

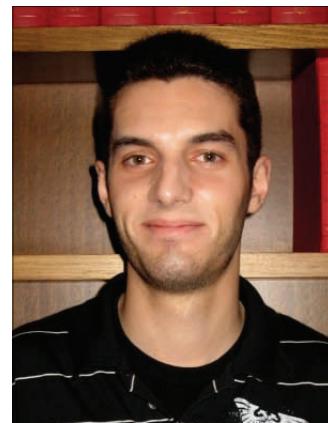
In-House Interns

Castan Centre Interns Talk about their Motivations, Experiences and Hopes



MADHAVI LIGAM

Completing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law



ANTHONY CAPONE

Completing Bachelor of Laws

Motivation

We live in a heterogeneous society where individuals and communities live according to different values and beliefs. How then do these varying cultural groups and societies view and accommodate universally applicable human rights? And, as an increasing number of developing states such as China and India move from insular to global economies, what importance do they give to human rights? While an investment banker in Mumbai may view human rights as a hindrance to economic development, I believe that they can protect marginalized people and support development.

Inspiration

Throughout high school and as part of my Arts degree, I have loved studying history. It provides us with glimpses into how governments, communities and individuals have helped to shape the world we live in. I think that learning about past atrocities and injustices has made me more vigilant about the protection and promotion of human rights: one who does not learn from history is doomed to repeat it.

Experience

I have been involved with the Monash Helping Hands which raises money for various causes and also has volunteering opportunities with St. Vincent De Paul and the Red Cross. During fourth year, I volunteered at the Consumer Law Centre Victoria and this year I will be working at Springvale Legal Centre in the professional practice program.

Internship

I worked on a moot feasibility study for a proposed inter-university human rights moot and also helped Azadeh Dast-yari to prepare a parliamentary submission about how refugees are forced to pay exorbitant fees for the costs of their detention. I would definitely recommend the experience to students interested in human rights.

The Future

I would like to do articles and become a qualified lawyer, but I don't think I'll get articles. I think that at some stage I would like to work overseas, in India hopefully, and just do something related to human rights and politics.

Motivation

I am interested in human rights, as much work still has to be done to ensure all people in the world enjoy the same human rights. I am particularly interested in the implementation and enforcement of human rights in Australia and the developing nations of the world.

Inspiration

The continual violations of human rights and the horrific stories of individuals in war-ravaged and developing countries, and the work of individuals to better the human rights of others has inspired me to become involved in the human rights field.

Experience

I have completed a summer internship with the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH), and I will be returning in Semester I 2007. I have also undertaken human rights related work as part of my placement as a Case Manager at Springvale Monash Legal Service.

Internship

I wrote articles for the Castan Centre newsletter and helped with the planning of the "Writing for Human Rights" essay competition.

The Future

I hope to become a solicitor, and later a barrister (SC... naturally!), specialising in Personal Injury, Human Rights, Defamation or Employment Law. My ultimate ambition is to work for the United Nations or a Human Rights NGO.



ENA HADZANOVIC-
Completed Bachelor of
Commerce and Bachelor
of Laws in 2006

Motivation

My interest in human rights stems from the experiences that I went through as a refugee. In 1992, I was forced to flee Bosnia as a result of the violent Balkan conflict that followed the break-up of Yugoslavia. Wars are generally notorious for their human rights violation and the war in Bosnia was no different. Being a victim of war – having to flee my home, losing friends and family to faceless snipers in the hills, living with demeaning restrictions as a refugee – is what initially made me question what rights we, as human beings, have. My interest in human rights has only escalated since then and the areas which I am particularly drawn to are international humanitarian law and refugees' rights.

Experience

During my annual visits to Bosnia, I devote a significant amount of time to speaking with young Bosnians who have been physically and emotionally scarred by the war, in an attempt to help them heal their wounds by at least assuring them that people care about the pain that they have endured. I offer to teach them how to speak and write in English with the goal of enhancing their academic and employment opportunities.

Internship

During my internship, I prepared a submission to Parliament in relation to certain provisions of the Criminal Code which empower the government to list particular organizations as terrorist organizations. The submission considered the implications of these provisions and proposed amendments. During my internship I was also fortunate enough to attend the centre's annual conference which was a highlight.

The Future

My overall hope for the future is to be happy. A major stepping stone to the realisation of this hope will be a rewarding legal career which will largely revolve around the pursuit and promotion of human rights.

COURTNEY WINTER
Completing Bachelor of
Arts and Bachelor of Law



Motivation

My original motivation for being involved in human rights has come from the work I have been involved in with a youth movement here in Melbourne. Working with the youth from my own community, I began to think about this same concept on a global scale. Youth all over the world should be given this same opportunity not only to receive education, but to be able to play an active role in shaping the world in which they live.

Experience

Post VCE I fulfilled a lifelong dream of travelling through Africa. There I took part in a three month volunteer program in Kenya through World Youth International. During this time I was touched by the brutal innocence of the people whom we were working with. I was based at Salem Orphanage in Kisumu, Kenya. I returned to Africa in 2005 and this time traversed from South Africa up to Kenya and back. This allowed us to meet and interact with many local people. This year I will be commencing a volunteer training program with the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.

Internship

During my internship I researched matters related to the Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia on the Framework for Security Cooperation. I also assisted with research for the centre's submission on the Migration Amendment (Review Provisions) Bill 2006 as sent to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

The Future

I aim to use the knowledge, know-how and inner drive to link with others who are providing a voice for those who cannot otherwise be heard. It is the faces of the hungry and impoverished that provides me with endless determination. There is much good work being done both at policy level and on the ground which I would dearly like to be part of.