Since 2002, the Law School’s Center for Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding has sponsored summer internships for 174 students in 47 countries. These internships are made possible by funds provided by a number of generous alumni and other supporters.

In 2018, for the 17th consecutive summer, students left the comfort of Williamsburg to contribute to post-conflict reconstruction efforts and the rule of law in countries struggling to recover from war, genocide and chaos. Four students stayed in the United States, working at the U.S. Institute of Peace, the National Center for State Courts’ International Programs Division and Tetra Tech Consulting as they learned to navigate the world of backstopping and supporting international rule of law programs.

On these pages, you will find a sampling of where our students worked in summer 2018 and what these students had to say about their internship experience.

“From working on a report on constitutional jurisprudence in countries within ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States), I learned an incredible amount of information about different judicial and political systems.”

LEA MANO ’20
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

“The variety of people I was able to meet was incredible: judges and lawyers from a variety of countries, a U.S. ambassador, leaders in civil society, and the various members of CEELI (Central and Eastern European Law Initiative Institute) and friends of CEELI who dedicate so much of their time to advancing the rule of law.”

KELSEY MCNEILL ’20
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN LAW INITIATIVE INSTITUTE
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

“Maybe this is exactly what I wanted from Jordan — a list of accomplishments that illustrate how in the midst of this first real experience in the field, outside the comfort of my parents’ native Lebanon or America’s familiar streets and faces, I proved I can live anywhere in the world carrying out the work I love while doing okay all by myself.”

LAYLA ABI-FALAH ’20
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
JORDAN CITIES PROGRAM
AMMAN, JORDAN
“I worked on the Bangladesh Counter-Trafficking in Persons project, focusing on prosecution. Although trafficking is huge in Bangladesh, arrests of traffickers are low, and convictions are even lower (there were none at the time I worked there). Our job was to figure out the gaps in the legal system where these cases were falling through, and how to address them.”

SARAH PECK ’20
WINROCK INTERNATIONAL
DHAKA, BANGLADESH

“I researched information gathered by the United Nations Human Rights Council on the state of children’s rights in China and select other countries. I learned much about how international organizations and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) work in the international community.”

DELIA ROOT ’20
BEIJING CHILDREN’S LEGAL AID AND RESEARCH CENTER
BEIJING, PRC

“I don’t know if I will be able to return to Lithuania in the near future, but I do know that at some point, the city and its people will draw me back. However, it is time to take everything I have learned back to the States and use it to better embody the citizen-lawyer ethic.”

ARIANA CHENG ’20
VILNIUS INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

“The work my colleagues at International Bridges to Justice were doing was vital and essential to repairing socioeconomic relations in the country. And based on my interactions with other people in Delhi, there is a strong appetite for social justice and progress.”

AMEYA LELE ’20
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES TO JUSTICE
DELHI, INDIA

“I have learned more about Indonesian governance, constitutional law, and election law than I ever could have anticipated. Hopefully the resulting article I wrote on the Constitutional Court of Indonesia will generate some additional interest in this fascinating country.”

CAMDEN KELLIHER ’21
PUSAKO (PUSAT STUDI KONSTITUSI UNDER THE FACULTY OF LAW AT UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS) AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF INDONESIA
JAKARTA, INDONESIA