international criminal law I encountered not only kept me engaged with my daily work, but also made me ponder what my longer-term contribution to the field could be. Is criminal law a good tool for achieving justice in war-torn societies or are reconciliation and economic restructuring higher priorities?

If I decide to work in the field of international criminal law, would I like to prosecute, defend, serve as a judge, teach, or work in an advocacy organization? Should I work at the national or international level? After observing and sharing some of the enthusiasm and dynamism of lawyers at the ICTY, I was very tempted to continue working in international criminal law. Yet most of the people whom I met and admired at the ICTY began their careers by working at the national level, whether in criminal law practice or in the field of human rights. This work had given them perspective and allowed them to deal more decisively and competently with the dilemmas of international criminal law. I decided I wanted to follow in their steps and work locally before deciding whether and how to start a career at the international level.

Therefore, in addition to more classes in international law, I enrolled in the immigration clinic, helped with research on two immigration cases for the ACLU, took classes in criminal law, and got an internship for half of my second law-school summer at the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Houston. I decided to spend the other half in New York, at Debevoise and Plimpton—a firm that has a strong practice in international commercial arbitration and excellent human rights pro bono opportunities.

As my law school education progressed, I found myself increasingly drawn to domestic criminal law and procedure and to law school teaching as a possible career. As a result, my focus now is on combining my interest in human rights and international law with an academic career. I am now teaching and writing in the fields of international organizations, international criminal law, and comparative and constitutional criminal procedure as a professor at SMU Law School. Some of my projects have taken me back to the ICTY, where I have continued to learn from the lawyers about the difficult questions of international criminal law.

2014

PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION
Kathleen Claussen, J.D. ’10

From November 2011 to November 2012, I served as Assistant Legal Counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. One major benefit of working at the PCA is that you are exposed to and participate in substantive work that contributes to the development of international law. The PCA maintains only a small staff and, as a result, the contract attorneys rely on the 10-15 university fellows to take on substantial responsibility.
Fellows are not assigned to work with any one tribunal, but rather all staff work on many cases, assisting the tribunal and the parties with whatever they may need. I encourage anyone who is interested to read more about the PCA through its many publications or through its website.

Applicants should check with CDO about funding possibilities.

For learning about international arbitration in practice, there is no better institutional opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any specific questions.

2014

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.
Opportunities: Associates to a Justice of the High Court of Australia are employed on a 12-month temporary contract, which stipulates payment and allows for leave during that period. 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 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.

In addition to associateships the Court also engages a Legal Research Officer each year for a 12 month period (a similar period to that for which associates are employed). If you are interested in applying for this position, you should contact Ms. Petal Kinder, Court Librarian, by mail at the above address or by email to pkinder@hcourt.gov.au.

2. Federal Court of Australia

The Federal Court of Australia 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: (02) 9230 8567
Fax: (02) 9230 1381
Email: query@fedcourt.gov.au
Web: www.fedcourt.gov.au
Opportunities: The Federal court offers a number of associate positions each year for law graduates. 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.

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 Danish Court Administration
Store Kongensgade 1-3
1264 København K
Denmark
Tel: 45 70 10 33 22
Fax: 45 70 10 44 55
Email: post@domstolsstyrelsen.dk
Web: www.domstol.dk

Opportunities: The Danish courts offer a paid summer internship program to current law school students. Travel and subsistence expenses are not covered by the Danish courts/Danish Court Administration and are therefore the responsibility of the student. Amount of pay depends upon the length and breadth of the student’s study of law. 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. A map of the judicial districts and contact information for all Danish courts can be found on the website.

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.
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 can last anywhere from three months to one year. No language proficiency other than in English is required and there are no citizenship restrictions. Application details are available on the court’s website at http://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.

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**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.

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**Opportunities:** The Court only accepts a total of five foreign clerks per term. The Court hires law clerks for each judge; however, foreign law clerks are not paid. Each judge has two South African law clerks and may also have a foreign clerk.
Clerks may serve for one, or sometimes two consecutive six-month terms. 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 31st each year. Foreign applicants should email their applications to Ms. Elizabeth Moloto at moloto@concourt.org.za.

See www.constitutionalcourt.org.za/site/lawclerks/southafricanlawclerks.htm for complete application information.

B. Narratives

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
Clerk to Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin
Chimène Keitner, J.D. ’02

Each year, twenty-seven law clerks assist the justices of the Supreme Court of Canada. It is not unusual for one or two of these clerks to be Canadian citizens with U.S. law degrees. No prior clerkship is required. Candidates should have an excellent academic record and detailed recommendations from faculty members and the dean of the law school. (Law school deans are asked to rank applicants from their schools to facilitate selection; these rankings are particularly important and helpful to the justices where there are multiple candidates from the same law school.)

Information on eligibility, application procedures, and compensation is available on the Court’s website at www.scc-csc.gc.ca. Candidates apply to the Court as a whole, not to individual justices. Each justice who is interested in a candidate’s application has the opportunity to interview that candidate. Once interviews are completed, the tradition is for the Chief Justice to select three clerks, then for each of the remaining justices to take turns selecting one clerk, beginning in order of seniority, until each justice has filled his or her three positions.

Unlike the U.S. Supreme Court, the Supreme Court of Canada has a permanent staff of lawyers who handle petitions for review. Five, seven, or nine justices will hear a given case, depending on its perceived importance, among other factors. The role and duties of a law clerk in the Canadian system are otherwise comparable to those of a law clerk in the United States.

The Canadian justices have offices on the second floor of the Supreme Court building, and the clerks are housed on the third floor (or at least they were during my tenure at the court in 2002–03). The practical effect of this arrangement is that you will get to know other justices’ clerks at least as well, if not better, than your own co-clerks, since you do not sit “in chambers.” This also means that the amount of time you spend with “your” judge will depend on his or her schedule and your respective work styles.

I would not hesitate to recommend a clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada to anyone interested in teaching or practicing law in Canada, or in a Commonwealth country. For those interested in teaching or practicing in the United States, I would recommend it with the caveat that you should pursue this clerkship for its intrinsic, not its instrumental, value. I chose to clerk in Canada in large part because of my desire to work in a legal system that openly and enthusiastically engages with foreign and international law sources in considering questions common to modern democracies. Precisely because the U.S. system is much less outward-facing, your decision to clerk outside the United States will puzzle many people within the United States, including prospective employers. The Ottawa winter will be hard
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
Tendayi Achiume, J.D., ’08

Even before going to law school I knew I wanted to clerk on the Constitutional Court of South Africa. As an undergraduate I had spent a summer interning at a land rights organization, and during this time I attended a Constitutional Court hearing at which a question central to the country’s land reform process was being argued. The energy in the courtroom was electric. As often happens at the Court, many affected community members had made long journeys from rural areas around the country to hear their stories told to the panel of judges, whose deep engagement with the complex issues was evident. About five years later, as my graduation from law school drew near, there was no question in my mind that for my first job, I wanted to be back in that courtroom learning from and contributing to one of the greatest achievements of South Africa’s post-Apartheid democracy. The Court takes approximately five foreign law clerks every year and clerking on the Court had become even more appealing to me for two reasons. I had learned that human rights forms an important pillar of the Court’s jurisprudence and that the South African Constitution requires the Court to consider international law in its interpretation of Constitution’s Bill of Rights.

I went to law school because I wanted to be an international human rights lawyer, and this goal heavily influenced the courses that I took as a student at the Yale Law School. I took as many international law classes as I could—both private and public international law—as well as several comparative law classes. I was also a member of the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic for two years (and this is were I gained the experience that has been most useful to my subsequent career practicing human rights). Finally, I was Managing Editor for Submission on the Yale Journal for International Law so I was constantly reading a broad range of international legal scholarship. This background in international law generally, and international human rights law specifically was useful for my work on the Court. It provided a knowledge base from which I drew and also made the process of researching questions of international law easy. That said, I would have been perfectly able to do my job well without this background. The Court has a week of training and orientation for all incoming clerks, and I have learned since graduating that much of the job of a lawyer is learning entire bodies of unfamiliar law, as each case requires. The same was true of clerking. As a result, knowledge of South African law is not a pre-requisite. None of the justices expected their foreign clerks to have a background in South African domestic law. I later concluded that a background in international human rights was probably most useful for securing the clerkship in the first place.

Most foreign clerkships at the Court are for six months but I clerked for a year because I wanted a fuller experience. I clerked for two different justices, which I enjoyed because it exposed me to two completely different approaches to constitutional adjudication. As a clerk my responsibilities included extensive legal research, which was typically presented to justices in the form of memoranda. Clerks were also involved in the drafting of judgments at various stages of the process, according to the needs and preferences of the justices. Clerking significantly improved my analytic legal reasoning and writing skills. More importantly it taught me a lot about reconciling complex legal problems with even more complex social, political and economic realities. Clerks also attended Court hearings—an experience that remained riveting, with the exception of the occasional boring case. As with all clerkships, the individual personality and work style of the justice one clerked for on the Court greatly determined the amount of responsibility each clerk had.
As a result, my advice for people interested in clerking on the Court is that you devote some time to learning about the different justices to ensure that you apply to clerk for someone likely to help you meet your goals for your clerkship. My own experience was of full immersion in the adjudication process and I loved it.

Among my favorite experiences at the Court were the weekly law clerk seminars where all the clerks of the Court would meet to discuss the various legal issues presented by cases before the Court. The majority of the clerks on the Court were South Africans from very diverse backgrounds. The remaining clerks were foreign clerks—a few from other African countries and the rest from Europe and America. Our debates were always rich and lively, occasionally becoming heated. This was no surprise as most of the cases that came before the Court involved issues about which we were all passionate. I firmly believe that the diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints of the law clerk body contributed greatly to the quality of work that we were able to produce for the judges.

During my time at the Court I made friends that remain among my closest. I count my clerkship as one of the most profound personal and professional experiences I have ever had. It changed the way I understand the role of law in society and it gave me a better sense for the kind of lawyer I want to be. Following the clerkship I worked as a refugee protection lawyer at a human rights organization in Johannesburg and taught a human rights course at a university there. My clerkship experience was valuable substantive preparation for this and all the other human rights related work I have done since. I spent a year at a commercial law firm in New York and although there was no substantive overlap with the law I practiced there, the professionalism, and research and writing skills I developed during the clerkship were indispensable. Finally, I loved living in Johannesburg, which is an exciting, gritty city.

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CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
Clerk to Justice Richard J. Goldstone and Justice Kate O’Regan
Charlton Copeland, J.D. ’03

There are eleven justices on the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Each justice hires two South African law clerks. As many as five justices are allowed to have a foreign law clerk at any one time. The Court’s term is divided into four separate sessions: 15 February to 31 March; 1 to 31 May; 1 August to 30 September; and 1 to 30 November. My clerkship at the Court overlapped two terms, the final two sessions of the 2002 term and the first two sessions of the 2003 term. During the 2002 term I served as a clerk in the chambers of Justice Richard Goldstone, after which I transferred to the chambers of Justice Kate O’Regan. My decision to clerk on the Court was precipitated by my interest in constitutional theory and constitutional structures, coupled with a fatigue with discussions about “the Framers.” My decision to clerk on the Court was also based largely on my interest in the role a constitution might play in structuring a politics of reconciliation. As a joint-degree student at the Divinity School, these issues were of significant interest to me. These things, in conjunction with the general excitement for South Africa’s peaceful transition to democratic governance, made the idea of clerking irresistible.

I would recommend that anyone remotely interested in clerking in South Africa do so. It remains the most amazing experience of my life. The day-to-day work of a foreign law clerk at the Court was not very different from that of an appellate clerk in the United States. Cases are assigned to a particular clerk within a chamber, and a particular chamber is designated as the “lead” chamber on the case. I was fortunate to clerk with justices who were enthusiastic about my being involved in every facet of the clerkship experience; I was not relegated to being the U.S. law expert for comparative purposes. Within chambers I wrote bench memoranda to each justice and my fellow clerks, articulating my analysis of the arguments presented in light of my independent research, and made recommendations about how the case
should be decided. Each clerk was invited to respond to her colleague’s memorandum, if she disagreed with the analysis or recommendation. Each of the chambers in which I clerked was a very collegial atmosphere, where the clerks met with the justice about each case on the Court’s calendar.

My recommendation remains strong despite some signs that the political parties have less commitment to an independent judiciary than many in South Africa, or the larger world community, might have hoped. Only a few of the justices from a decade ago remain on the Constitutional Court, and the Court’s makeup reads less like a “who’s who” of the anti-apartheid era than it once did. But I think for students who are serious about the law’s real promise in developing democracies, the Court still represents an important case study in the challenges to democratic and economic transformation in a globalized legal and economic culture. As we witness the events of the last two years in Northern Africa and the Middle East, the creation and maintenance of democratic governance structures remains as important today as it has ever been. As recently as last year, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recommended the South African constitution to those crafting the constitution of a newly-liberated Egypt. South Africa’s constitutional experience will play an important role in shaping the constitutional development of new democracies. More recently, I attended a “constitutional law schmooze” at the University of Maryland, where no fewer than 6 of the thirty or so papers delivered were related to the South African experience in social and economic rights. All of this is simply to say that South Africa’s constitutional experience—the triumphs and the worries—matters in the world today.

In addition to the interaction with the justice regarding cases, there was a tremendous amount of interaction among all the clerks on cases before the Court. Before an oral argument, the chamber that had preliminary responsibility for the case usually sponsored a clerks’ session, during which we would discuss, often in detail, many of the significant issues before the Court. There, we would get a sense of what other clerks, and possibly their respective justices, thought about an upcoming case. As a foreign law clerk who had not taken comparative law or a comparative constitutional law course during law school, these sessions proved to be invaluable in making me feel comfortable making recommendations about a foreign legal system.

The justices and the clerks on the Court are tremendously well informed about the U.S. legal system, and the Court’s library is simply stunning in the breadth of material that it possesses. The Court’s close proximity to the University of the Witswatersrand made it a wonderful place to develop a larger legal community. While there, I participated in colloquia on constitutional law and public law, and audited a class on South African Administrative Law.

Living in Johannesburg was the very best. Although it does not have the international reputation or physical beauty of Cape Town, it was the perfect place to live. The diversity of people, experiences, and cultures made it a wonderful gateway for me to southern Africa. South Africa draws people from all over the country and the region in a wonderful melting pot. The cultural life was always thriving. I was fortunate enough not to have had any significant experience with crime in South Africa. In fact, during my time there, I became as comfortable there as I have anywhere I have lived.

Finally, South Africa has shaped my professional development in ways that I could not have conceived prior to going. During my time in private practice, I was asked to serve as the associate on a project with a partner at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan & Lovells), who was investigating witness tampering in the cases related to the Rwandan genocide. This was a very competitive assignment, and I was chosen primarily because of my experience in southern Africa. Also, in my career as a law teacher and scholar, my experiences in South Africa continue to contribute to my research. Most recently, I just completed an article on federalism, in which I argue for an expanded conception of the judicial role in resolving federalism disputes. I drew upon South African case law as a comparative model to both describe and
justify my argument for a more mediative judicial role. I continue to be amazed at how much this experience continues to shape my life, and my outlook on the law’s possibility.

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