Summer and Post-Graduate Public Interest Internships

In the summer following her first year of law school, Claire Melvin, JD’15 interned with Fiscalia del Medio Ambiente (FIMA), a local environmental law organization in Santiago, Chile. While at FIMA, Claire engaged in broad-based environmental advocacy, writing grant proposals and conducting legal research on projects affecting indigenous communities and the environment. Claire is the fifth Washington University student to intern with FIMA. Camila Maturana, JD ’12 did a six-month internship in fall 2012 after her graduation, made possible through a post-graduate stipend provided by the Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program and the Career Services Office. Caitlin McCoy, JD ’14, interned with FIMA in summer 2012. David Dill, JD ‘13, interned at FIMA in summer 2011. Matt Thomas, JD’10 spent a year interning at the organization following his graduation.

Ashlin Mosby, JD ’15, interned in summer 2013 with the Juan Guzman Foundation in Santiago, Chile. She assisted a well-known former judge in capacity-building efforts through the development of a bilingual manual to educate civil society on their human rights. Ryan Baebler, JD, ’15, interned in summer 2013 in Panama City, Panama, with Transparency International, a global civil society organization that fights corruption and fosters transparency. Colin Stapleton, JD ’15, also interned in Panama City in summer 2013 at the Comision de Justicia y Paz. 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.

Latin America Speakers & Events

In fall 2013, the Latin America Initiative co-sponsored a talk by Professor Jim Cavallaro, Stanford University Law School, on “The Toxic Effects of Drone Strikes” and is co-sponsoring a talk by Thomas Saenz, General Counsel, American Legal Defense Educational Fund, February 27, 2014 on “America’s Critical Immigrant Workforce.”

“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 FIMA, an environmental NGO in Chile.” —David Dill, JD’13, Easter Island, Chile

Ryan Baebler, JD ’15, (L, Front), met with officers at the National Police Academy during his internship in Panama City, Panama in summer 2013.

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.
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: Immigration Law, taught by Professor Stephen Legomsky, who served as chief counsel for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Obama Administration; Transnational Migration and Citizenship, taught by Professor Gonçalo Matias, Assistant Professor at the Catholic University of Portugal School of Law and Legal Advisor to the President of Portugal); and Chile and United States, taught by Hugo Hurtado, partner at Beltramin Hurtado in Santiago, Chile. Students also may, with Registrar approval, take up to 6 hours of related graduate-level coursework in other schools across the University.

Semester Internships and Semester Study Abroad

Students can spend a semester abroad interning thorough the International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field Placement (10-12 cr.) under the supervision of Professors Karen Tokarz or Leila Sadat. Students also can study abroad for a semester 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 Koby 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.

Alumni Spotlight

Nicole Solawetz Cortés, MSW/JD’12 and Jessica Mayo, JD’12, 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 in fall 2012. The MICA Project provides in-court representation of clients, legal assistance with applications to the U.S. immigration authorities, and community building programs.