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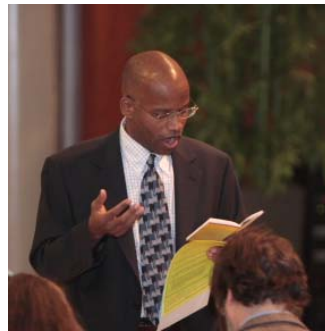
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Human Rights Works and PIHRL Sign Pro Bono Rights-Based Education Pact

"We educate to empower."

The Human Rights Works (HRW), a nongovernmental organization, and the Program in International Human Rights Law (PIHRL) recently launched a new pro bono legal education program to empower public school children to protect and promote children's human rights.

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Prof. George Edwards gives keynote speech at IU Law on Dec. 6. (Photo: Sam Scott)

IU Law Members Vow to Pursue "Dignity for All" on Human Rights Day

Members of the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis reaffirmed their commitment to uphold human rights in a series of activities commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

On Dec. 6, Human Rights Works, a nongovernmental organization, spearheaded a benefit celebration at IU Law to raise funds for Children of the Andes Foundation, dedicated to helping Villages in the Andes of Peru by raising their socioeconomic status through education.

In his keynote speech, Professor George Edwards, founder and director of the Program in International Human Rights Law (PIHRL), discussed how UDHR had evolved. Edwards cited parallels between UDHR and the U.S. Constitution, saying both instruments protected fundamental human rights.

Robert "Bob" Masbaum and Kevin Munoz, former PIHRL interns, showed a preview of their documentary on Latin American street children titled *Derechos del Nino* (Rights of the Child) to some 100 people who were there to commemorate UDHR's anniversary.

On Dec. 10, IU Law faculty, students, alumni and staff formed the **IU Human Rights and Environmental Defenders**, a multisectoral coalition to champion human rights. The founders vowed to uphold the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

IU Defenders launched the *Food for the Hungry Campaign* which calls upon governments to allocate three to five percent of their budget to feed the hungry. IU Defenders also launched the *U.S. Human Rights Treaties Sign and Ratify Drive* urging the White House and the Senate to sign and ratify human rights treaties, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Alumni and soon-to-be-alumni also organized the **IU Alumni for International Human Rights Law** on Thanksgiving Day to "pilgrimage into the 21st century's human rights challenges." (PC)

MANILA—On International Human Rights Day (Dec. 10), Prof. George Edwards discussed economic justice during the 5th Worldwide Conference of the Global Alliance for Justice Education. He highlighted the contributions to economic justice of interns of the IU Law Overseas Summer International Human Rights Law Internship Scholarship Program. Prof. Edwards cited James Bouchard III, J.D., who interned in 2000 with SALIGAN, a nongovernmental organization fighting for farmers' land rights in the Philippines.

IU Law Students Clamor for an International Human Rights Clinic

By Perfecto Caparas

In December 2007, J.D. candidate Jhon Sanchez flew to Panama to establish contacts with local nongovernmental organizations. While there, he met people who gave him precious information and contacts. In fact, Jhon's contacts gave him extremely valuable information that in March of the following year, independent experts of the United Nations Human Rights Committee gladly received the evidence Jhon and his team of shadow reporters—IU Law-Indianapolis students—submitted and presented during their sessions at the UN New York Headquarters. The Committee's concluding observations relied heavily and exclusively, it seems, on Jhon's and his team's shadow report that was replete with firsthand evidence from Panama's indigenous people.

The affidavits signed by Leonides Quiroz, coordinator of the Negotiation Commission for the Wounaan Land of the Wounaan Tribe Congress, helped prove Panama's violation of the indigenous people's human rights guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

On August 15, Leonides visited the Law School and personally met Jhon. An exuberant Leonides shook hands with Jhon, warmly embraced him, and expressed his appreciation to Jhon and the students for internationalizing Panama's wanton neglect of the plight of the Wounaan tribe, to which Leonides belonged.

At the UN New York Headquarters, Jhon's fellow shadow reporter, Megan Alvarez, J.D., met Alfredo Castillero Hoyos, a prominent former Committee member. Alfredo facilitated Megan's internship placement in Panama in Summer 2008, marking the first time that the Program in International Human Rights Law has placed an intern in that country.

This story illustrates how IU Law-Indianapolis students are trailblazing in the exciting yet arduous path of human rights monitoring and enforcement in the international plane virtually on their own.

They show to all and sundry that the Law School needs to assume a proactive and visionary leadership in human rights promotion and defense.

IU Law's record success in UN shadow reporting emerged not by institutional purpose or design, but by the sheer commitment of students to defend human rights through shadow reporting. They kept pressing on, and again, embarked in Fall 2008, on two more projects, on Australia and Chad, despite the inexistence of a centralized, well-defined, and adequately equipped mechanism and system to help them with their pioneering human rights initiatives.

It is in this light that the Law School needs to establish an International Human Rights Clinic that will orient, train, and guide students on UN shadow reporting on a regular, sustained, and long-term basis. The reasons for this are the following: first, UN shadow reporting serves as an



important weapon in closing the gap between human rights treaties and their nonobservance in practice; second, UN shadow reporting helps develop practically all essential lawyerly skills among students; and third, students need to know by heart how to apply the international human rights law framework in various capacities as the paradigm of discourse among global leaders. Increasingly, the international human rights law framework is becoming the paradigm of discourse of international players in tackling pressing challenges, ranging from genocide to climate change.

Those who sincerely promote human rights should support efforts—in terms of actual deeds—to establish a Law Clinic as a means to empower students to assist individuals and groups to claim and fight for their inherent dignity and human rights.

The *raison d'être* for IU Law's various clinics, e.g., Disability Clinic, Immigration Clinic, Civil Practice Clinic, and Criminal Defense Clinic, applies to an International Human Rights Law Clinic in both national and international contexts.

What sets it apart, however, is that an International Human Rights Clinic trains and empowers students to engage in the strategic and high-impact UN human rights monitoring and enforcement mechanism, that involves groups, sectors, and communities of individuals in the U.S. and overseas, with strong potentials for policy and legislative reform, among others.

In the process of operating the Law Clinic, students will become proficient in analyzing, making

decisions, and taking actions on country conditions and NGOs' human rights intervention capabilities vis-à-vis the UN system, liaising and forging partnerships with overseas human rights defenders, research, evidence-analysis, application of treaty provisions to facts and evidence, writing reports, making oral presentations during closed-door sessions by certain UN human rights treaty bodies, networking and collaboration with international organizations and institutions, empowering NGOs to participate in the UN human rights mechanisms, and engaging in media advocacy, among others.

The Clinic will narrow down the gap between the classroom and the real world. While students learn concepts, principles, procedures, and systems in class, translating their knowledge into legal skills and capacities by means of actual doing can be achieved through a clinical program.

An International Human Rights Clinic will be instrumental in empowering students to engage in real life human rights defense and high-impact research and scholarship in a proactive sense. This Clinic will equip them with various capacities to prepare them in dealing with emerging global human rights challenges as future lawyers and leaders.

How does a clinical program to develop international human rights lawyers, scholars, and defenders sound?



IU Law-Indianapolis student Edye Taylor (foreground) articulates the findings and recommendations of the IU Law-Indianapolis delegation before members of the United Nations Human Rights Committee concerning Zambia's duty to respect, protect, and fulfill press freedom under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights during a closed-door session in Geneva in July 2007. (Photo: PC)

Bridging Midwest America to Southeast Asia

By Heidi Reed, J.D.

During my summer as an intern in the Program in International Human Rights Law, I continuously found that the name of the not-for-profit I worked for, Bridges Across Borders, could not be more apt in summing up what this organization is all about. The focus at Bridges is to take a holistic approach to solving human rights problems which involves connecting, or building bridges across, a wide range of organizations and people on an even wider range of issues. Their organization has projects in Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, and even Mexico, Panama, and Colombia covering everything from community development to community legal education.

I spent most of my time working on an HIV/AIDS law manual geared towards marginalized communities in Thailand as well as assisting in running and participating in workshops in Cambodia, Malaysia, and Vietnam to train students and professors in setting up community legal education programs and in-house clinics. I feel my greatest contribution to the mission of this organization though took place before I ever boarded a plane. With a few emails back and forth, I was able to connect an Indiana childcare center which engages children in community service projects to a project Bridges is working on with children in Cambodia.

In providing legal education to marginalized communities in Cambodia, Bridges Across Borders is also able to identify the needs of these groups and act on them. It was in this capacity that I was able to “build a bridge” from my home town of Columbus, Indiana to a slum community currently facing illegal eviction in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Using stilts, the slum is literally built on top of a lake in which two tons of garbage is dumped every day including medical waste. Most of the children there were not attending school, a need Bridges found when their community legal educators began teaching the adults there.



A respected student leader and J.D. candidate with rich multiracial and multiethnic experience, Heidi Reed (right) immerses herself in the Cambodian children's world during her 2007 internship in various parts of Asia, that also included Thailand and Malaysia.

Heidi interned with Bridges Across Borders, a nongovernmental organization. Heidi enjoys doing grassroots human rights education work as her way of making a difference in people's lives.

Bridges was able to start a school for the children during the day and the adults in the evening take English classes there.

While the area may not seem like a great place to live, it is home to several hundred poor families who have no option but to live in a place where hypodermic needles can be found floating just below the

floorboards of their homes.

Currently, a land developer with plans to fill in the lake bought the area with an invalid contract, and all these people may soon lose their homes and their school. To combat this potential illegal eviction, Bridges will step in to provide any legal assistance it can and has started an awareness campaign to pressure the government to void the contract.

To raise awareness, Bridges is working with a volunteer photographer who is teaching the children how to photograph their community. These moving pictures will be displayed in an art gallery in New York in an effort to raise money for the community and expose the eviction which would leave more than a thousand people homeless.

The children in Columbus, Indiana, through a program called Reaching Out To Others run by Nancy Jo Reed of Nancy's Nook and Nursery childcare, were able to get cameras and film donated for the children living in this slum. The Bridges Across Borders project fit perfectly with the goals of Reaching Out To Others which connect children to community service projects and instill in them the value of helping others. In addition to asking for cameras, the children started making their own greeting cards to sell to raise funds for the Cambodian school. The children also asked for school supplies as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste to send to the children. Although money may have been easier to send, it was important for the children to physically see what they have been able to accomplish and realize that items like pencils are not easy for everyone in the world to get. This project has been fantastic because it is not just about children in Cambodia getting help but is also about children here in Indiana learning about a different part of the world and to think about basic human rights like the right to an education or even to not be illegally forced from your home. I realized from this that we do not have to wait until law school to start teaching people about human rights but that even children like these ones who are as young as five-years-old can understand their importance and meaning.

Teaching and learning social justice values has been a theme throughout my entire internship. The purpose of the clinics Bridges helps to set up is not just to provide marginalized people with legal services and education or for students to practice their lawyering skills but for the future leaders of the legal community in Southeast Asia to know firsthand the need for social justice and to work for social justice. These are lessons for people of all ages, all nationalities, and all backgrounds, legal or otherwise.



Indiana children share and care for their fellow children being evicted from their community in Cambodia where Heidi Reed rendered pro bono international human rights law services in 2007.

9/11 drove me to abandon medicine and pursue international human rights law

By Lena Masri, J.D.



The author takes a breather at the Swiss alps after rigorously working on her team's United Nations shadow report on the United States' alleged discriminatory practices against ethnic and religious minorities. As a part of the U.S. Human Rights Network, a coalition of nongovernmental organizations, Lena Masri and Afshan Paarlberg, J.D., presented the IU Law-

"The cry of the poor is not always just, but if you don't listen to it, you will never know what justice is."

~ Howard Zinn

Throughout much of my life, my interest was in the sciences. From the young age of 12, I watched my father perform numerous surgeries. I was fascinated. I watched everything, from facelifts to sinus cancer re-

movals. My dream was to travel throughout developing countries and treat the disadvantaged that did not have access to basic medical services. I studied pre-medicine at the University of Michigan and interned at the William Beaumont Hospital in Troy, Michigan.

And then, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 took place. I was sitting in my Genetics class, calculating probabilities for various phenotypes, when American Airlines Flight 11 hit the North Tower. I rushed home after class with a few friends of mine to watch the news. Suspicions that the attack was committed by Muslim terrorists had already surfaced. We were frightened. What was going to happen? What does this mean for American Muslims? What would happen to us? We watched, stunned, as United Airlines Flight 175 hit the South Tower. Our cell phones rang. Our parents were concerned. They begged us not to leave our apartments. They were afraid we would be rounded up and thrown into concentration camps as the Japanese had been after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"We watched, stunned, as United Airlines Flight 175 hit the South Tower. Our cell phones rang. Our parents were concerned. They begged us not to leave our apartments. They were afraid we would be rounded up and thrown into concentration camps as the Japanese had been after the bombing of Pearl Harbor."

Fortunately, we were not thrown into concentration camps. However, in the days following September 11, thousands of Arabs and Muslims were detained and imprisoned without being charged with a crime. Thousands of families were broken apart as a result of deportations. Mosques and Muslim charity organizations were raided. Homes were put under surveillance. Countless laws were passed in the name of national security that stripped basic civil rights from Arab and Muslim Americans. Racism against Arabs and Muslims intensified. Hate crimes increased across the country. As a Muslim and an Arab, I no longer felt safe in my own country.

I knew during these trying times that I could no longer go into medicine. Not with our civil rights at stake.

When the "war on terror" was declared, I was devastated. It meant the deaths of more civilians in already war-torn countries. Before September 11, both Iraq and Afghanistan were battered and impoverished. A near-total financial and trade embargo had been imposed by the United Nations against Iraq on August 6, 1990, that resulted in the deaths of over one million people, most of which were children. Afghanistan had been in a constant state of war for decades.

As soon as I graduated from the University of Michigan, I began to work as a paralegal with a renowned human rights attorney, Shereef Akeel. At the time, Mr. Akeel was preparing to file suit against Titan Corp. and CACI International on behalf of Iraqi civilians detained and tortured in a number of prisons throughout Iraq, including the infamous Abu Ghraib prison. I compiled thousands of interviews of prisoners – men, women, and children alike – that alleged torture.

Over the summer of 2006, the summer before I started law school, I attended a conference in Washington, D.C. hosted by a human rights organization. At the conference, footage was shown of interviews with victims of torture. In one instance, a victim's body was deformed, as though it had permanently taken the shape of a small cube. The victim

Continued on next page

explained that he had been imprisoned in a 4' x 4' cage for twenty years. I never forgot that image. Later that evening, a staff attorney from the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), Almudena Bernebeu, spoke about her plans to file suit against former government officials of a certain country in the Middle East for human rights violations committed against its people. (I have not named the country for security reasons). I immediately introduced myself to Ms. Bernebeu, and invited her stay at my home in Michigan in order to arrange meetings with members of the community.

This past summer, I was blessed with the opportunity to represent the Program in International Human Rights Law as a legal intern. I contacted Ms. Bernebeu and she offered me a position to work under her supervision at CJA. CJA, a human rights organization based in San Francisco, California, is the only non-government organization in the United States that focuses on holding government officials accountable for human rights violations. Much of CJA's work has focused on countries throughout Latin America, including a few notable cases in other countries, such as Bosnia, China, Somalia, and East Timor. CJA brings criminal cases in Spain based on the principles of universal jurisdiction. CJA also brings civil suits in the United States under the Alien Tort Statute and the Torture Victim Protection Act against human rights violators living in the United States.

At the time that I started working, Almudena had put the case on hold due to lack of resources. I jumpstarted the case as soon as I arrived. I consulted various sources, including reports written by human rights organizations, news articles, books and journals. I spoke with several news reporters and human rights activists. Unfortunately, there were no non-government organizations I could contact on the ground; although even if there had been, contacting them would prove moot because the

people residing within the country are genuinely afraid of speaking out against their government. Fortunately, I was successful in getting in touch with victims of human rights violations who were anxious to see their government finally held accountable for atrocities it committed against its people for the last three decades.

I faced several challenges over the course of the internship. The first and perhaps the most significant challenge was developing a sense of trust with a potential client strong enough to overcome that client's fears of speaking out against his or her government. Also challenging was deciding which potential clients to retain. It takes a victim an immense amount of courage to share his or her story. How do you then tell a victim his or her story is not strong enough to bring suit?

Finally, after years of preparation, it is critical to ensure a case is strong enough to file and not likely to create bad precedent. Criminal cases brought under universal jurisdiction principles as well as civil cases brought under the Alien Tort Statute and the Torture Victim Protection Act are fairly recent and little case law has developed in these areas. For these reasons, human rights attorneys need to be careful not to restrict opportunities to file cases in the future.

At the end of the summer, the director of CJA invited me out to lunch and offered me a position as a staff attorney once I am admitted to the bar. My experiences at CJA this summer were very rewarding, and I am encouraged more than ever to continue on the path that I have chosen for myself.

Encourages students to explore the world

VP O'Meara Confers with Prof. Edwards and Human Rights Interns



Indiana University Vice President for International Affairs Patrick O'Meara conferred last April 21 with Professor George Edwards and interns of the Program in International Human Rights Law to get their perspective and insights about their overseas internship experiences. O'Meara, who oversees the international programs of eight IU campuses, expressed support for the Overseas Summer International Human Rights Law Internship Scholarship Program as a great opportunity for students to learn about different cultures. Lynn Alan Schoch, director of Communication and Information Resources, also interviewed Prof. Edwards and the interns.

(Photos: Perfecto Caparas)

In the Lion's Den

Jhon Sanchez Wields Pen to Fight “Terrorists” of Press Freedom

By Jhon Sanchez, LL.M. Human Rights (Hons), J.D.

The violation and protection of human rights in theory are different from practice. I have studied International Human Rights Law for almost four years now but it is my direct encounter with actual human rights violations that has been the most prolific learning experience so far.

In Summer 2007, as part of my International Human Rights Law Internship, I traveled to Lusaka, Zambia to work with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA). Then I went to present an alternative report on Zambia's violations of the right to freedom of speech and expression to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva.

Students of law, scholars and practitioners read and research cases. We analyze, compare and interview clients. Only in rare occasions do we find ourselves in the fire line.

Once I arrived in Zambia, I started researching on freedom of speech issues. I did not have to go so far to find a violation of the right to freedom of speech. One of my co-workers was arrested while she was still studying journalism at the university. She was incarcerated because of the publication of a news article that claimed that the then President of Zambia had a brain disease. She languished in prison for forty days because the trial judge denied her the right to be freed on bail. Thanks, on appeal, she was finally released.

I went for tea with Roy Clarke, a British citizen married to a Zambian woman. Clarke is considered a celebrity for his satirical columns published in one of the non-governmental newspapers in Zambia. In one of his articles, Clarke portrayed the Zambian President as an elephant. After this publication, the Minister of Interior ordered Clarke's immediate deportation under the argument that Clarke threatened national security. Clarke had to hide from the police as his lawyer petitioned the court to quash the order. The case is being decided at the Supreme



From Zambia to United Nations Office in Geneva. Jhon Sanchez (encircled) shows to an independent expert of the UN Human Rights Committee pieces of evidence of the Zambian government's suppression of press freedom during a private luncheon meeting in July 2007.

Court. Even though cases like Clarke's are very famous and important, nobody can access them through Internet. I could have never seen human suffering, the compelling details of the cases, the people's faces if I had not been there. It was to be at the line of fire.

At the United Nations, I had the opportunity to give a presentation during the luncheon we had with the Human Rights Committee experts. I had to answer questions from the experts and discussed the major problems presented by the government of Zambia. Clearly, the government tried to mislead the experts in the Clarke case. The government argued that this was a case of right to due process and access to higher courts. Since Clarke has a pending appeal, this reflects the Government of Zambia's commitment to respect due process.

However, this was not the case. Clarke had to hide until the court

barred the government from proceeding with his deportation. Besides, the case was not a due process issue. The case was a freedom of speech issue. I also showed the experts the book where Clarke's column is published. They viewed the book and read Clarke's column. As they skimmed through Clarke's column, I exclaimed, "This is the threat to national security."

This article talks about personal contact as an experience. Talks about the people I met. Thanks to my trip to Zambia. The interaction I had with the human rights experts. But this article is incomplete because it

does not talk about the teamwork. The research and the presentation resulted from a team effort. Legal experience is also a process to learn team work. Learn how to allow others to participate. Learn how to listen to other's opinion. Learn how to respect a team's decision. And legal experience is always a process of learning with others.

Once I arrived in Zambia, I started researching on freedom of speech issues. I did not have to go far to find a violation of the right to freedom of speech. One of my co-workers was arrested while she was still studying journalism at the university. She was incarcerated because of the publication of a news article that claimed that the then President of Zambia had a brain disease. She languished in prison for forty days because the trial judge denied her the right to be freed on bail.

When I mention my work in the arena of international human rights, whether it be in the context of fighting for displaced Tibetan rights, rights for persons of other sexual preferences in Chile, or the rights of individuals to communicate freely in Zambia, I know most of my friends consider my expenditure of time as being consistent with my other activity – animal welfare, environmental causes, and freedom of expression here in the United States. But I am afraid that what they see, and what they think of when we talk about these things is simply the results of my participation - and in those results they infer much about how things get done. The fact of the matter is, though, that things do not get done by will-power alone. Things do not get done because of your intent. Things get done because of action – sheer outrage (or even mild disgust) is not enough to change things – as one of my favorite sayings says – “acta non verba”.

What people on the outside of advocacy groups fail to realize when they look at the group is that these groups are, when it comes down to it, businesses. They are businesses with an agenda, just as are all businesses. It just so happens that their agenda may be protecting the rights of the indigent, supplying resources indigent people require to survive, or fighting for those who have no voice (sometimes literally, as in the case of animals) – but none-the-less they are businesses all the same. Just as any successful business needs to follow a business plan, so does and advocacy group, such as the Program for International Human Rights. Specifically, I was recently able to apply this philosophy towards the shadow report a group of us Program participants presented to the United Nations in March 2007, on behalf of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered population of Chile.

Nitty-Gritty

Periodically, each member of the United Nations is to make a formal presentation before the United Nations’ Human Rights Committee to address perceived human rights violations within their country. These violations come to light in several ways. First, the country themselves can raise issues. This typically occurs when the issues have already been addressed and the country’s delegation feels as if it can pat itself on the back – they recognized the issue and they addressed it without having been told. Second, the issue might have been raised in a previous report made by the Human Rights Committee whenever the country’s last periodic report was made – four, five, six years ago. This is basically a “progress report” on the things they promised to do. Third, issues can be presented to the reporting delegation by the members of the Human Rights Committee. After the delegation has made their presentation to the committee, addressing the issues they want to bring up, the Committee members are allowed to pose questions to the delegation, and this is where the shadow report becomes crucial. The

shadow report is, in effect, a legal brief for the Committee that presents facts and

points of law that the country itself would not normally bring up (and the Committee members may not know about). The report is created by a non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and is presented to the Committee members in order to either enhance their knowledge

Human Rights as a Business

By David Rothenberg, J.D.

over important issues that might otherwise have slipped through the cracks or to balance the government’s official report on a particular subject (thus the term “shadow” – shadowing the government’s report). Some of the more well-known NGOs in the United States are Greenpeace, Amnesty International, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The ultimate goal of an NGO is, of course, to evoke change, whether social, environmental, economic, *etc.* But the short term goal of a shadow report is for the Committee members, the experts, to raise the issues, question the delegation over the issues, and note these issues as concerns in their final comments, thus requiring the country to recognize these concerns and address them in the future. This, then, has to be the goal of the NGO when creating the report. When taken in this context – the idea of a goal of an NGO is not different than the idea behind a business achieving its goals as well. To help stop genocide or to sell the perfect pizza – people assign different priorities to these things but neither can be achieved unless they are both approached with a plan and the processes that are entailed in that plan need to be followed rigorously.



Trailblazers. David Rothenberg (right) is about to enter the UN New York Headquarters with then J.D. candidates Edye Taylor, Monica Magnusson and Jhon Sanchez to present the students’ UN shadow report on Chile’s violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in March 2007.

(Photo: Perfecto Caparas)

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Human rights as a business, from previous page

Business savvy

Most of the members participating in the creation and presentation of our Chilean shadow report had a dual responsibility – that of research and production. Everyone was assigned a topic (or shared a topic) and it was their responsibility to prepare their section of the Report. The sections included Employment, Education, Health Care, Marital/Parentage Rights, and Hate Crimes and all dealt with these issues as they related to discrimination based on alternative sexual preferences. In addition, there were a few assignments that fell into the non-research realm; these included production of reliable footnotes, coordination of United Nations resources, and documentation of our process. The last major responsibility was termed “manager” and this was the role I was given, the role I actually chose. Manager is simply as it sounds – the person who coordinates everything – like the oil in the machine. I chose this task because of my background, as law is my second career after having spent almost 30 years in small business. My approach to this project was the same as my approach to business – keep your goal in mind, set up a system that would result in the logical accomplishment of this goal, and do not be distracted by the subject matter, outside interference, and always have a contingency plan.

Our goal was to create a shadow report. The shadow report, as mentioned, is a legal brief and legal brief has a structure – present the law, present the facts, and make a recommendation. When doing research into the abuses in Chile, we were all taken aback by the extent of some of the violations uncovered. Not only international civil rights violations (such as unjust parental restrictions), but physical violations as well – people being physically assaulted or denied life saving treatment because of their differences. And yes, it does make you mad. And yes, there are times that you want to scream out loud or use whatever voice you have to yell “It’s not fair”. And yes, you do wish that you could just talk about how prejudice is stomping out basic rights and how anyone who thinks this is “fair” has to be out of their minds. But if you are to achieve your goal, the specific goal of producing a convincing Shadow Report, you can do none of these things, for a legal brief is not a forum for editorials. Again, there is the law, there are the facts, and there is a recommendation. If the facts you present are so opposite to the law you fairly present, your recommendations are almost needless in that it should be so obvious by the end of the report as to what actions need to be taken that the recommendations are just an affirmation of what the Committee member has already concluded. Thus the first step in “managing” this task was to try and keep everyone on the same page when it came to our goal and the methods required to attain that goal. In the end there was a bit of editing, but for the most part our near-constant follow-up created a piece of work that was indeed a legal



Author David Rothenberg (left) discusses with Jhon Sanchez, J.D., the IU Law students’ presentation of their United Nations’ shadow report on Chile’s alleged violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on their way to the UN New York Headquarters in March 2007.

(Photo: Perfecto Caparas)

“When doing research into the abuses in Chile, we were all taken aback by the extent of some of the violations uncovered.”

brief and refrained from “preaching”.

Wit and passion

The system that was set up in order to accomplish this goal was due, admittedly, to the persistence of one of my fellow NGOers. I do not want to give the wrong impression – you DO need passion to be able to produce a quality piece of work – but sometimes it needs to be tempered by structure and focus. When I look back on the projects I mentioned above, they all do have that common thread – the passion for the cause. But that driving force without the distillation of a systematic, goal-oriented approach typically results in an out-of-control environment where allegations fly and your product is a compelling one – albeit not a factually substantiated one and rather useless as a legal brief and a shadow report. As in all organizations you have the “idea” people and

you have the people who take those ideas and fit them into the practical world of the constraints given to each project.

In the case of the Chilean report project, that mixture of ambition and practicality resulted in weekly meetings, beginning in December, 2006. Each meeting had an agenda of which the structure each week was the same. We began with what was termed “personal work” which provided us with a few moments of motivational reading or exercises and prepared us to work as a team over the next hour or hour and one half. Next came the report section updates, in which each member talked about their research and any problems they may have had over the writing of the report. The next agenda item was our “special report” section, which varied as we got closer to the actual reporting

date. Herein was reported our progress in everything from biographies of the Committee members to the details of the trip to New York. Lastly was a recap of any duties assigned during the meeting and any new deadlines we had created. The meeting was typically followed by a report of the minutes. With the exception of two weeks, we met each and every week and followed that agenda. Again, you have a goal and the only way you are going to achieve that goal is through systems. A business of systems.

The execution of the plan, of the system, is of course critical to the achievement of the goal. Each week new problems arose. Initially, of course, there is JUST a plan and what can really go wrong there? It is like explaining to someone how to drive a car when they have never

driven. Reading the book is easy – what can go wrong? But when they turn that key...watch out. I have been lucky enough to work with many different types of groups, including not-for-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, NGOs, and political and non-political organizations. I say “lucky” because the exposure has given me a good overview on the way various people work together - both the highs and the lows. For

Continued on next page



Author David Rothenberg (left, standing) presents to United Nations independent experts belonging to the UN Human Rights Committee the IU Law-Indianapolis students' findings and recommendations on Chile's reported violation of the right to equality and nondiscrimination of persons afflicted with HIV-AIDS.

(Photo: Perfecto Caparas)

some reason, which I cannot pinpoint, our group dynamic in the production of the Chilean report was one of the best I have encountered. It might be that the members of the group were assigned the positions they had a natural talent at and enjoyed their role so much that it made everything go smooth. Or, as one of the members talked to me about, it was that we were concentrating on the process rather than just the objective. I am sure the former had to do with much, but it was the latter that created a successful report.

Coordination and Follow-Up

The plan, the system, was then monitored on a weekly basis through our meetings. Our report was submitted to the United Nations and part one of the goal had been accomplished. With the report produced, however, we moved to the next phase – the oral presentation to the United Nations. This was, in itself, a project, of which the details I will not delve too deeply. But, it does illustrate my third point – the need to strip away distractions and concentrate on your goal. As can be guessed, a trip to make a presentation to the United Nations in New York City for four students and one Program member takes a lot of preparation and coordination. Our group stayed at three different sites and had to overcome lost luggage (I wonder if we can make a presentation in jeans and t-shirts?), transportation mix-ups (I wonder if the E runs north and south or east and west after 11 pm?), and in general finding our way around a city that most of us were not acquainted with (I think we are supposed to be standing at this door at eight o'clock). So just the logistical issues presented a challenge that had to be planned for taking a business approach. But of course there were contingencies we had to follow as well, which can be best demonstrated by the supplemental report the committee requested of us.

Baptism of Fire

The day before the Chilean delegation made their presentation, the Program hosted a lunch to which members of the Committee were invited and at which our group made an oral presentation, as well as

fielded questions. This “lunch” was not a sit-around-the-table-and-small-talk event. This lunch was our opportunity to stand up in front of the experts, Shadow Report in hand, and highlight the facts and law we thought relevant. The purpose was to try and assist the understanding of the members from the circumstances we highlighted.

After one hour, our presentation went off very well, but we were left with some additional questions and recommendations of things the members would like to see. Well of course with the delegation presentation the next day: that gave us less than 24 hours to gather facts, laws, citations, and VERIFIED anecdotes for the committee in a marketable format. In effect, a “mini-Shadow Report”. After a few swigs of Pepsi and half of a brownie, we set to work.

Naturally we all assumed that there was going to be work involved once we got to the U.N., but I do not think any of us envisioned the scope to be of the level they were asking for. We spent the next none or ten hours in the U.N. cafeteria churning out ideas. As a group, on the fly, we did pretty well. Of course opinions are going to differ (“10 pages? We don’t even have one page!”) and since the material was, for the most part, in Spanish, there was some limitation on what we could all do, but we pulled it together and by midnight that night we had our

“Compassion and drive are crucial, but are no substitute for organization and it is only through organization and focus that Chilean, Zambian, all human rights, can be successfully advocated.”

source material ready to put into readable, marketable format. That night we spent time formatting pictures, getting font in the correct order, etc.

Eight a.m. saw three of us hitting the Kinko’s somewhere in the city (I would like to plug that Kinko’s for being very helpful and patient with us in producing a four-color, bound document, but my mind was a blur and I do not think that I could again find that location if my life depended on it) and after three hours of again typing, printing, and collating, we were ready to go. 11:30 a.m., 30 minutes before the Chilean delegation made their presentation, the supplemental report was on the

desk of each and every member. Now I have skipped much of the process here for brevity sake, but it remained the same – we kept our goal in mind, we created a system, and we allowed few distractions that were relevant to the goal distract us. We simply applied the process we had used for the entire Report and condensed it. Ok, well there was a little more anxiety

involved – but that was to be expected.

In the end, we were successful as to the goal behind the Shadow Report – questions were raised based on our report and the Committee did include some of our observations in the final comments. The key, now, is to see what effect they have on the people.

I believe that any undertaking of consequence much be approached in the same fashion – with a business-like sense of organization. Whether it be an actual for-profit business, a not-for-profit NGO, or your own personal goal. Compassion and drive are crucial, but are no substitute for organization and it is only through organization and focus that Chilean, Zambian, all human rights, can be successfully advocated.

Overseas Summer International Human Rights Law Internship Scholarship Program 1997-2008



Photo: Perfecto Caparas

Since Professor George Edwards established IU Law's Overseas Summer International Human Rights Law Internship Scholarship Program in 1997, 82 J.D. and LL.M. students have interned in at least 48 foreign countries in all the six continents up to 2008.

What follows are the names of IU Law's international human rights law interns in alphabetical order, the year of their internship, their country of placement and their host organization:

Adewopo, Ayoade ('00) – SAR China (Hong Kong)
Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission

Aka, Philip ('05) – U.S.A. (Chicago, IL)
Cook County Human Rights Commission

Alvarez, Megan ('08) – Panama
Comisión Interdiocesana de Justicia y Paz
(Interdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission)

Ayers, Jacqueline ('02) – Ghana (Accra)
Legal Resources Centre

Benner, Tom ('04) – Northern Ireland (Belfast)
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities
(NICEM)

Bouchard, James III ('00) – Philippines (Manila)
Sentro ng Lingap Panlegal (SALIGAN)

Bozek, Evelina ('04) – Korea (Seoul)
National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Brown, Tim ('01) – St. Lucia (Castries)
The Aldet Centre

Cameron, Karla ('99) – Puerto Rico (San Juan)
Attorney General of Puerto Rico

Caparas, Perfecto ('05) – U.S.A. (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
International Women's Rights Action Watch-USA;
'05) U.S.A. (New York, New York)
International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific

Cogley, Christin ('06) – Ghana (Accra)
Legal Resources Centre

Collins, Jeff ('07) – Thailand (Chiang Mai)
Bridges Across Borders;
'07) Korea (Seoul)
National Human Rights Commission of Korea

1997

Cotera, Mellisa ('07) – U.S.A. (Washington, D.C.)
Department of Sustainable Development
Organización de los Estados Americanos



Cross, Michael ('04) – England (London)
Centre for Study of Capital Punishment
Westminster University; ('04) Jamaica (Kingston)
Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights

Daiga, Arnis ('01) – Latvia (Riga) *Latvian Center for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies;*
'01) Estonia (Tallinn)
Mental Disability Advocacy Center

1998



Daudi, Adil ('03) – Northern Ireland (Belfast)
Northern Ireland Council on Ethnic Minorities
(NICEM)

DeFord, Jody ('98) – Australia (Sydney)
Australia Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission

1999

Delemore, Kenya-Taray ('99) – Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) *Research Centre for Civic Human Rights and Civic Education;*
'99) Ghana (Accra)
African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters



Deprét, Catherine ('01) – Rwanda (Kigali)
Attorney General of Rwanda

International Human Rights Law Interns

Dhumale, Varsha ('03) India (Bombay) *Political Rights, Human Rights and Criminal Procedure*;
('03) India (Poona) *Society of the Friends of Sassoon Hospital*

Dillinger, Sarah ('01) – Nepal (Katmandu) *International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development (INHURED)*

Elangwe, Wele ('08) – U.S.A. (Louisiana)
(Catholic Charities Arch Diocese of New Orleans)
('08) — U.S.A. (D.C.) *Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services*

Fryman, Mark ('01) – Belize (Belize City)
Society for the Promotion of Education and Research

Glon, Justin ('03) South Africa (Pretoria)
Centre for the Study of AIDS; ('03) – England (London)
Terrence Higgins Trust

Goodroad, Scott ('99)
– Australia (Melbourne)
East Timor Human Rights Centre

Green, Kevin ('98)
– SAR China (Hong Kong)
Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor

Gross, Jason ('99)
— Zimbabwe (Harare)
Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, (GALZ), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)

Guha, Toma ('97) – India (New Delhi)
South Asian Human Rights and Documentation Centre

Harmon, Carrie ('02) – Northern Ireland (Belfast)
Northern Ireland Council on Ethnic Minorities (NICEM)

Hendrix, Katherine ('00) – Czech Republic (Prague) *Helsinki Group Refugee Counseling Centre*;
('02) Switzerland (Geneva) *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*;
('02) Kosovo (Pristina) *Office of the Prime Minister – Good Governance and Human Rights*

Hurlbut, Tim ('01) – Hungary (Budapest)
European Roma Rights Center (EERC)



2000 Irsane, Samira ('98) – U.S.A.
(New York, New York)
United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women

Jackson, Michele ('99) – Canada (Ottawa) *Human Rights Internet*

Kham, Lun ('07) – U.S.A. (Washington, D.C.)
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIRC)

Mission

The Program in International Human Rights Law (PIHRL) was established in 1997 to:

- further the teaching and study of international human rights law at Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis
- promote scholarship in International Human Rights law
- assist Human Rights governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations on International Human Rights law projects
- facilitate student placement as law interns at domestic and overseas Human Rights organizations

Knight, Teresa ('02) – Kosovo (Pristina)
Office of the Prime Minister- Good Governance and Human Rights

Kokanovic, Ksenija ('04) – U.S.A. (Washington, D.C.)
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIRC)

Koop, Lisa ('03) – U.S.A. (Washington, D.C.)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
('03) Peru (Lima) *Asociacion Por Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)*

2001



Kubal, Matthew ('07) – England (London)
Centre for Study of Capital Punishment Westminster University;
('07) Jamaica (Kingston)
Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights



2002

2003



Lawal, Ayoyemi ('03) – England (London)
Centre for Capital Punishment Studies Westminster University;
(‘03) U.S.A. (Kansas City, Missouri) *Public Interest Litigation Clinic*

Lloyd, Greg ('00) – Costa Rica (San Jose) *Casa Alianza;*
(‘00) Honduras (Tegucigalpa) *Casa Alianza*

Maman, Cheryl ('01) – Ghana (Accra) *Legal Resources Centre*

Maness, Julia ('03) – Mexico (Chiapas)
Centro de Derechos Humanos, Fray Bartolomé de las Casas

Masri, Lena ('08) U.S.A. (San Francisco, California)
Center for Justice and Accountability

Masbaum, Robert ('02) – Belize (Belize City)
Society for the Promotion of Education and Research;
(‘02) Costa Rica (San Jose) *Casa Alianza*

Mbugua, Rachel ('05) – Kenya (Nairobi)
The Federation of Women Lawyers Kenya (FIDA Kenya);
(‘05) Tanzania (Arusha) *United Nations*
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Mojaddidi, Malak F. ('04) – Ghana (Accra)
Women’s Initiative for Self Empowerment

Monkhouse, Sean ('04) (Netherlands (The Hague)
Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation;
(‘04) Uganda (Kampala)
The Legal Aid Project of the Law Society of Uganda;
(‘05) Netherlands (The Hague) *United Nations*
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

Moore, Damon ('01) – Nigeria (Port Harcourt)
Niger Delta Human and Environmental Rescue Organization
(*ND-HERO*)

Motiee, Hadi ('06) – India (New Delhi)
South Asian Human Rights and Documentation Centre

Mudd, Julia ('05) – Netherlands (The Hague) *United Nations*
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

Munoz, Kevin ('06) – Costa Rica (San Jose)
Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (PANI)

Niber, Augustine ('07) – U.S.A. (Eugene, Oregon)
Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)

Nkafu, Philemon ('07) – U.S.A. (El Paso, Texas)
Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Inc. (DMRS)

Obando, Tatiana ('06) – Ghana (Accra)
Legal Resources Centre

Oliver, Aver ('03) – Trinidad and Tobago (Port of Spain)
Attorney General of Trinidad

Park, Hyo Joon ('00) – Ireland (Dublin)
Irish Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Amnesty International

2004



2005



2006



2007

Park, Joseph Jin Hong ('04) – Japan (Osaka) *Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center*;
('04) U.S.A. (Honolulu, Hawaii) *Hawaii Civil Rights Commission*

Patel, Kirti ('99) – Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) *Tenaganita*

Pyclik, Jennifer ('02) – Czech Republic (Prague) *Helsinki Group Refugee Counseling Centre*;
('02) Czech Republic (Prague) *Czech Government Human Rights Council*;
('03) Ghana (Accra) *Legal Resources Centre*

Queen, Edward II ('00) – Israel (East Jerusalem) *Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group*;
('00) Israel (East Jerusalem) *Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group*;
('00) Macedonia (Skopje) *Helsinki Committee*

Reed, Heidi ('07) – Cambodia (Phnom Penh) *Bridges Across Borders*;
('07) Thailand (Chiang Mai) *Bridges Across Borders*;
('08) Ghana (Accra) *Legal Resources Centre*;
('08) USA (Columbus, Indiana) *Legal Aid—District 11, Inc.*

Rivero, Jose ('00) – Argentina (Buenos Aires) *Movimiento Ecueménicos por los Derechos Humanos*

Robertson, Joshua ('99) – Nepal (Katmandu) *International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development*;
('00) Switzerland (Geneva) *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Salcedo, Adriana ('01) – Costa Rica (San Jose) *Casa Alianza*; ('01) Mexico (Mexico City) *Casa Alianza*

Sanchez, Jhon ('07) – Belize (Belize City) *Julian Cho Society*; ('07) Zambia (Lusaka) *The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)*;
('05) U.S.A. (El Paso, Texas) *Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center*

Sarabia, Jenny ('00) – Costa Rica (San Jose) *Casa Alianza*; ('01) St. Lucia (Castries) *The Aldet Centre*; ('00) Nicaragua (Managua) *Casa Alianza*;
('01) Mexico (Mexico City) *Casa Alianza*

Shah, Seema ('04) – Ghana (Accra) *Legal Resources Centre*

Si, Pengcheng (Simon) ('03) – U.S.A. (Washington, D.C.) *Laogi Foundation*

Sijaric, Amela ('01) – Nigeria (Port Harcourt) *Niger Delta Human and Environmental Rescue Organization (ND-HERO)*

Sims, Janis ('01) – Ghana (Accra) *Legal Resources Centre*

Steward, Nicole ('04) – Ghana (Accra) *Legal Resources Centre*

Springston, Robert ('00) – Northern Ireland (Belfast) *Northern Ireland Council on Ethnic Minorities (NICEM)*

Su, Chenping ('06) – U.S.A. (Buffalo, New York) *New York State Executive Department*

Sungi, Simeon ('06) – U.S.A. (New York, New York) *United Nations Secretariat*

Taku, Nelson ('08) U.S.A. (El Paso, Texas) *Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services*
(Fall '08) U.S.A. (New York, New York) *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Taylor, Edye ('07) – Belgium (Brussels)
European Federation of Journalists;
(‘07) Zambia (Lusaka)
The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)

Tedla, Aklilu ('98) – South Africa (Cape Town)
Health and Human Rights Project;
(‘97) Switzerland (Geneva) *United Nations Centre for Human Rights*

Tskhakaya, Shalva ('08) — U.S.A. (New York, New York)
United Nations Office of Legal Affairs

VanHoenacker, Celine ('99) – Tanzania (Arusha)
United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Wailles, Eva ('05) – Czech Republic (Prague)
Czech Helsinki Group Refugee Counseling Centre

Woodhouse, Richard ('99) – Belarus (Gomel)
Gomel Polytechnic Institute Professor Irina Kuchvalskaya;
(‘99) Russia (Moscow)
Moscow Helsinki Group; OSI; Civic Assistance;
(‘99) Lithuania (Vilnius)
United States Information Service (USIS); Jewish State Museum



2008

Xiao, Ying ('04) – U.S.A.
(Washington, D.C.)
International Center for Civil Society Law;
(‘04) U.S.A. (Washington, D.C.)
Congressional Executive Commission on China

Dean Roberts Meets 2008 Interns



Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis Dean Gary Roberts greets interns of the 2008 Overseas Summer International Human Rights Law Internship Scholarship Program and graduating students of the Master of Laws Program in May 2008. Photos also show Professor George Edwards introducing the interns to Dean Roberts. Professor Edwards also discussed with Dean Roberts the countries of destination and host organizations of the interns, including those interning with various United States-based human rights groups.

(Photos: Perfecto Caparas)

To Empower Children to Protect and Promote Children's Human Rights

Human Rights Works and PIHRL Launch Human Rights Education Program

By Perfecto Caparas

(from p. 1)

Dubbed the **Pro Bono International Human Rights Law Education Program**, this latest addition to the Law School's pro bono program aims to develop "law students to become international human rights lawyers, scholars, and defenders." The program allows students to serve as Law Mentors to Indianapolis children, including those imprisoned. The students will get pro bono credits for their work to be supervised by HRW.

HRW and PIHRL representatives signed a nine-page Memorandum of Agreement, incorporating HRW's **Education Pilot Program**, to implement the program next Spring Semester.

HRW officials led by Marina Hadjiannou Waters, Executive Director, Kevin Munoz, Human Rights Education Program Director, Angela Joseph, Local Action Program Director, and Robert Masbaum, Board member, signed the MOA. They also signed and issued a three-page Declaration to mark the 19th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 49th anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child that coincided with the launch on Nov. 20, 2008.

"Our aims are twofold: first, to ensure the respect for, protection, and fulfillment of children's human rights, according to international human rights norms, standards, and principles; and, second, to empower children to become protectors and defenders of children's human rights," signers of the Declaration remarked.

Professor Edwards, Program Director, and Perfecto "Boyet" Caparas, Program Manager, signed the MOA on behalf of PIHRL. Michelle Davis, Faculty Assistant, also signed as a witness during the event held at the Human Rights Center.

The parties agreed to examine, frame, and discuss children's issues using the human rights-based approach.

In her launch speech, Waters said: "Human Rights Works welcomes the opportunity to join forces with the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis Program in International Human Rights Law to create a bridge between local human rights experts and at-risk children in our community."

Prof. Edwards observed that most of the people involved in the program were former IU Law students or interns of the Overseas Summer International Human Rights Law Internship Scholarship Program that he had founded in 1997. Fielding questions from David Joseph Grobauskas, a *Sagamore* reporter, Prof. Edwards said that these former students and interns were "wearing different hats" now.

He referred to Joseph, Masbaum, and Munoz, who were his former J.D. students.

Masbaum also served as an intern of the *Society for the Promotion of Education and Research* in Belize City, Belize, and of *Casa Alianza* in San Jose, Costa Rica in 2002. Munoz worked with the *Patronato Nacional de la Infancia* in San Jose, Costa Rica in 2006.

In 2005, Caparas interned with the *International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP)-USA* based in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He also worked with the *IWRAP-Asia Pacific* and UN shadow reporters from various countries who lobbied the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at the UN New York Headquarters.

Munoz noted that the program was introduced at a time when "some would advocate for the U.S. to continue education as usual, where the product of our systems have produced a national culture of international ignorance, sub-standard education, rising crime and widening inequality." Munoz and other Declaration signers vowed "to adopt and practice pedagogical methods that integrate the racial, gender, and child-rights perspectives."

In implementing the program with the help of IU Law students, HRW will be targeting three to five Indianapolis schools, serving underprivileged students, ranging from grades 4-12. These include: Garden City Elementary School; Wayne Enrichment Center Alternative School; and Ben Davis University in the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township. HRW will also be eyeing the Juvenile Learning Center and the Shortridge Middle School, the Law Magnet School of Indianapolis Public Schools.

"Ultimately, the Pro-Bono International Human Rights Education Program will work towards eliminating all forms of racism and promoting social equality and justice in Indianapolis," explained Waters, who served as program coordinator and staff attorney at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law's Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program.

"Children will benefit from exposure to universal principles of human rights through empowering hands-on activities and exposure to the stories of other children across the globe," Waters added.

"Our programmatic and pedagogical approaches and methodologies shall, therefore, be rooted in the fundamental principles of the **CRC** that uphold children's inviolable right to survival, development, participation, and protection," Waters and other Declaration signers stated.

The Declaration signers also committed "to promote a child-centered, child-friendly, and child-oriented human rights education."

"It is an education that seeks to empower our children to respect, protect, and fulfill their own universal, interdependent, inalienable, and indivisible economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights," they explained.

The signers added: "We aim to empower children to become promoters and defenders of children's human rights in their daily lives."

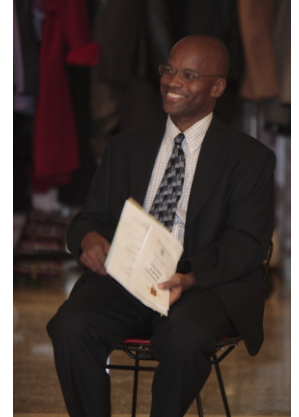
Aside from the CRC, the program also aims to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and other human rights treaties.



From left: Angela Joseph, Kevin Munoz, Marina Waters and Prof. George Edwards discuss the Pro Bono International Human Rights Law Education Program during the signing of the memorandum of agreement last November 20.

(Photo: Perfecto Caparas)

International Human Rights Day—IU Law Indianapolis 2008



Professor George Edwards (top right) delivered the keynote speech during the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights organized by Human Rights Works.

Working with Migrants and Asylum-Seekers

By Wele Elangwe, LL.M. Human Rights (Hons)

As a new Master of Laws student at the Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis for the Spring 2008 semester, I was very happy to have been selected as a summer intern under the Program in International Human Rights Law. Usually the application deadline is November but considering that I came in only in January, I was permitted to apply despite missing the deadline. After submitting the necessary documents and going through an interview, I was accepted to participate in the summer internship program.

However, I had a problem. Most of the other students accepted into the internship program were able to find internship placements but I was unable to get one. I sent out over fifty applications and had more than fifteen phone conversations with prospective host organizations all to no avail. It was a very long wait before I finally got a placement. In fact, all the other interns were well into their third week of internship before I was able to land myself not only a placement but two placements. I was too excited for words. I knew that I would not be able to change the world during a two and a half-month internship, but I genuinely believed that I was on my way down the road to making a difference.

Migrants World

I was offered the opportunity to work for Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Washington D.C. and Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services, New Orleans. I was very glad and looking forward to working with these organizations because immigration law was an area of prime interest to me especially with regards to refugee rights.

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Washington D.C. is a nongovernmental organization that provides direct immigration legal assistance to foreign born individuals, including: naturalization (citizenship), asylum, employment and family-based permanent residency, relief from removal, self-petitions, etc., primarily for clients residing in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia.

I was actually going to work for a new attorney, Ms. Heidi Boas, who was working with Catholic Charities on a special fellowship program, the Equal Justice Works Fellowship. Ms. Boas was running a project that focused on providing immigration legal services to the African community in the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area especially those who

were French-speaking. She had recently taken on a client who was filing a Violence against Women Act (VAWA) self-petition. The VAWA application is an application that supports an adjustment of status of a domestic violence victim independent of the sponsoring spouse.

Coming from Cameroon, a bilingual country in English and French which is predominantly French-speaking, I am very comfortable with French. As a result, I wasn't intimidated by the thought of working with French-speaking clients. Ms. Boas asked me to focus my work on helping with those two cases particularly and any other eventual cases as well as assisting her during consultations. In addition, Ms. Boas

needed my support in conducting research on cultural understanding of domestic violence in African countries. The American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Domestic Violence had asked her to write a paper on the topic, so she was hoping I could provide her with firsthand information and would also be able to research and come up with valuable information for her paper.

I began my internship on Monday June 16 and as I was getting ready for work, I realized that it was World Refugee day. How apt! I was off to my first day of work, working for refugees/immigrants on World Refugee day! This was a very positive sign for me and it only increased my expectations and my drive.

I arrived at the office and the office manager, Ms. Eskedar Kabede took me to the immigration and legal services department. She was very nice and friendly and I felt instantly at home. She introduced me to a couple of staff members who had arrived

early. Usually work starts at 9 am so the office was still very vacant. She gave me a tour round the office and a brief orientation on how the office functions. About 30 minutes later, my supervisor, Ms. Boas arrived. She took me to her office and gave me a general rundown on how we would be working, what she expected from me and the projects she was working on.

My schedule was going to be Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at the D.C. office and Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Silver Spring Office. Since this office is not so far from Gaithersburg, where I live, my hostess decided to give me a ride. On our way however, we had a flat tire and I was going to be late!! My first day!!! I was devastated. I called Ms. Boas to inform her I was going to be a few minutes late. I arrived about 10 minutes late and walked in to find a very empty office. Ms. Boas informed me there was an office retreat so everyone had the day



Author Wele Elangwe, LL.M. Human Rights, takes us through her journey into the world of imprisoned immigrants and women survivors of domestic violence. Wele works as a member of the IU Law UN shadow reporting team working on Chad.

(Photo: Perfecto Caparas)

Continued on next page

Working with immigrants...from previous page

off to go to the retreat. We had the office to ourselves alongside a few others who had not gone for the retreat.

Immigrants' Legal Battles

I put my French language skills to good use especially in interviewing clients and thus taking on an important role in preparing cases. Initially, my French sort of failed me and I realized I was almost losing touch of the language after having not spoken French for about 6 months. However, after babbling the first week, by the second week, I was back to my comfort zone.

On Friday of my first week, June 20, I was in for a big shock. Ms. Boas was going to be away for the whole of the following week, so I was going to be my own boss for a whole week, only after one week of being in the office. Not that I am uncomfortable with being my own boss but I thought I needed a little more time before being handed such a huge responsibility.

To celebrate the World Refugee Day, Catholic Charities Refugee Centre sent the Immigration Legal Services an invitation to celebrate with them on the same Friday. I was asked to go to the celebration with another intern, Sherrah Wong, a 2nd Year Law student from American University. We were given some brochures to distribute to the refugees and to inform them about the services we offered.

We had to take the metro to go to the Refugee Centre since it was far from our office. We got there and a table had been set up for us to display our brochures and other materials we had. There was food and drink and we were invited to partake in the festivities. We were called upon to talk to the refugees about our services at Catholic Charities. Sherrah spoke in English and I translated in French. It turned out that more of the Refugees were French-speaking than English-speaking so they were very happy there was someone who spoke French and afterwards many of them came up to me for more inquiries.

I tried something new in my third week. I sat in for consultations with another attorney in the office and not Ms. Boas. I was excited and nervous at the thought of working with someone new. Ms. Boas's point was, she did not want me to be restricted and limited to a particular group of clients and I agreed with her absolutely.

Ms. Sushil Narayanan, the attorney I was going to be sitting in with, was a lot more experienced in immigration than Ms. Boas. I was thus very intimidated. However, she was very warm and down to earth when I went to her office and we waited for the first client. Only we did not have a client, we had two clients who decided to be attended to together. They were both trying to get a work visas. (H1-B) One wanted to change from a student visa (F-1) and had just 2 weeks left before her Optional Practical Training (OPT) expired. The other had a diplomatic (G-4) visa but was separated from her husband who was the principal. She wanted to know the procedure for obtaining a work visa to permit her to stay on in the US in case her husband decided to divorce her or return to his country of origin. I learnt a lot about work visas and the conditions and requirement to be met for application during this consultation. I also learnt about a special visas which is available for individuals with advanced degrees called the EB-2 visa. If you possess an advanced degree (i.e., generally considered to be a "Masters Degree" or higher), or an equivalent foreign degree, and you have a U.S. employer who is offering you a full time position which requires that type of degree, then you may be able to qualify for U.S. Permanent Residency under the EB-2 category for individuals with "Advanced Degrees".

Battered, Silenced Immigrant Women

The crux of my internship in D.C. was working with immigrant women, victims of domestic violence. In preparing VAWA applications, I got to discover ordeal faced by these women and the many barriers faced in seeking help. Most of the abused immigrant women's only means of support was an abusive husband and they may lack alternative

support networks, such as extended families, in the US. Immigrant women, unlike citizens, often may not legally work and face a constant threat of deportation by their abuser. Abusers of immigrant women often use immigration-related threats to assert power and control over their spouse or intimate partner. This was the case with two of the cases I worked on in D.C. One of the victims was married to a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) and the other was married to a United States Citizen (USC) by birth. The US citizen abuser used his power to threaten to have the victim deported by reporting her undocumented status to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) while the other refused to file

“Fear of deportation was the main reason the victims gave for their silence. Fear of deportation is a very powerful tool used by abusers to prevent battered immigrant women from seeking help and to keep them in violent relationships.”

“Abusers of immigrant women often use immigration-related threats to assert power and control over their spouse or intimate partner.”

necessary immigration petitions that would provide the victim with lawful status in the U.S.. Fear of deportation was the main reason the victims gave for their silence.

The overriding rationale for many immigrant women staying in abusive relationships, I also discovered, was the prospect of losing their children. Many immigrant women fear that deportation or loss of residency status could mean losing custody of their children. This was the case with one of our clients at Catholic Charities D.C., who successfully left her abusive spouse but in turn, received a custody claim from her husband. Likewise, another client was of the impression that if she reported the abuse, she will reveal her illegal status and will be deported and her children being USCs will become wards of the state.

Barriers to Empowerment

Sensitization and language barriers make gaining access to information, resources and services difficult. Most immigrant women I worked with had serious problems understanding and expressing themselves in English though they had been in the United States for several years. As a result, these women do not know or understand the provisions of protection orders. Some of the women were not also aware that they could be eligible for child support and financial assistance from the state. Consequently, most women stayed on in abusive relationships in order to ensure food and other basic needs for their children.

“... there is the stigma of living in shelters. Most women perceive shelters as degrading rather than a resource for assistance in a marital crisis. They feel ashamed and debased to stay in a shelter and since they most often are unemployed due to the absence of work permit, they cannot afford a place of their own. Thus the victims would rather stay in the abusive relationship where they are looked upon as homeowners than in a shelter were they are looked down upon as destitute.”

Continued next page

“Working with domestic violence victims is very challenging since most of the victims fear that reporting the abuse will expose them, their husbands, and their families to shame before their friends, family and community. Many of the victims view domestic violence as a family issue and are thus hesitant to ‘dishonor’ their families by exposing the problem.”

These numerous cultural, economic, legal and practical factors combined to prevent immigrant women, victims of domestic violence from seeking or receiving the help they need.

Immigration Lawyers’ Challenges

Meanwhile, where some women have been able to transcend the many barriers to seeking help, the attorney, in helping the victim to prepare their VAWA self-petition, encounters several challenges.

In addition, most of the victims, in spite of the violence, still love their husbands and see them as the father of their children, so they try to protect them and are usually unwilling to tell the entire truth. In a case I worked on during my internship, a victim abandoned her claim because she was told her LPR abusive spouse will not be able to gain US citizenship if she files a VAWA petition against him.

Another major challenge is the issue of building confidence and trust. It is difficult in the initial stages to get the victim to talk about the abuse. The victims feel an overwhelming sense of shame, and most often, have blanked it out from their minds. This was very common with most of the clients I worked with, who most often had been victims of severe sexual violence and, thus, felt intensely ashamed and embarrassed. In some cases, the victims abandoned their claim just because they could not talk about such intimate details to a total stranger.

In addition, most victims, due to what they have endured from their abusers, frequently will break down in the course of an interview. Sometimes, it could get so severe that the attorney may abstain from probing further. Not being trained in psychology, this is usually very trying for the attorney who finds herself at the cross roads: wanting to get the entire truth in order to prepare a good case and not wanting to push too hard out of sympathy for the obviously distraught victim. Situations such as these usually prolong the preparation of a self-petition claim and may cause valued information to be left out.

Next stop: New Orleans

After an exciting five-week stay in D.C., it was time to move on to New Orleans for the second phase of my internship. The move to New Orleans was an entirely new chapter in my internship experience. I alternated between the fear of moving to an allegedly beautiful city with very friendly and warm people, of having chosen to do the last phase of my internship in a place that is broken, unsettled, and dangerous, and the excitement of being in a place that strangely enough felt just right!

However, the trip to New Orleans started on a bad note. My flight was scheduled for 11:15 am and I got to the airport at 10:00. There was a long queue for check in and I had a bag that weighed 83 pounds.

Before I could check in and sort out my excess luggage, I missed my flight. I was rescheduled for a later flight at 5:00 pm. I waited at the airport from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm only to be informed that the flight had been delayed. I finally left D.C. about 7:30 pm with a stopover at JFK New York. I arrived at New York about 8:30 and spent another four hours waiting because the flight to New Orleans was also delayed. I finally got to New Orleans only after midnight and I was so thankful my hostesses were at the airport to pick me up.

Interestingly, my hostesses were schoolmates of mine from my home

country, Cameroon, and we had spent six years together in boarding school. There was a lot of catching up to do and we were all excited to see each other after so many years and yet so far away from home. After chatting well into the early hours of the morning, I finally went to sleep. My friends made a special meal to welcome me the next day and invited a few friends. My first impression of the Southerners was that they were quite friendly and open.

Survivors of Hurricane Katrina’s Fury

I later called my supervisor at the Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services New Orleans, Mr. Marco Balducci, to inform him of my arrival and to ask him when I should report to work the following day. He told me 9:00 am. Thereafter, my hostesses took me out to show me around the neighborhood. They stay in New Orleans East, one of the areas that was severely affected by Katrina, so I was able to see the grim realities and effects of Katrina. It was heartbreaking. Abandoned homes, trailers used by victims as temporary homes and a lot of rebuilding and reconstruction.

On Monday, July 20, my first day of work in New Orleans, I left the house by 7:30 am since I did not want to miss the bus. I had heard a lot of depressing stories of how unreliable the bus was. Surprisingly, the bus was quite on time. I had to ride two buses to get to the office and strangely, the transfer from one bus to another had been quite immediate, unlike what I had expected. I got to the office by 8:15 and was very pleased with myself. It turned out however that that was going to be my last day of enjoying a timely ride.

I waited in the lobby till 9 am when Mr. Balducci arrived. We went to his office and he gave me a general overview of the kind of work I will be doing. He dealt basically with immigration and refugee cases with majority of the clients from South America and Asia. Thereafter, he took me for a tour around the office and introduced me to everyone. I went up later to the volunteer coordinator’s office to sign some papers. She promised to help me find housing at one of the Catholic Charities residential buildings for volunteers and also put me in contact with a Ugandan seminarian in New Orleans. New Orleans was off to a good start and I could not ask for more.

Guiding Clients

Generally, I was expected to assist clients in preparing their testimonies, detailing their grounds for claiming asylum in the US. I was responsible for drafting legal arguments to support clients’ applications for asylum. Usually clients’ personal histories were complex and required detailed legal analysis. Besides, some of the clients got particularly engrossed in the storytelling that they tended to be verbose and way out of context. This is something I had discovered from my D.C. experience. Thus, most of the clients needed guidance in order to stay focused on their story and make their applications concise and more self-specific. Likewise, I was expected to help clients who were facing deportation. Some of them, I was informed, could have a defense. That was motivation enough.

On my first day, Mr. Balducci took me to lunch and I savored Southern food which, I must confess, tastes way better than Mid-Western food! I ate gumbo which is also a meal widely eaten in Cameroon and I felt very close to home. I also enjoyed the catfish and crawfish. Mr. Balducci told me a little about New Orleans history and I discovered there was a lot to New Orleans, though most of its beauty had been ransacked by the hurricane. New Orleans was originally a French colony and was later transferred to Spain. Spain did not rule New Orleans for long and transferred it again to France, who then sold New Orleans to the United States.

Initially, I was not thrilled about New Orleans, especially with the housing crisis I had encountered and the fact that I had to rely on the very unreliable public transportation system. However, when I sat to consider why I was in New Orleans, I remembered it was because of my interest in working with immigrants.



Wele Elangwe (second from left) poses with several other founding members of IU Human Rights and Environmental Defenders and journalists who covered the launch on International Human Rights Day at the Human Rights Center. From left: Rebecca Berfanger, journalist, Indiana Lawyer, David Rothenberg, J.D., Kavinvadee Suppamongtevasakul, LL.M. Human Rights, Kevin Munoz, J.D., and Lynn Alan Schoch, director of Communication and Information Resources, Office of the Vice President for International Affairs.

Working with migrants... from previous page

What really drew me to New Orleans is that the city was at a critical point and it seemed a challenging place to live. I wanted to help build my character and personality. This is what being a human rights activist in the future will entail.

New Orleans is a city where there is celebration and sadness. Problems have a long history, and Katrina added an important chapter to that. Education is a big issue, and so is wealth disparity. I think this is just a continuation of the struggle that has been going on for a while. Catholic Charities seems to have been an important presence in New Orleans. It had a small but motivated, bright and good staff. That gave hope.

The high point of my internship experience in New Orleans was the opportunity to go to an immigrant detention centre. We visited an immigration detention centre to render free consultation services to detainees there. The drive was four hours away from New Orleans and was coordinated by Ken Mayeaux of Catholic Charities, Baton Rouge. We drove to Baton Rouge first since we were going in as a delegation. We were four from New Orleans: Mr. Balducci, Marina (the other staff attorney at Catholic Charities New Orleans), Peter (another intern), and myself. Mr. Balducci and I met in the office at 7:30 am and drove to Kenner, Louisiana to pick up Marina and Peter. We left for Baton Rouge about 8:15 am and got there by 9:15 am. We had coffee at Baton Rouge and waited for the other members of our delegation. We had an 11-person delegation and at 10:10 am, when everyone had arrived, we headed out to Basile, Louisiana, where the detention centre is located.

We arrived at Eunice, a neighboring town and stopped at a restaurant called Nick's for lunch. Since I had enjoyed the catfish before, I decided to eat it again and it was as delicious as the first time. After eating we left for Basile which was just about 15 minutes away. We got to the detention centre at about 2:00 pm and waited in the lobby for one hour and thirty minutes before we could go in to see the detainees.

Detained migrants in the "Land of Migrants"

This was my first time ever in a jail. I had attempted visiting one back home in Cameroon during a school visit, but my friends, who went in first, came back crying so hard I was afraid of going in. Their stories had

been very gruesome and the alleged appalling prison conditions just terrified me. This time around, I was still scared yet excited. After all, it was an immigration detention centre, not a criminal detention centre, so I was not really afraid. We went through several security checks and finally made it to the refectory where we were to carry out our consultations. There were at least 283 detainees with over 250 of them from South America. Most of them spoke only Spanish so I had a hard time keeping pace with the interviews. Mr. Balducci, however, was very gracious and turned to me as often as he could to translate to me and explain what each case was about. We finished the consultations at about 5:00 pm and left the detention centre. It was an awesome experience. I was really happy I went. Mr. Balducci and our team from New Orleans bade farewell to the rest of the team and started our drive back to New Orleans.

Staying with my friends was really good because I was comfortable and I had people to talk to after work. However, it was very unrealistic in terms of the distance from the office and the fact that I had to rely on public transportation. Besides, the neighborhood was also not very safe and we could hear gunshots at night. The police was also always in the neighborhood to effect arrests or just for patrol purposes.

After dropping me off following our trip to the detention centre, Mr. Balducci was able to see where I lived and he was totally against it. The following week, he and his fiancée offered me a room at their home. After going through the hassle of transportation in my second week, I was very pleased and grateful for the offer. I made it to Mr. Balducci's late on Sunday of my third week. He was considerate enough to give me

"I was able to see the grim realities and effects of Katrina. It was heartbreaking. Abandoned homes, trailers used by victims as temporary homes and a lot of rebuilding and reconstruction."

the next day, Monday, off.

I used my day off to unpack and get settled. I walked around the neighborhood to acquaint myself. It was a very pleasant neighborhood with a movie theatre, shops, banks, etc. And the most intriguing of all things was the street car. Streetcars in New Orleans have been an integral part of the city's public transportation network for many years. In fact, I researched on it and it actually started operation in January 1835. I was going to be taking the longest and oldest of New Orleans' street.

The week seems to still have a lot in store for me as, on Friday, I went to an immigration court in the US for the first time. A client had been ordered deported by the immigration judge because he failed to show up for his hearing and the client was claiming that his interpreter had given him the wrong date. Mr. Balducci was going to verify if this was actually so by listening to the tape of the proceedings. I was really impressed with the advanced technology. In Cameroon, this was unheard of. Hearings are recorded and kept. Very impressive!

Down-to-earth immigration judge

I was really excited at the prospect of visiting an immigration court. Throughout my internship I had not visited the court. In D.C., I was unable to go so I was really pleased to be going in New Orleans. I was shocked to see that the court was in a business building. In fact, there was a mall on the first floor.

This will be unheard of in Cameroon. I expressed my surprise to Mr. Balducci who told me it was so because it was more of an administrative court and location really wasn't as pertinent as with criminal courts. We listened to the recorded hearing and realized the client had been properly informed thrice of his hearing date. Mr. Balducci decided to research to see if there was any other relief available to him with regards to the facts of his case.

Continued next page

Working with migrants, from previous page

I met the immigration judge who was surprisingly very down-to-earth, friendly, simple and nice. Another thing I noticed in the US is how simple the people are. In Cameroon, we believe in titles, position and in treating people like demigods! It is so unheard of for an intern to greet a judge, talk less of chatting with him! I was in such awe, I lost my voice. I was extremely happy with the visit to the court. Unfortunately, there was no case, so I only looked around an empty courtroom. I was very happy all the same.

That weekend, I went to church at St. Peter Claver. St. Peter Claver is a black Catholic church in New Orleans' Treme district. This was where the mayor of New Orleans attended mass so it was an opportunity for me to see him. I expected a convoy, escorts and countless bodyguards as is the case in Cameroon but there was none. The Mayor even drove by himself! Very rugged man for a mayor but seemed nice enough. In my limited experience in black American Catholic churches, I was moved by the vitality and empathy that the black community brings to the celebration of the mass.

Hurricane's traumatized survivors

My last week in New Orleans turned out to be the best. On Tuesday, I had a dinner date. I had been put in contact with one of the immigration attorneys in New Orleans, Ms. Hiroko Kusuda, by Debi Sanders whom I worked with in D.C. Mr. Balducci also spoke very highly of Ms. Kusuda. I had sent her an email and she in turn invited Mr. Balducci and me to dinner. She picked us up from the office and we went to a French restaurant and had dinner. We talked over dinner about my experience, the PIHRL, Cameroon, *etc.* They talked to me about practice as an immigration attorney, about New Orleans. And Ms. Kusuda told me about her work at Loyola University.

Debi had also put me in contact with Ms. Dorothy Smith, a member of the Emeritus Faculty of the University of New Orleans. I called her and we agreed to meet on Wednesday. She picked me up after work to show me around New Orleans and I went with her to explore the city of New Orleans. She took me to the city park and the 9th Ward where Katrina hit the most. She had been badly affected by the hurricane since she lived at the 9th Ward before Katrina. It was a sad sight: so much waste and destruction. Unfortunately, I was unaware she had been so badly affected. She showed me her home which was destroyed and she was in so much pain showing me around the area. I will be forever grateful she took me there.

We drove on to the French Quarter and Ms. Smith (whom I called more fondly as Aunt Dorothy like Debi) took me around the streets. It felt like I was in the 16th century. It was really medieval. I saw some beautiful ancient homes and courtyards. Thereafter, she took me to a restaurant called "Gumbo Shop" to sample some typical New Orleans cuisine.

There seems to be a lot of African heritage in New Orleans especially with the *creoles* that we also have in Cameroon. This was a night of discovery and I didn't want it to end. Unfortunately, I had to work the next day, so Ms. Smith dropped me off at 10:00 pm.

The rest of the week went by and before I knew it, it was Friday, my last day. I could not believe it. Time had gone by so fast and, honestly, I did not want to leave. However, I had to start school. My flight was scheduled for the next day, Saturday, so I said my farewells, packed my bags, and left New Orleans, on Saturday, August 16.

In all, my internship experience was memorable and lasting for providing me with the opportunity to enrich my legal education while contributing to an organization that has a direct impact on the lives of refugees. Unfortunately, my role as an intern did not allow for too much activism since I was not yet a licensed attorney nor did I have a strong background in US law. Good thing was, I had taken the course on US immigration law, so I, at least, had an idea of what my work would entail. While my internship was an opportunity to learn about the rights of immigrants and the American immigration law in particular, I spent much of my time dealing with specific issues under US immigration law: asy-

lum and the special VAWA visa cases.

As an intern, my role, as to be expected, was to do the grunt work. After working back home in Cameroon and being, more or less, my own boss, it took me a little while to fully accept this role.

From restlessness...

I faced several challenges also during my internship. My greatest challenge was attempting to overcome my feelings of helplessness at my inability to solve many of the problems clients faced such as housing and employment and accessing educational opportunities. Consequently, the work often took an emotional toll, though this ultimately proved to be the most rewarding aspect of the internship.

... to hope

This was not only a worthwhile experience, but something that I needed to do for my own personal growth and development. I honestly feel better prepared to meet the complex challenges that face current and future generations. I have sharpened my passion for social change and progress and human rights in general. I have also realized that having laws to protect human rights is not the only way to create change; rather, I can become an activist, stand up for what I believe in, and make a difference in my own way.

The internship, and especially interaction with refugees, asylum seekers and VAWA victims, provided me with an eye-opening opportunity to observe and participate in the politics of international human rights advocacy, and, in particular, increased my understanding of the various domestic influences on and uses of international human rights activities with respect to issues concerning immigrants. I intend to continue my research and work in this area, through independently directed research during this academic year and possibly also through my thesis.

Revolution for social justice

A learning experience, my internship opened my eyes to the possibilities of effecting change outside of politics. One such example, I have developed an interest in non-profit agencies and foundations that are committed to advancing human rights.

If you asked me eight months ago what I want to do with my life, I would have answered: "I wanted to become an international human rights lawyer. I want to make Africa a land of opportunity, equality, and freedom." And, my answer today is different. I still want to make Africa a better place for all, but I want to lead a revolution for social justice and protection of human rights to effect this change.

My internship has served as the backdrop for my personal, educational, and leadership development. I gained a lot from my leave-term experience, including a whole new perspective about the immigration process and myself. And I would like to thank Catholic Charities Washington D.C. and New Orleans and the Program in International Human Rights Law of the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis for supporting me in this endeavor.

Hailing from Cameroon, Wele Elangwe, LL.M., served as a reporting officer and information and communications officer of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa before enrolling in Master of Laws International Human Rights Law. She is currently working on her thesis.

Wele is the president of the Master of Laws Association (MLA), an organization seeking to promote the LL.M. Program and LL.M. students' interests and welfare. She is a member of the United Nations shadow reporting team on Chad. Her expertise in French enabled IU Law-Indianapolis J.D. and LL.M. students to work on issues of human rights violations taking place in the French-speaking Chad.

Philip Aka teaches at IU Law



Philip Aka poses with a colleague during his 2005 internship with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights in Chicago, Illinois.

PHILIP AKA, an illustrious IU Law LL.M. Human Rights graduate, started to serve as an adjunct professor of law of Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis in Fall 2008.

Philip holds J.D., LL.M. Human Rights, and Ph.D. degrees. He has also published scholarly articles in law journals.

IU Law awarded him a scholarship in 2005 as an international human rights law intern. Philip interned with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights.

Conscience of Guantanamo



U.S. Marines Major Dan Mori gives a lecture at IU Law in 2007. Major Mori served as the chief defense counsel of David Hicks, the first to face the U.S. Military Commission in Guantanamo. Major Mori serves as an adjunct professor of IU Law.

(Photo: Perfecto Caparas)

PIHRL Gets New Faculty Assistant

The Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis hired Michelle Davis as the new faculty assistant of Professor George Edwards, director of the Program in International Human Rights Law, in Spring 2008.

Michelle has started assisting interns belonging to the Overseas Summer International Human Rights Law Internship Scholarship Program in Summer 2008.



Michelle Davis

Students to Meet UN Experts

IU Law Students Charge Australia, Chad of Rights Violations

Law students are reporting to the United Nations the alleged violations by Australia and Chad of their human rights treaty obligations.

Led by the International Human Rights Law Society, the mostly first

year J.D. students and their LL.M. counterparts are going to the UN New York Headquarters in Spring 2009 to personally present their shadow report to the UN Human Rights Committee.

The LL.M. students, belonging to the Master of Laws Association, coordinated with Chad-based nongovernmental organizations and translated documents from French to English for the UN shadow report on Chad. Megan Alvarez, J.D., serves as coordinator of the projects.

The shadow reporters on Australia include: Adam Dolce-3L; Amber Malcolm-1L; Bobby Lam-1L; Jenn Myers-3L; Jhon Sanchez-3L; Kalli McBride-1L; Kavinadee Suppamongtevasakul-LLM; and Mark Hawkins-1L.

Shadow reporters on Chad include: Samantha Sledd-1L; Uchenna Mgboh-LLM; Wele Elangwe-LLM; Maurine Ngwengi-LLM; Cassie Hoult-1L; Innocent Akufor Aneneba-LLM; Kris White-1L; Kristen Hunsberger-1L; Matt Trick-2L; Zoe Meier-1L; and Matt Kubal-3L.

LaWanda Ward, Director of Pro Bono Programs and Public Interest, strongly supported students doing UN shadow reporting by giving them pro bono credits for their work.

Prof. Vincent Mutai: Lawyering for the Poor

Legal Aid Center of Eldoret Kenya



PROFESSOR Vincent Mutai, a New York bar member, currently serves as a PIHRL visiting fellow. He visited the Law School in June 2008.

Along with the faculty of the Moi University School of Law in Eldoret, Kenya, Mutai formed the Legal Aid Centre of Eldoret (LACE), with the help of the Indiana legal community headed by Judge Patricia Riley and Fran Quigley. LACE is now actively providing legal services to members of the marginalized sectors in Kenya.

Mutai teaches law at the Moi University School of Law. Photo shows Mutai with Dr. Kim JongHo, IU Law S.J.D. candidate. (Photo: PC)

Coffee R

Mixing Human Rights with Caffeine



It's time for coffee and human rights tidbits. Photo shows Professor Eleanor Kinney discussing "Realizing the International Human Rights to Health in North America: The Challenges and Opportunities of NAFTA". The week before, Rowland Atta-Kesson (encircled, top left photo), LL.M., tackled community lawyering in Accra, Ghana. Previously, David Rothenberg, J.D. analyzed issues involved in institutionalizing United Nations shadow reporting at IU Law. In Fall 2008, the Hall Center for Law and Health and the Program in International Human Rights Law started to organize Coffee R to bring faculty, students, and stakeholders together to thresh out human rights issues.

(Photo: Perfecto Caparas)

S.J.D. and LL.M. International Human Rights Law



Raio Krishnayya,
J.D., LL.M., USA



Wele Elangwe
Cameroon



Kavinvadee Sup-
pamongtevasakul,
Thailand



Ayesah
Johnson, J.D.,
LL.M., USA



Maurine Ziekeh
Ngwengi
Cameroon



Waseem Qureshi
S.J.D.
Pakistan



Ying Chen , LL.M.,
S.J.D.
China



Nelson Taku
Cameroon



Philemon Nkafu
Cameroon



Khatantual
Batbayar
Mongolia



Melissa Cotera
Peru



Hee Won Han
Korea



Ekaterine
Gamakharia
Georgia



Augustine
Niber
Ghana



Tatiana Obando
Nicaragua



Tuinese Edward
Amuzu
Ghana



Simeon Peter
Sungi, LL.M.,
Ph.D.
Tanzania



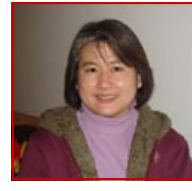
Vicente Diaz
Puerto Rico



Carmen Ledesma
Morton, LL.M.,
J.D.
Mexico



Abimbola Asala
Nigeria



Natha
Kongcharoen
Thailand



Jaime Nies, J.D.
USA



Jaqueline Williams
J.D., LL.M., USA



Philip Aka, J.D.,
LL.M., Ph.D., USA



James Chetalam
Kenya



Jhon Sanchez,
L.L.M., J.D., Colom-
bia



Syed Liaquat Ali,
India



**Professor
George Edwards
Scholarly Achievements
2004-2008**

2004

EXPERT WITNESS AFFIDAVIT OF PROFESSOR GEORGE E. EDWARDS: U.S.A. V. DAVID M. HICKS, U.S. MILITARY COMMISSIONS, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA. Tendered as an Expert Witness in the case of *David M. Hicks*, an Australian “detainee” charged by the U.S. with alleged war crimes for trial by Military Commission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Submitted Expert Witness Affidavit on International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Criminal Law. The Affidavit was submitted in lieu of live testimony. (28 October 2004 for hearings commencing 1 November 2004) (53 pages)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, U.S. LAW, and INDIANA LAW: GLOBAL and DOMESTIC PERSPECTIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES RAISED IN INDIANA

COURTS. Taught a one-week course to approximately 30 trial and appellate court judges from throughout the State of Indiana. The training course was taught at the Brown County Inn, Nashville, Indiana, 6 – 11 June 2004. The course was sponsored by the Indiana Judicial Center and was part of the *Indiana Graduate Program for Judges*.

CONCLUDING REMARKS FOR A PRESENTATION BY CHIEF JUSTICE OF IRELAND JOHN L. MURRAY, WHO SPOKE ON “GLOBALIZATION AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS”. 22 March 2004, Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis (On behalf of the Law School and the Program in International Human Rights Law)

AN ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF LAW SCHOOL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS (Roundtable Discussion at *Harvard Law School – Human Rights Program – 20th Anniversary*), 15 – 17 October 2004, *Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: PROSPECTS FOR THE QUEST TO ERADICATE IMPUNITY A Presentation at Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida in the International Human Rights Law Seminar conducted by Professor Dorothea Beane (16 February 2004) (Gulfport, Florida)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND THE CONVERGENCE OF PRIVATE and PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW: PEDAGOGY, PRINCIPLES, AND PRACTICE A Colloquium presented to the Faculty of the Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida (17 February 2004) (Gulfport, Florida)

2005

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT IN THE ARAB WORLD: AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW NETWORK (ICLN) SEMINAR ON EFFECTIVE ANTI-IMPUNITY MEASURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST – AMMAN, JORDAN.

International Criminal Law Network Newsletter and Website. (Spring 2005)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW VIOLATIONS PRE-, DURING AND POST-HURRICANE KATRINA: AN INTERNATIONAL LAW FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS, Conference Paper Presented at “The Human Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina”, held at Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas (Conference co-sponsored by The Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. and The Institute for International and Immigration Law) (Friday, 18 November 2005)

2005

ASSESSING INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS (ICCTS) AND NON-JUDICIAL ALTERNATIVES TOWARDS PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THE CONTEXT OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN'S MARCH 2005 MILLENNIUM REPORT – "IN LARGER FREEDOM: TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL" PAPER PRESENTED AT THE 2005 SUMMER INSTITUTE ON GLOBAL ISSUES FACING THE UNITED NATIONS

- **"STRENGTHENING RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW"**. The Institute was conducted as a high-level conference. Registrants included high UN officials, government officials, and others, with many registrants being diplomats posted to UN Missions from around the globe. The presentation Panel was entitled "The Role of International Criminal Courts and Tribunals", and was participated in by Ambassador Shin (Republic of Korea Mission to the United Nations) (Panel Chair), Counselor Christian Much (Legal Advisor, German Mission to the U.N.), and Mr. John Washburn, Esq. (United Nations Association of the U.S.). The Institute was sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Research and Training (UNITAR) and was held at UN Headquarters, New York. (10 June 2005)
- **EXPERT WITNESS AFFIDAVIT OF PROFESSOR GEORGE E. EDWARDS ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW: U.S.A. V. DAVID M. HICKS, U.S. MILITARY COMMISSIONS, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA**. Tendered for the 2nd time as an expert witness in *U.S.A. v. David M. Hicks*, that was pending before the U.S. Military Commissions at Guantanamo Bay. An earlier affidavit (October 2004) was submitted in proceedings that were vacated as of September 2005. The November 2005 Affidavit was submitted in lieu of live testimony in Guantanamo Bay in a proceeding that was itself subsequently stayed pending the outcome in the U.S. Supreme Court of a case of another prisoner, Mr. Hamdan, the alleged former driver of Osama bin Laden. (96 page Affidavit) (tendered 14 November 2005 for hearing scheduled to commence 18 November 2005)

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND THE ARAB WORLD. Participated as an international criminal law expert facilitator a conference/training workshop conducted in Amman, Jordan for approximately 30 judges, lawyers, academics, ministry officials and others from countries in the Region including Syria, Oman, the UAE, Jordan, Yemen, and Iraq. Served as Co-Coach (with a counterpart from Syria) for the Team of Judges in the Simulated ICC Pro-

ceeding. The workshop was funded by the governments of The Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, and Canada, and was organized by various organizations from Jordan, the International Criminal Law Network (The Hague, The Netherlands), and other groups. (14-16 February 2005, Amman, Jordan) (Received Overseas Conference Grant from Indiana University Office of International Programs - Bloomington)

THE RELEVANCE AND APPLICABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO U.S. AND INDIANA LAW: AN EXAMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW IN THE CONTEXT OF THE U.S. MILITARY COMMISSIONS, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA. Delivered lecture to approximately 100 Indiana State Court Judges in the *Reunion of the Indiana Graduate Program for Judges* sponsored by the Indiana Judicial Center. The lecture was held at the Brown County Inn, Nashville, Indiana, 9 June 2005.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW IN ACADEMIA – THE GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA U.S. MILITARY COMMISSIONS CLINICAL PROJECT. Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic-People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky (February 2005)

INDEFINITE INCARCERATION: THE PLIGHT OF "ENEMY COMBATANTS" HELD AT GUANTANAMO BAY, Presentation at the Fourth Annual Norman Amaker Public Interest Law Retreat entitled *Human Rights in the 21st Century*. The Retreat was held 25 – 27 February 2005 at the Bradford Woods Retreat Center, Indiana (Presentation on Saturday, 26 February 2005)

2006

HIGHER EDUCATION and INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW: RIGHTS AND DUTIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY GLOBALIZED WORLD. Presented Paper at the *Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (FACET) Indiana University Leadership Institute: Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century World*, 24 – 25 February 2006, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, University Place Conference Center and Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Sponsors include the Office of the President, Indiana University; Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University; and the IUPUI Office of Professional Development. (25 February 2006)



INTERNATIONAL LAW, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, AND PEACE – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN THE NEW CENTURY. Presentation to students of the Indianapolis Peace House in the course entitled “Practical Peace-Making”, Indianapolis, Indiana (4 April 2006)

DRAFT OUTLINE FOR THE TRIAL JUDGES IN THE CASE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT V. WHITELAND AND BLUELAND SOLDIERS. This International Criminal Court training document for trial judges was presented on behalf of Professor Edwards in February in Amman, Jordan, at the February 2006 Regional Training Conference on the International Criminal Court and Arab National Systems. This was an invitation-only conference for judges, government officials, academics and lawyers from the Region. The work was presented in conjunction with the *Simulation Exercise on the International Criminal Court*, which was prepared for the training program by Columbia University Professor Roy S. Lee, who is also an official of the United Nations Institute on Training and Research (UNITAR). (13 – 15 February 2006, Amman, Jordan).



2007

EXPERIENCES DE LITIGO EN DERECHOS HUMANOS – EXPERIENCES IN LITIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS”. Presentation at the *Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Facultad de Ciencias Juridicas and Sociales*, Institute of Human Rights, 18 December 2007. (La Plata, Argentina)

OPTIMISM, FLEXIBILITY and PERSISTENCE IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION: INTERNATIONAL LAW INTERNSHIPS and CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. Presentation at event hosted by International Law Society and International Human Rights Law Society, Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis (Tuesday, 29 January 2008)

Photos: Perfecto Caparas

EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH A FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (IHRL), INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW (ICL) and INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)—APPLIED TO THE CASE OF TORTURE. Presentation in the *Globalization and International Law* course taught by Brian Winchester, Director, Center for the Study of Global Change and by Maria Lope Solá (Indiana University-Bloomington) (25 October 2007).

International Human Rights Law Challenges

2007

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, AND HURRICANE KATRINA. Presentation in the Health Care in Diverse Communities course taught by Dr. Zobeida Bonilla-Vega, Indiana University, Bloomington (25 October 2007).

THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL—CREATING AND CONTROLLING THE ADVERSARIAL COURTROOM: A TRAINING PROGRAM. Presentations in three People's Republic of China cities -- Beijing, Dalian, and Yanji (Yanbian). Sponsored by the China Trial Advocacy Institute, a venture of Renmin University of China School of Law (Beijing) and Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis (June 2007).

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, U.S.A. MILITARY COMMISSIONS, and INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW. Presentation at Yanbian University Law School (Yanji, People's Republic of China) (June 2007)

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, U.S.A. MILITARY COMMISSIONS, and INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW. Presentation at Renmin University of China School of Law (Beijing, People's Republic of China) (June 2007)

U.S.A. V. DAVID HICKS AND THE U.S. MILITARY COMMISSIONS AT GUANTANAMO BAY. Presentation at the Open Forum with Kevin Green at Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana (Sunday, 13 May 2007)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, U.S.A. V. DAVID HICKS, AND THE U.S. MILITARY COMMISSIONS AT GUANTANAMO BAY, Presented at the Butler University Undergraduate Sociology Class of Professor Tamara Leech, being taught by Professor Dave Mason (Wednesday, 11 April 2007)

ANATOMY OF A GUILTY PLEA: U.S.A. V. DAVID HICKS AND THE U.S. MILITARY COMMISSIONS AT GUANTANAMO BAY, presented at The Mystery Company, Carmel, Indiana, for the Sisters in Crime mystery group. (Saturday, 28 April 2007)

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI BY O. HENRY, Read-A-Thon 2007, reading at The Mystery Company, Carmel, Indiana (Sunday, 3 June 2007)

2008

Professor George Edwards delivered a Continuing Legal Education lecture titled **International Prosecution of War Crimes, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity** on May 7 as a part of the Indiana Supreme Court Legal History Lecture Series with support from the Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education.

Prof. Edwards lectures to Tehran, IUPUI students on U.S. foreign policy

On February 26, 2008, Professor George Edwards gave a video-linked presentation to students of the University of Tehran under Dr. Mousavi and IUPUI students under Ian McIntosh and Dawn Whitehead titled **International Law, Military Commissions, and U.S. Foreign Policy: Guantanamo Bay Through Speckled Lenses.**

Prof. Edwards promotes IU Law overseas



Photos show Prof. George Edwards during his trip to several countries, including Dubai, Kuwait, and Bangkok, to promote the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis among prospective students.



Professor George Edwards tours Dubai and Kuwait to promote American legal education in 2008.

Professor George Edwards Founder and Director Program on International Human Rights Law

The **Indiana International Human Rights Law Bulletin** highlights the 2004-2008 accomplishments of Professor George Edwards, Carl M. Gray Professor of Law (with tenure) and founding faculty director/ advisor of the Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law Track, as follows:

Honors and Awards

- George W. Pinnell Award for Outstanding Service – Indiana University (Spring 2004)
- Law School Executive Committee (Elected by Full Faculty – (2004-2005)
- Alliance of Distinguished and Titled Professors (2006 -)
- Member (Appointed), Title Professorships Committee (2007 -)
- John S. Grimes Fellowship Recipient (Summer 2007)
- Chancellor’s Faculty Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement (Spring 2007)
- Queen Mary University Of London Faculty Of Law. Summer 2005 London, England. Visiting Senior Research Fellow.
- Stetson University College Of Law, Visiting Professor 2005; 2006
- Program In The Hague, The Netherlands (’05, ’06); Gulfport, Florida (’06). Courses–
- International Law, International Criminal, Humanitarian and Human Rights Law
- University Of Cambridge, Faculty Of Law. Lauterpacht Research Centre For Autumn 2001; 2007

Professional Activities

- American Law Institute (Ali), Elected Member (2005 -)
- Alliance Of Distinguished And Titled Professors (2006 – Present) (Indiana University)
- Fire Merit Board, City Of Indianapolis, Indiana U.S.A. Appointed By Mayor Bart Peterson To Serve Term Commencing October 2003 (Reappointed 2004; Reappointed January 2006). Elected Secretary (Jan. 2004). Elected Vice-President (Jan. 2005)
- Council For American Students In International Negotiations (Casin). Appointed Chairman Of The Board Of Advisors (January 2005 - Present)
- Group. Member. Chair Elect (2001-2002); Chair (2002-2003); Co-Chair (2004-2005)
- American Society Of International Law (“Asil”), International Organizations Interest Group, International Human Rights Law Institutions Sub-Section, Chair. (Elected 2005)
- Association Internationale De Droit Penal, American National Section. Member.
- Indiana State Bar Association. Member (2005 – Present).
- Who’s Who In Black Indianapolis (2004-2005)



Master of Laws Association Holds Party



Professor George Edwards, founding executive chair of the Graduate Law Programs and founding co-chair of the Graduate Law Committee, shows to the members of the Master of Laws Association the various IU Law memorabilia that he used in promoting IU Law during his Middle East and Asian tours in 2008.

The MLA members elected Wele Elangwe as the MLA president during the gathering on August 29, 2008.

(Photos: Perfecto Caparas)



Photo: Perfectio Caparus

2008 LL.M. Graduates



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