Summer, Post-Graduate, and Semester Public Interest Internships

In the summer following her first year of law school, Caitlin McCoy, JD ’14 interned with Fiscalia del Medio Ambiente (FIMA), a local environmental law organization in Santiago, Chile. While at FIMA, Caitlin engaged in broad-based environmental advocacy, including speaking at a workshop for local residents, writing grant proposals, and conducting legal research on projects affecting indigenous communities and the environment. Caitlin is the fourth Washington University student to intern with FIMA. Matt Thomas, JD’10, spent a year interning at the organization following his graduation. David Dill, JD ’13, interned at FIMA in summer 2011. Camila Maturana, JD ’12, is currently engaged in a six-month internship made possible through a post-graduate stipend provided by the Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program and the Career Services Office. Students also can intern abroad for a semester through the new international Latin American JSD Scholarship

Fulbright Scholar Silvana Del Valle, LLM’10, JSD’14, is currently working on her JSD dissertation, analyzing the effect of neoliberal principles on Chilean domestic violence statutes. A native of Santiago, Chile, Del Valle is comparing the approaches of several US states with the gender laws in her home country. Passionate about improving women’s rights, Del Valle hopes that researchers in other Latin American countries will utilize her data to design more effective domestic violence laws.

“Without the strength of the Washington University network and the willingness of faculty to reach out on my behalf, I would not have been able to intern with a NGO in Chile.”

— David Dill, JD’13, Easter Island, Chile

Diogo Metz, JD ’14, interned in São Paulo, Brazil in summer 2012 with Connectas Human Rights, the human rights arm of the Instituto Pro Bono. Diogo assisted with intake interviews of new clients, conducted research, drafted reports, and volunteered in the community as coach for a local rugby team.

Silvana Del Valle, LLM’10, JSD’14, Santiago, Chile
Latin American Coursework

While in St. Louis, students can learn more about Latin American law and politics through a wide array of courses taught by Law School faculty and distinguished visiting scholars. Recent offerings have included: Transnational Migration and Citizenship, taught by Professor Gonçalo Matias, Assistant Professor at the Catholic University of Portugal School of Law and Legal Advisor the President of Portugal; Chile and United States, taught by Hugo Hurtado, partner at Beltramin Hurtado in Santiago, Chile; and Immigration Law, currently taught by St. Louis immigration expert Katie Herbert Meyer, formerly taught by Professor Stephen Legomsky, chief counsel for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Students may also, with Registrar approval, take up to 6 hours of related graduate-level coursework in other schools across the University.

Alumni Spotlight

Cortés, Mayo, Professor Peter Ruger, and Dean Kent Syverud (L-R)

Nicole Solawetz Cortés, MSW/JD’12 and Jessica Mayo, JD’12 recently launched the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project (M.I.C.A.), a St. Louis-based, public interest law organization providing legal services and assistance to low-income migrants and immigrants in southeastern Missouri and southern Illinois. The MICA Project provides in-court representation of clients, legal assistance with applications to the U.S. immigration authorities, and community building programs.

Semester Study Abroad

Students can spend a semester abroad with an existing Washington University partner institution or another school on an ad-hoc basis. Students interested in studying abroad should inquire with Dean Michael Peil to learn of current opportunities. Through the School of Law’s Transnational Law Program, students can spend 5 semesters in St. Louis and 3 semesters in Lisbon, Portugal, at the Catholic University of Portugal (PUC), graduating with a JD from Washington University and an LLM from PUC.

For more information, contact:
Karen Tokarz, Director, Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program, tokarz@wulaw.wustl.edu
Michael Peil, Assistant Dean, International Programs, mpeil@wulaw.wustl.edu

Caitlin McCoy, JD ’14, Valparaiso, Chile