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UNSW runs a large number of clinical programs through its own legal centre, Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC). In addition the Faculty of Law runs a number of other clinics and four clinical internship subjects - UNSW Law Internships, Social Justice Internships (in UNSW Centres) Journal internships and the postgraduate Human Rights Internship subject.

New clinics at UNSW

Students to act for clients in a tribunal

Administrative law (housing clinic)

In second session 2012 there will be a new clinic starting at UNSW run in partnership with Redfern Legal Centre. In this clinic, students will spend one day at Redfern Legal Centre each week for 12 weeks.

Students will be assisting and advising disadvantaged people who have housing law problems. The work will involve interviewing, and advising clients under the supervision of Redfern Legal Centre staff, preparing cases for the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal and appearing for clients in these cases as well as undertaking research and policy work, community legal education work. Students will also have seminars on advocacy, aspects of relevant law, procedure, legal aid services, communication skills including interviewing and drafting and current issues in administrative law particularly housing law.

Contact Frances Gibson for more information

South Africa human rights clinic and practicum

Commencing 2013, the South Africa Human Rights Clinic and Practicum offers students the opportunity to intern with leading public interest and human rights law organisations in Johannesburg, South Africa.

There are two ways of participating in this program:

- The Clinic (on-site internship): This involves travel to Johannesburg for a five week internship based at a human rights organisation in January/February 2013.
- The Practicum (remote internship): As an alternative, students can intern remotely via email and Skype with an organisation in South Africa. This will involve spending one full day a week (on campus) during Semester 1 of 2013 working as an intern on work assigned by the South African organisation (with additional supervision by the UNSW convenor).

Both options will involve working on significant public interest and human rights projects. For example, students might assist in preparation of court documents for constitutional challenges, produce law reform submissions or write advocacy reports. All of the organisations taking interns are highly regarded and effective groups doing work on issues such as housing, health, education, violence against women, social security, and broader work in the Southern African region. Students interning in South Africa will have access to a range of experiences such as meeting with clients, attending court and legislative bodies, and reaching strategic decisions, with others, on important cases.

Contact Beth Goldblatt for more information.

Human rights clinic

In the Human Rights Clinic students gain practical human rights lawyering experience in domestic and international settings, while critically reflecting on the role of law and lawyers in advancing human rights at home and in our region. The clinic’s current casework and projects focus on firstly, the human rights implications of Australia’s anti-people smuggling laws and policies, particularly in relation to Indonesian fishermen and boys prosecuted and detained in Australia for smuggling offences, and secondly, access to justice for migrant workers in the Asia Middle East Corridor, with a particular focus on improving Indonesian migrant workers’ access to redress for rights violations.

Contact Bassina Farbenblum for more information

All students in UNSW legal ethics courses to have clinical experience at KLC

Edwina McDonald is the new Law Reform and Policy Solicitor/ Clinical Supervisor at KLC. This position combines practice, policy and systemic advocacy and will ensure all UNSW students interview clients and work with volunteer lawyers in their ethics course.
Rural and regional internship program

Over summer, students were placed in community legal centres in Port Macquarie and the Central Coast and one student undertook her placement in the Aboriginal Legal Service in Griffith. These regional placements are a wonderful way for students to experience legal practice outside the metropolitan area and also provide much needed services to regional communities.

The internship programs run by UNSW allow students to work and study in a myriad of different environments. Students attend regular seminars or are allocated individual members of academic staff as supervisors. Here are some of their stories.

Students in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal internship program 2011.

News from our Australian interns

Max Dalton
The United States Consulate General, Sydney

It was December 5 2011. Location: the United States Consulate General, Sydney. Standing in the long line at security, looking only slightly less unsure of myself than the people who were there to try their hands at getting a visa. It had been over four months since I had applied for the internship, yet a mere two weeks since I passed my security clearance. I felt weird. Apprehensive almost. An intern’s greatest fear is that they’ll end up photocopying and making people coffee for the duration of their internship. Which, in my case, would be a whole two months. There’d been plenty of speculation at the family dinner table and amongst friends about just how many coffees I could make in two months. I had protested in some such discussions, proclaiming with a thin veneer of confidence that this internship was going to be different. But on other occasions, I’d allowed the cynics to overwhelm me. Allowed myself to be consumed by the vivid images they painted of my new life as the US State Department’s full-time barista. And, at this point, standing in the line at security, that was all I could think about. Photocopying. Coffee. Photocopying. Coffee. I now know that I was about ten minutes away from being utterly, stupendously, deliciously surprised. The Americans may have mastered the Hollywood cliché, but they also pioneered the curveball. And the curveball that was this internship hit me with such unexpected shock that I was seeing stars and stripes.

Surprises have featured prominently during my time at the Consulate. They began when I walked into the room in which my panel interview was being held, mildly dazed and confused, quietly rehearsing the information I’d prepared the night before on the Australia-US alliance. Only to be asked: “If you were an animal, what animal would you be?” Thankfully, the surprises quickly morphed into more pleasant ones, including a trip to Canberra to meet the Ambassador, a dinner with several members of US Congress and a series of interesting projects to work on that had absolutely nothing to do with making coffee. Or photocopying for that matter. On day one I was introduced to the Public Affairs Section (PAS), with whom I would be working with for the duration of my internship. PAS is the interface between the public and the Consulate. Among other things this involves answering questions from the media and public about US policy and developing programs that advocate and explain US policies, culture and society to Australians. To say I came to PAS at an interesting time would be an understatement. The US government is conscious of the fact that young Australians may not have the same strong connection with Americans as do older generations of Australians, whose close bond was forged during the wars of the 20th century. The rise of Asia to the centre of gravity in the world economy has precipitated a shift in US foreign policy, away from the Middle East and towards the Asia-Pacific. Australia’s location in the Asia-Pacific region and its status as a resource-rich, unwavering - and let’s face it, often obsequious - ally of the US makes the ANZUS alliance an increasingly valuable foreign policy asset for America. This reality, coupled with the perception that the youth of Australia may see their future as tied more to Asia than Uncle Sam, has led the US Mission in Australia to emphasise the development of its youth outreach programmes. These programmes seek to engage young Australians in US policy, history and culture, in the hope that this will go towards regenerating and sustaining Australian support for the US-Australia alliance.
Now, sitting complacently in my mid-February vantage point, I can laugh at my over-caffeinated, paranoid December self. Assisting PAS in developing its outreach programmes has taught me about diplomacy, about bureaucracy, about time management, and a plethora of other things. The Consulate employees were superb, and treated me not only as an equal, but also as a valued – albeit temporary – addition to the team. The only time I was forced to make coffee was at 6am each morning in order to get myself out my front door. And it was totally, utterly worth it.

Tegan Wordley
Tax barrister

I spend my internship time split between Melbourne and Sydney (where I live). The barrister was engaged on a pro-bono basis for an animal welfare group. This organisation was interested in examining ways of attracting funds in order to operate and expand their organisation. The wonderful thing about the Internship program at UNSW is if there is a particular area you are interested in and it has a public interest focus, you can organize your own (as long as it is approved by the University first, of course!).

A typical day with the barrister was never the same! As you can imagine it did involve time spent reading and researching legislation, drafting advice, meetings and presenting the material. I was surprised to learn that the area of law the barrister practiced in rarely ended in litigation and was mainly advice based. I always thought barristers mainly stood up in court. Who knew?

I spend the first half of the internship with my nose in a book and reporting back to the barrister with my findings. I did not come from a business or tax background, however, the issues involved did not only revolve around reading the tax act and crunching numbers but included many other legal areas such as equity, trusts, interpretation of statutes, etc. Having no previous knowledge wasn’t a problem at all and I ended up learning a lot about it in the end. Once we collected and organised our research I was given the opportunity to first draft my own research findings and present them to the barrister in a clear and coherent manner (at least I tried to!). The idea behind it was to prepare me for doing the same task for a client. This was a really great introductory exercise for what was coming up! After the initial presentation, I was asked to do my first letter of advice. Although, I was totally freaked out by the task at first, I was very supported in the process and I felt my confidence building day after day. After many drafts and amendments, we had developed my first ‘real’ letter of advice. It was a great feeling and was so successful that I was then asked to present the information to the board of our client. After a few trips between Sydney and Melbourne and a few more meetings with the client, the big day had come. I was very nervous but was well prepared with the help and coaching from the barrister.

It all went smoothly and we had a happy client and I actually learnt that I knew more than I thought I did.

The days spent in the internship were so valuable. I was able to put my studies into real life situations. So often at university, we only focus on one subject at a time and it can be difficult to see where it all fits in. The internship experience allowed me to see the law working in real time with real results and frustrations. I was able to put context around different subjects and see how they interact and find ‘real’ life solutions. The experience helped me to look at issues from both the client’s perspective and the formal legal position. It was such a rich learning experience. Some of the more difficult and boring tasks in class such as reading high court judgments became tasks I began to do with ease, since it was in a real life context where we needed to find a solution then and there. I never knew I could read and understand a 20-page judgment so quickly – if only it was that quick when I was studying.

I was asked to stay on with the internship and I continue to work on the project and with the barrister to this day. I have also met some incredible people along the way and all this would not have been possible without taking part in the internship program.

Corey Smith
NSW Ministry for Aboriginal Affairs

Let me begin by explaining where I’ve been spending my summer internship. I found out in November that the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (the Hon. Victor Dominello) was going to take me on board, and I would be working under his policy advisor, Verity Lomax. As an Indigenous person, I found this to be an amazing opportunity – I take a lot of interest in politics and I’ve always understood the importance of Indigenous peoples taking part in the processes that directly affect us. Hence, this was not only a learning opportunity but actually a chance to voice my opinions and ideas to both the Minister and his advisors.

One project that I am currently working on is the new Aboriginal Affairs strategy. It is exciting to see the level of participation shown by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Unfortunately though, the participants have not been reflective of all ages; this is where I came into the picture – how was the Minister to engage with a younger age group? My initial thought was social media; however this didn’t seem to overcome the problem of actually getting a younger generation interested – it merely acted as an advertising tool with no guarantees that people would actually get involved with the process. Yes, admittedly I was a bit stuck with getting people interested in politics, and whilst I felt like I was on the right track, I knew that I’d still get run over if I just sat there – I needed to get up and take action.
After some thought, I came up with the idea of hosting a consultation between the Minister and some Indigenous university students. Fortunately I have strong ties with Nura Gilli (the university’s Indigenous centre) and have been able to team up with Rebecca Harcourt to organise the event (thanks Bec). So, what are the aims of the consultation? Well, similar to the other community meetings the Minister has attended; the consultation will primarily be about raising awareness of the massive reform that is currently taking place. I’ll be the first to admit that Aboriginal Affairs is an area that tends to stay out of the public spotlight, so I believe that this consultation will act as a catalyst and ignite an interest among young Indigenous peoples. It is an opportunity to share concerns, build relationships and ultimately move forward with the government.

I shared my opinions at the beginning of this article on the importance of Indigenous partnership with those in power; without it, you lose trust - without it, you end up with backwards policies (just like the NT intervention). So, with the consultation to take place within a few weeks I feel empowered; students from a range of faculties will be attending, along with a handful of UNSW academicians, including the Deputy Vice Chancellor. I’ll be MC-ing the talk, which is going to include a speech from the Minister, followed by some Q&A – the main idea is having an informal gathering which will allow everyone to actually participate and get involved. I’m sure it’ll prove to be a productive visit and one that’ll bring about change, even if that’s at the level of simply raising awareness. But who knows how much bigger an impact it could create.

**Truman Biro**  
**Redfern Legal Centre**

After working full-time for a year as a paralegal in a law firm, I was looking for a bit of a different experience in the field of law. I definitely did after an extremely enjoyable two months with the Redfern Legal Centre.

As well as dealing with inquiries from the public on the front desk, I was also asked to work on case management in the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal. I have been absolutely overwhelmed with the level of autonomy and responsibility that I’ve received. Specifically, my task is to help clients get repairs done to their government housing. The final goal of my internship is to represent a client in the CTTT - which I first thought was absurd and a complete overestimation of my abilities! My first afternoon involved reading through the CTTT process. On my second afternoon I was asked to fill in an application and to draft several letters of correspondence. In my third afternoon I was asked to interview a client (by myself) and help them through the process. With more than half my internship left, I can definitely say that I will actually be representing someone by myself in the Tribunal, which I believe is a huge achievement. Also, as I mentioned earlier, there was a high level of responsibility. The work I handled was my work, which gave me a huge sense of accomplishment in comparison to work at a law firm which mainly involved final editing or the drafting of letters which were eventually changed beyond recognition. This wasn’t just my experience, after speaking to several volunteers who have completed clerkship or worked as paralegals, they are all amazed at the responsibility that I’ve been given as a “vollie” (RLC-speak for volunteer).

I look forward to every day that I spend at the RLC. I’ve definitely received the different perspective I was looking for and I have the internships program to thank for that. I highly recommend this amazing program for all students to expose themselves to wider areas of law.

**Claire Stimpson**  
**Aboriginal Legal Service**

I completed my internship at the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) in Redfern. The ALS provides legal representation and advice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in the areas of criminal and family law.

From its inception the ALS has always been an activist organisation, recognising that it is uniquely able to participate in law reform and challenging the status quo. Interns at the ALS form part of this tradition. Each intern is given carriage of a research project which contributes to an aspect of current law reform. Given that the New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC) is undertaking a broad review of sentencing, I was tasked with driving the ALS’ submission regarding standard non-parole periods (SNPPs). For certain offences, SNPPs operate to mandate the length of the offender’s non-parole period with judges having to provide reasons if they seek to deviate from it.

In my research I found that SNPPs have been widely criticised for their inconsistency and lack of clarity - resulting in increased sentences for offences with a SNPP attached. There is also a concern that an accused faced with a charge that attracts a SNPP will feel pressure to plead guilty to a
lesser offence in order to avoid the SNPP or plead guilty to the offence in order to avoid the operation of the SNPP. Fortunately there had also been a recent High Court case that considered SNPPs and their impact on a marginalised individual, which was directly relevant to my research. Using a combination of resources, including anecdotal evidence from ALS officers, I was able to compile a draft which can be incorporated into the submission once the NSWLRC releases the final consultation paper.

Throughout my internship I was also presented with several opportunities to attend court with the ALS solicitors. My days in court were some of the most interesting and fulfilling experiences of my internship. Given my research project, I was assigned to sentencing hearings. Having not experienced sentencing first hand I learnt a lot about the processes involved and the expectations of the parties. It was particularly interesting to be able to read through the client’s file and discuss the potential outcomes with the solicitor before going to court, which meant that I was better able to grasp the impact of particular factors and decisions.

My experience at the ALS has given me a much deeper appreciation of the practice of criminal law in NSW. Not only has this enhanced my academic understanding of criminal law and procedure but has also given me an insight into the reality of this practice. The opportunity to play an active role in the courtroom was incredibly exciting and something that I didn’t think I would be able to experience as a law student. Working independently on the SNPPs submission helped me to gain a better understanding of the role that lawyers can play in challenging the structural issues that their clients face. The process of reflecting throughout this experience was an effective way of not only taking stock of what I had learnt but also to develop and refine my research. Finally, this internship highlighted the integral role that the ALS plays in the community in helping their clients navigate the complicated and marginalising effects of the legal system.

1 Muldrock v The Queen [2011]

Jennifer Kwong
National Pro Bono Resource Centre

My internship with National Pro Bono Resource Centre also enriched my coursework. Engaging in research on the direct effect of laws on local communities enhanced my understanding of the pro bono legal sector and highlighted that although the provision of pro bono services builds social solidarity, limitations such as the location of the service, the availability of resources, and the complexity of the issue mean that many disadvantaged individuals remain unable to obtain legal assistance. Interning at the National Pro Bono Resource Centre allowed me to realize the strength of my interest in a career in the non-profit sector.

Finally, the readiness of the friendly staff and fellow interns at the National Pro Bono Resource Centre to provide advice has guided me further in the direction of the non-profit and arts sectors, areas of particular interest to me. This has helped me create a network of contacts that will prove useful to my future career.

Internships do a lot more than looking good on a resume; internships enrich your coursework and make you a more experienced young professional.

Natalie Ho
UNSW’s Cyberspace Law and Policy Centre

The Cyberspace Law and Policy Centre is a research and social justice centre at UNSW. The centre aims to provide a public interest perspective on legal and policy issues arising from digital transactions and the regulation of the cyberspace within Australia.

The key project that I was involved in during the internship was a research project that the centre was undertaking which related to the internet codes of conduct. I was responsible for writing brief analyses of several internet codes of conduct as well as critically comparing the best practices guidelines provided by four Commonwealth regulatory agencies that assisted in the establishment of codes.
I was also responsible for researching current topical issues such as: the controversial United States of America’s legislative bills, Stop Anti-Piracy Act (‘SOPA’) and the Protect IP Act (‘PIPA’), the phenomenon of Web 2.0., the European Union’s Data Protection proposals and the European Union’s Cybercrime Treaty. After my research, I was then assigned to create resource sheets which would provide a broad overview of the important aspects of the issue that would be distributed to students and the public.

This research encouraged me to view sources – especially media articles – with a critical eye and to ascertain not only the validity of their facts but also the completeness of the information that has been provided for the public. This internship has also taught me a lot about working independently and being a self-motivator.

Elizabeth Haas
Central Coast Community Legal Centre

An internship recently took me to a regional area of New South Wales. The Community Legal Centre (CLC) which hosted me tends to the legal needs of the 300,000 residents in the Local Government Area. The CLC has a team of three solicitors and one principal solicitor, however the stretched resources in terms of staff yield opportunity for keen legal students.

The skills I have built on thanks to my mentor, the Principal Solicitor at the legal centre include strict following of procedures, communication and research into varied fields concerning Community Legal Centre practice. Legal letter writing is also a skill – however unfamiliar to a Generation X member – that is essential in legal practice. My letters regularly took four or five drafts to be more succinct, comprehensible and instruct or inform clearly. If any letter was written or received, a twenty-four-step-or-so procedure must be followed lest a client not reply within the statutory limitation period, or a hearing date not be communicated clearly and accurately.

My mentor proved her trust in me by introducing me to the wider Novocastrian legal community, widening my network of contacts. My mentor showed me how to see the humour in appropriate places, offsetting the heavy case load and recognising the legal practitioners limits. One day I hope to be such a role model.

My mentor also encouraged me to appreciate the non-legal needs of clients and specifically acting to assist them where relevant and necessary. I found myself on the telephone to a young mother counseling service taking application details, experiencing the grey zone of legal and other needs. The internship highlighted my fortunate and empowered position in my community, my responsibility to others because of it, my capacity to act on it and the support I need to do so.

Maria Nawaz during her social justice internship with the Centre for Refugee Research

News from the international interns

Julia Brown
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Cambodia Project Office

I am just a few weeks from wrapping up a three month internship with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in Cambodia.

The UNODC Cambodia Project Office consists of a small number of both international and local staff, working on a rage of projects that fit within UNODC’s mandate. UNODC divide their focus into two areas; the rule of law and health and development. Within the rule of law UNODC’s regional programme seeks to address illicit trafficking by strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies, governance by working with governments on corruption and recovery of
stolen public assets and criminal justice in order to ensure independent and fair justice systems. Health and Development focuses on working with governments to have drug control efforts informed by public health, encouraging a focus on prevention of illicit drug use and to uphold the human rights and dignity of drug users. Our office is located in Cambodia’s capital Phnom Penh, near the lively Russian Market area - great lunch options for a delicious, cheap Fish Amok or Khmer Red Curry.

Without learning about Cambodian culture and history it is impossible to understand the complexities of development work in the country. Cambodia was a French colony for nearly 150 years before achieving independence in 1953. The French legacy is still present in Cambodia, with beautiful French colonial mansions and a baking culture that might add a few kilos to your luggage home. Colonialism also affected the political climate, post-independence gave rise to competing groups, some that aligned themselves with the monarchy, others with the communist philosophy. While most people are familiar with the devastating era of the Khmer Rouge regime which lasted from April 1975 to January 1979, not so many people are aware that this was just one era in a history of civil and regional wars lasting decades.

Development work in Cambodia is affected and influenced by its past, significantly it’s modern history. As I write this article, Brother Number 2 of the Khmer Rouge leadership, Nuon Chea is being tried in the UN supported Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, for crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and genocide. While history is being created, there is no shortage of criticism regarding interference of government, bias, quality of evidence and the health and competence of the defendants, most of whom are now pushing 80 years. The Khmer Rouge Tribunal is closely followed by all the UN offices in Cambodia.

One of the tasks I have worked on during my time at UNODC is the development of a concept note for a study analyzing the current situational of Child Sex Tourism (CST) in Cambodia. Over the past decade, there has been a large increase in the number of tourist traveling to the Kingdom of Cambodia. In 2010 over 2.5 million tourists visited Cambodia. The continuous and rapid development of the tourism industry has had a measurable positive impact in terms of Cambodia’s economic growth however it has also impacted on the prevalence of CST. The Royal Government of Cambodia is interested in having current data to better understand the current situation in relation to CST in Cambodia and to use this to develop strategies, training and responses. My role has therefore been to meet with different Ministries within government to determine what they want from the study and how they can support it and to integrate this into a concept note. What has been an interesting aspect of this task is learning about the mechanisms and capacity of government here and how language and culture impact on meetings and interactions.

Much of my learning has also taken place outside of the office, networking with other professionals working in the sector, learning from Cambodians and visiting different places in Cambodia. My trip to Siem Reap taught me a lot about the ancient history of Cambodia and it’s religious history. Aside from all of the exciting learning, it has also been a heap of fun living in Phnom Penh.

Persis Eskandor
René Cassin, London

For my public interest internship I spent three months working full time for a human rights organisation called René Cassin in London, UK. René Cassin is a human rights NGO that uses the experience of the Jewish people, and positive Jewish values, to campaign and educate on universal human rights issues such as discrimination, detention, and genocide. The organisation is named in honour of René Cassin, a French Jew and Nobel Laureate who was one of the principal co-drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. René Cassin is the only Jewish universal human rights organisation with UN accreditation, meaning they have the right to intervene at the United Nations.

René Cassin runs four campaigns addressing: detention of asylum seekers; racism and discrimination against Gypsies & Travellers; modern day slavery & human trafficking; and saving the UK Human Rights Act 2000.

Persis Eskandor
René Cassin, London

Ken Ooi, Shauna Leven, Persis Eskandor, Simone Abel, Alfie Vaitya

For my public interest internship I spent three months working full time for a human rights organisation called René Cassin in London, UK. René Cassin is a human rights NGO that uses the experience of the Jewish people, and positive Jewish values, to campaign and educate on universal human rights issues such as discrimination, detention, and genocide. The organisation is named in honour of René Cassin, a French Jew and Nobel Laureate who was one of the principal co-drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. René Cassin is the only Jewish universal human rights organisation with UN accreditation, meaning they have the right to intervene at the United Nations.

René Cassin runs four campaigns addressing: detention of asylum seekers; racism and discrimination against Gypsies & Travellers; modern day slavery & human trafficking; and saving the UK Human Rights Act 2000.
Each of these campaigns was specifically chosen because they correspond to Jewish historical experience. From day one it was obvious to me that Judaism strongly influences the work René Cassin does. The organisation brands itself a ‘Jewish voice for human rights’ and each of their campaigns contains a clear link between the issue at hand and Jewish values.

At first, it was very difficult. I was thrown into a foreign culture and didn’t understand why it was necessary to place so much importance on Jewish values as opposed to fundamental human morals. However it quickly became clear that in doing so, René Cassin is trying to garner support from, and create a more socially conscious environment in the Jewish community. They are effectively creating an outlet for the Jewish community to engage in human rights issues.

Working for René Cassin has been one of the most educational experiences of my life. As a passionate human rights activist, being exposed to the realities of running, organising and working for a human rights organisation, particularly one as ambitious as René Cassin has really opened my eyes. Honestly, the work is at times tedious and progress is frustratingly slow but it’s so incredibly rewarding you can’t help but come back for more.

Ken Ooi
René Cassin, London

Working at René Cassin was a wonderful eye opening experience, and I was given the opportunity to participate in many events and meetings with groups such as Amnesty International, Anti-Slavery International and various other international human rights organisations. I got to meet influential people in the UK including politicians, lawyers, lobbying groups as well as motivated students with similar interests to mine. I took away learning in global human rights issues, practical legal experience and an amazing involvement in running an international NGO. I was primarily working on the campaign for Asylum Seekers, where René Cassin has the goal of ending:

- the expansion of the detention estate
- the practice of detaining ‘vulnerable’ asylum seekers
- the practice of indefinite detention

I was also particularly interested in how a NGO functioned, and I can wholeheartedly say that the internship at René Cassin fulfilled what I was seeking.

Ki Young Ju
Gong Gam Korea

GongGam is well-known as the first non-governmental organisation providing free legal service and acting to protect and promote human rights of minorities, vulnerable groups with full-time pro-bono lawyers in Korea. Especially, they deal with the disabled, women, homosexuals, refugees and foreign workers’ rights and issues as well as other legal issues. They are completely funded by donation through “Public Interest Lawyers’ Fund” which is organised by “the Beautiful Foundation”.

Before I came to the organisation, I wanted to know the realistic sides of pro-bono lawyers. The first impression I had was that they were quite normal. In fact, it seemed that they were more ordinary than normal people who I can meet on the street. They worked like other lawyers finding relevant cases, reading statutes, having lunch and chatting with the other colleagues. What I expect might be overly exaggerated by documentary or commercial films about pro-bono workers in media. However, it does not mean that they are doing normal work.

My first task was about a refugee applicant from Burma. I realised that to listen and read aggrieved people’s story is quite heavy work mentally. Once I know their story, I became a part of their story without my awareness. Their grief, anger and anxiety sank deeply into my mind. As I found several Korean cases and foreign cases, I found that Korean’s government and Courts are quite rigid and conservative. Some decisions which made from refugee tribunal and Courts were rather harsh thus it made me to think that the Courts are regarding refugee applicants as potential or possible illegal immigrants. Especially, the reasons for the refusal decisions from tribunal were too simple to make me doubt that whether the tribunal officers read the case files properly.

A new refugee act in Korea, however, had passed during my internship period with the organisation’s continuous efforts.
Secondly, the other interesting aspect of this internship in GongGam was the seminar that occurred daily in the morning. As a result of these discussions I found my view about homeless was rigid, prejudiced and even dogmatic. Especially, since I believed that the homeless is a group of people who are mostly lazy and motiveless. Always I thought the reasons for their poverty was themselves and I have blamed them to make myself free from all the responsibility. I have not thought about the responsibility of society to the people. Now, I believe that I should take care of them as a future lawyer with understanding their problems as our societies’ issues.

I believe that the experience from the internship in GongGam gave me more understanding of public interest issues and social responsibility of lawyers. One of lawyers in GongGam answered when I asked why he chose this pro-bono lawyer’s life. He said that he wanted to find his way regarding to what he can do, what he want to do and what he has to do. Now I believe that “not only special people could do special work but also normal people can do special work.”

Qi An  
University of South Pacific Legal Centre, Vanuatu

Initially, the intensity of the pace and the masses of law to sort through was a bit overwhelming. In retrospect, I’m glad things happened that way. It made me more confident after enhancing my ability to understand new laws in short space of time. The best practice to doing things right is to ask questions, whether it is clarifying legal issues or why my computer persistently will not log me on.

My legal skills improved from drafting various submissions and pleadings to the Supreme Court and the Magistrates’ Court and working closely with clients in person or on the phone.

Language barriers and a reserved nature proved to be obstacles when interviewing Ni-Van clients. Thankfully, there was always someone available to interpret Bislama or French for me, and it was a great experience working with interpreters.

Patience is an asset that was honed. I learned to develop a deeper respect for the client’s concerns, even if it seemed at times they were avoiding disclosing important facts. Due to the complexities involved in a divorce case, interviewing a client for this case file may take hours in one sitting.

International mooting and competitions

ICC International Mediation Competition

UNSW was fortunate to secure an invitation to compete again in the ICC International mediation Competition held in Paris in February 2012. In the six years we have been competing we remain the only Australian university to have received an invitation.

The competition is the only moot in the world dedicated exclusively to international commercial mediation.

This year 66 teams from 32 countries competed during the five days of the competition. Our team of Stephanie De Lorenzo, Regan Nathan, Daniel Threlfall and Jennifer Wilson, coached by Dr Rosemary Howell, completed four preliminary rounds and were among the 16 teams which proceeded to the final rounds. We won our eighth and quarter finals and were beaten in the semi-finals (by a very narrow margin) by the team that went on to win the finals. Seven mediations in five days is a great achievement under very high pressure conditions. Well done UNSW!
**Jessup Moot**

This year the Jessup team did not make it through to the finals but as coach Colin Picker says, "In addition to individual excellent oral presentations and solid memorials (submissions), our team exhibited friendly and helpful interaction with the other competitors. Throughout the many months of very hard preparation there was excellent team dynamics and collaboration. I was particularly happy to see such excellent interpersonal working relationships - within one’s team and without - as those attributes are critical to students’ future careers and to the profession. For me, it was a very worthwhile experience to have worked with them and watched their skills grow over those many months. I commend them as a team and individually - Jessie Ingle, Abby Burke, Christopher Michaelides, Ashley George and Matthias Thompson"