HEN THE International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) rendered its verdict in late May in the “Military II” genocide case involving Army Chief of Staff Augustin Bizimungu and three other senior military officials, the judgment reflected in part the work of now third-year law student Jack Wilkinson.

Wilkinson interned for the tribunal last spring through the school’s new International Justice & Conflict Resolution Practicum and continued his internship at the tribunal through the summer. He reviewed evidence and testimony from the trial record, prepared summaries of legal arguments from both sides, and helped edit and draft significant portions of the draft judgment. Joining him this past summer was now third-year law student Junko Nozawa, who also interned at the ICTR, while her classmate, Ethan Ruff, also now a third-year, interned for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Wilkinson’s, Nozawa’s, and Ruff’s internships are among the many opportunities available for Washington University law students to learn international and comparative law and to work and study abroad during law school. These experiences, says Karen Tokarz, the Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law & Public Service, “help our students situate what they are learning about law in the U.S. within the global universe of law; introduce our students to the emerging role of international tribunals and international conflict resolution agencies; and open intellectual and professional doors for our students.”

The law school’s student international experiences run the gamut from the international semester-in-practice to the Summer Institute for Global Justice, the Africa Public Interest Law & Conflict Resolution Initiative, and the Dagen-Legomsky and Cash Nickerson Fellowships offered by the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute. Other opportunities include student exchanges, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and other international moot courts, the Washington University Global Studies Law Review, and additional avenues for international research and teaching experiences.

(top, right) Law student Ethan Ruff interned at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). (below, right) Law student George Lyle IV interned with ICTY Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz, right, and participated in the Summer Institute for Global Justice.

International Justice & Conflict Resolution Placements

Started in spring 2010, the International Justice & Conflict Resolution Practicum links students with international criminal courts and conflict resolution agencies in Africa, Asia, and Europe for a semester-long field placement. The practicum builds on a 10-year history of summer internship placements.

“The summer internships and the new semester-long practicum are great opportunities for our students,” says Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law and director of the Harris Institute, who forged the initial relationships with the international war crimes tribunals and continues to work with them to promote Washington University interns.

“We’ve had extensive partnerships with the Cambodia tribunal, the Special Court of Sierra Leone, the Rwanda tribunal, and the Yugoslavia tribunal, supporting their work and sending students to them for summer internships,” she continues. “The new clinical practicum expands upon these prior relationships, allowing our students to work with these influential international courts for a full semester and receive academic credit.”