International Legal Careers

Many students come to Pace Law School for the array of international study and internship opportunities that we offer. [See “Study & Work Abroad Programs,” infra p. 2] Students inevitably return from these rich experiences with enthusiastic questions about how to parlay a summer with a Sydney, Australia law firm or war crimes tribunal in Cambodia into a legal career after graduation.

There are many different paths to follow for students interested in pursuing international law or practicing law abroad. For some, being an international lawyer means practicing domestic or local law for foreign clients or providing counsel to a domestic client on transactions in a foreign country. For others, it means working abroad with an international organization.

When searching for positions as an international lawyer (broadly defined) in almost any practice area and sector, it is apparent that most jobs require many years of prior practical legal experience. It is unusual for a law firm to seek an entry level “international corporate attorney” for their Beijing office or an international organization to look for a human rights lawyer right out of law school. That being said, we have had many alumni find their dream international legal jobs through contacts they had made during their international summer externships, Vis Moot Court competition, or study abroad programs. [See “Pace Law School Alumni In The International Arena,” infra p. 2]

Still, the best way to become an international lawyer is to become an expert in an area of domestic law that you can then translate into an international career. For example, if you are interested in becoming a prosecutor for an international war tribunal, you may want to apply to the Pace/Planethood Fellowship to work in the Trial Chamber in the Special Court for Sierra Leone after graduation, or pursue a career as an Assistant District Attorney or an Assistant United States Attorney first. Similarly, if you are interested in becoming a corporate lawyer at a large law firm’s branch office in another country, it is likely that you will need to first prove yourself as a skilled corporate lawyer in one of the firm’s domestic offices before they will send you abroad. When thinking through what type of “international law-

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International Law Scholarship, Programs and Events at Pace Law School

Professor Tom McDonnell was one of the principal organizers of the ASIL and ABILA Teaching International Law Workshop, held at Hofstra Law School on September 25. He also moderated a panel entitled, "Innovative Approaches to Teaching International Law." Prof. McDonnell’s book, United States, International Law, and the Struggle Against Terrorism (Routledge 2009) was released in late October. *

On November 13, 2009, the Pace International Law Review will be hosting a Symposium entitled "Comparative Constitutional Law: National Security Across the Globe" in conjunction with the Blaine Sloan Lecture on International Law: "After Gitmo: Obama Grapples with Preventive Detention." Scott Horton of Harper’s Magazine is the keynote speaker. It is a day-long discussion on the legal issues faced by various nations which must balance constitutional and civil rights with national security needs. The symposium will comprise a series of panel discussions and short lectures throughout the day. Registration is available at http://webpage.pace.edu/pilr/events.html.

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"My experience at Singhania Law Firm provided me the opportunity to see Indian courts first hand, as well as meet practitioners from all fields (and several countries) during my stay. The most exciting part was their efforts to include me in professional events, from drinks at a yacht club to receptions for foreign trade representatives. My legal and networking skills would not have been the same without my internship abroad.”
- Gabriel Riggle, 3L

Important Deadlines

Fellowships, Honors Programs, Scholarships & Internships

For descriptions and application information click here (then click on the appropriate fellowship guide under “Resources”)

Summer/Academic Term Positions

11/15/09, Phil Cowen Memorial/BMI Scholarship

11/20/09, NY3 Bar Association 2010 Minority Fellowship in Environmental Law

Rolling, Deborah Poritz Summer Public Interest Legal Fellowships sponsored by Legal Services of New Jersey

Post-Graduate Positions

11/30/09, NYU Post-Doctoral and Transition Program for Academic Diversity Fellowship

Study & Work Abroad Programs

For students interested in various aspects of international law, Pace’s International Law Program offers several opportunities to study and work abroad.

Pace students can spend a semester abroad in London through the London Law Program. Affiliated with the University College Faculty of Laws, University of London, the London Law Program provides the academic and internship experiences each spring semester for 30-40 students from Pace and other law schools. Applications are due by November 1. For more information, go to http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=23876

The Pace International Summer Internships Abroad Program provides law students with fluency in a foreign language the opportunity to work with a law firm in a country of their own choosing in order to gain expertise in both the legal language and the civil law of that country. In past summers, students have interned at law firms in Australia, Korea, Japan, China, India, Argentina, Brazil, France, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Greece, Russia, Lebanon, Slovakia, Hungary, and Croatia. Interns work full-time for 8 weeks during June and July, and receive 6 credits for this internship. An information session will be scheduled for the beginning of spring semester. For more information, go to http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=27038

The Pace Human Rights in Action Summer Internship Program includes several endeavors, including the placement of students in International Summer Internships at War Crimes Tribunals, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and the ICC International Court of Arbitration (ICC). Applications are due by September 29. For more information, go to http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=27040.

Pace Law School Alumni in the International Arena

Many of our alumni have gone on to fascinating and prestigious positions in the international legal arena. Jessica Vanto ’01, for example, currently practices in the Dispute Resolution Group at the New York office of the international law firm, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP. After law school, Jessica served as a law clerk for the Honorable Charles L. Brieant, Southern District of New York, and then joined the Manhattan law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. In 2005, with her law firm experience and French language ability, Jessica joined Hanzaiou & van den Berg, a boutique law firm in Belgium. Jessica joined Freshfields in 2007 where she now litigates and arbitrates disputes involving energy and natural resources as well as telecommunications and is a member of the Latin American Arbitration Group. As a litigator, Jessica has focused on multi-jurisdictional disputes involving securities class actions, foreign sovereign debt actions, and manufacturing and distribution contract disputes, as well as the litigation concerning the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict in the D.C. Circuit. She has acted for clients in matters before the ICISID, ICC, Cepani, LCIA, AAA and CAS.

Other recent law school graduates have gone on to post-graduate international fellowships to help prosecute international war crimes at the Trial Chamber in the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SC-SL) through the Pace/PlanetHood Foundation Fellowship (Chris Boies ’06; Sandra Brown ’07), or through a Fulbright Fellowship to study community forestry and the human/elephant conflict in India (Jorge Figueroa ’08).

Alum Caleb Christopher ’07 is Legal Advisor to the United Nations Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands where he provides counsel on issues related to climate change, environmental, renewable energy and maritime/oceans/fisheries issues.

Damon Schwartz ’07 serves as the permanent law clerk for the Honorable Delissa Ridgway in the U.S. Court of International Trade (USCIT), a nine-member federal trial court in New York with exclusive jurisdiction over matters involving U.S. international trade and customs laws.

The list could go on, but chances are there is a Pace Law School alumnus working in the country or international organization that you are interested in!
firms may represent business interests, which specialize in customs and international interests. Some boutique law firms can work for a domestic corporation that has international interests or for a multinational corporation.

Although many corporations hire law students during the school year and summers, very few corporations hire lawyers right out of law school. If you are interested in in-house work, you should consider working at a law firm or for certain government agencies prior to seeking an in-house position.

**Government & Clerkships.** There are many opportunities to practice international law in the federal government. Within the Department of Justice alone, one can practice international law with several different divisions: criminal – immigration and extradition, tax – international business transactions, environmental – antitrust issues, or antitrust policy formation and prosecution.

Most federal agencies have summer and/or term-time legal internship programs and Honors Programs for entry-level lawyers.

There are many opportunities to intern or clerk for a court or tribunal both inside and outside of the U.S. Some courts outside the U.S. – such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) – have structured programs open to law students and recent law graduates.

**Public Sector.** There is tremendous diversity in the types of opportunities available for those who wish to pursue a career in international public interest law. International public interest organizations are nonprofits that specialize in the problems of particular groups or issues. The types of advocacy vary dramatically and depend not only on the organization’s substantive focus but also on whether it emphasizes advocacy for individual clients or for groups or issues. Client-oriented organizations are usually hands-on, privately run, nonprofit law offices that concentrate on representing clients within the organization’s area of specialization. Policy-oriented organizations use broader strategies to protect legal rights or to bring about social change.

Many international public interest lawyers work for the United Nations, the World Bank, the Organization of American States and other intergovernmental organizations. There are also thousands of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout the world that focus on international issues, including but not limited to, development, human rights, environmental issues, energy, trade, arms control, intellectual property, and transitional justice.

**Spotlight on the Pace International Law Review**

The Pace International Law Review recently launched its new website, which is dedicated to current topics in international law and features ongoing editions of the Law Review. The website comprises the following sections: (1) Printed Archived PILR editions; (2) The Online Companion, which is the Review’s online platform; (3) The Editor’s Top 5, which are short synopsis of current international news issues that we deem central to international law; (4) Real time international news, populated based on seven main categories and numerous subcategories of international law; (4) Symposia & Special Events; (5) Academic Blog posts; and (6) International Resources. To access PILR’s website, go to http://webpage.pace.edu/pilr/index.htm.

**Career Note:** For international legal positions, being fluent in at least one additional language is often a bare minimum requirement.
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The **Pace Institute of International Commercial Law** (“IICL”) has played an instrumental role in the evolution of teaching and scholarship in the fields of international commercial and consumer law and international arbitration, by creating the award-winning CISG Database and founding the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. The Pace CISG Database offers the most current and comprehensive collection of information on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), the law governing commercial transactions among the majority of the world’s trading nations. The CISG Database receives over 2 million “internet hits” per month and is consistently ranked No. 1 in a Google search for “International Commercial Law.”

Founded by Pace Law School, the **Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot** (the “Vis”) is the premiere international commercial law moot court, attracting students from all over the world. Held in Vienna every spring, the moot involves an arbitration of a contract of sale between two parties in countries that are signatories to the United Nation’s Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. For information on how to register for the Vis, go to [http://www.cisg.law.pace.edu/vis.html](http://www.cisg.law.pace.edu/vis.html).

Every year, over a dozen people trained, and often licensed as lawyers in their home countries, come to Pace to pursue LL.M. degrees in International Comparative Law or Environmental Law. These students can be invaluable resources for information about legal practice in their home country. Speak with Dean Mark Shulman if you are interested in meeting an LL.M. student from a particular country or region.

* * *

**Upcoming CCD & PILC Programs and Events**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16**
**Evening Table**
5:00–8:00pm (Outside Cafeteria)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19**
**Careers in Environmental Law & Networking Event**
5:00–6:00 PM (C-201)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24**
**Evening Table**
5:00–8:00pm (Outside Cafeteria)

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving!**