



# HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Guillermo Jover-Cataldi '10 (above left) and seven other students spent three weeks in Cambodia during winter break as Human Rights Study Project Cowan Fellows.

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

Anti-Terrorism, Law and the Role of Intelligence  
 Citizenship and Membership  
 Civil Liberties  
 Death Penalty: An International Perspective  
 Ethical Issues in Foreign Policy  
 Human Rights Advocacy  
 Immigration Law  
 Indian Law  
 International Criminal Law  
 International and Foreign Legal Research  
 International Human Rights Law  
 Islamic and Middle Eastern Law  
 Law and Public Service  
 Law of War  
 National Security Law  
 Nationalism and Cultural Identity  
 Punishment in Law and Culture  
 Refugee Law and Policy  
 Religion, Democracy and the Law  
 Rescue, Charity and Justice  
 Rights, Bills of Rights, Constitutions:  
     The Americanization of Britain?  
 Rights of Indigenous People  
 Rule of Law: Controlling Government  
 War and Peace: New Thinking About the Causes of War  
     and War Avoidance

## CLINICS

International Human Rights Law Clinic  
 Immigration Law Clinic

**PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS** is the foundation of law. The Human Rights Program at the University of Virginia allows students to explore the range of opportunities available in the human rights field, at home and abroad, through hands-on experiences. The program is the hub for human rights activities at the Law School, and cooperates with student groups, faculty and human rights organizations to coordinate speakers, events and pro bono opportunities. The program director mentors students, helps them find jobs and internships, and connects them with alumni and others who have similar interests.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC

The International Human Rights Law Clinic is the core of the program. The clinic offers students practical experience in human rights advocacy in collaboration with human rights lawyers and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and abroad. Clinic students have recently worked on projects with:

- **CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM (NEW YORK)**, researching intersections between violence against women and reproductive rights with an eye to the mandate of the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.
- **ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (WASHINGTON, D.C.)**, collaborating on a report on the right to education of Afro-descendant and indigenous communities in the Americas.



**AS MEMBERS OF THE IRAQI PARLIAMENT** were debating when to hold national elections, they relied in part on research by students in the Law School's International Human Rights Law Clinic. The clinic partnered with the Institute of International Law and Human Rights (IILHR) to produce a legal memo.

"[IILHR] said our legal memo was a basic part of the debate between the legislators there," said Alaa Mahajna LL.M. '09, a clinic student who worked on the project.



### JOHN STEPHENS '11

was named one of two Class of 1957 South Africa Human Rights Fellows in 2009. The fellowship offers a \$7,500 grant that he used to work for the AIDS Law Project in Johannesburg over the summer.

Since the right to food and adequate nutrition is written into the South African constitution, “part of my job [was] to research school feeding programs,” Stephens said. He also examined how to get mothers access to baby formula. “For the mother who is HIV positive, there is a serious risk of transmitting the virus to her child through breastfeeding. Access to formula is therefore a crucial part of preventing mother-to-child-transmission of the virus.”



- **CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (SAN FRANCISCO)**, writing a brief for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of persons who allege torture and extrajudicial killing during Somalia’s Barre regime.
- **FOREST PEOPLES PROGRAM (U.K./NETHERLANDS) AND ASSOCIATION OF INDIGENOUS VILLAGE LEADERS IN SURINAME**, developing a manual and workshops for indigenous leaders in Suriname on the right to education.
- **AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION NATIONAL SECURITY PROJECT**, drafting a complaint regarding the release of information on Guantanamo Bay deaths and suicide and homicide attempts.

## HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY PROJECT

Human Rights Study Project Cowan Fellows receive academic credit for researching and reporting on human rights abroad. Each year a team of several students undertakes a field mission to research human rights issues in a country and reports its findings. Teams have traveled to Cuba, Sierra Leone, Syria and Lebanon, China, India, Uganda and Cambodia. Participants are selected by the prior year’s student team based on applications submitted in the spring.

## JOBS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Program Director Deena Hurwitz and other law faculty meet frequently with students to discuss fellowship and career opportunities, and students are invited to join an e-mail list to regularly receive job and fellowship announcements. The students, many of whom have worked abroad, also offer a significant networking resource for those interested in human rights work. Students interested in human rights work in the United States and abroad have access to grants of \$4,123 (first year) and \$7,083 (second year) from the student-run Public Interest Law Association.

## Alumni Networks

The program maintains a network of recent graduates involved in the human rights law field. Alumni employers include the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Center for National Security Studies, law firm Burke O’Neil, Freedom House, the Genocide Intervention Network, Council for Global Equality, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Senate Judiciary and Armed Services committees and the U.N. Office of Legal Affairs.



**ALUMNA KATIE REDFORD’S HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WORK IN THAILAND** as a law student led her to write a paper advancing the idea that American corporations could be held liable under the Alien

Tort Statute, a civil law dating to 1789, if it could be shown that they were abetting the Burmese military in human rights abuses. After graduating in 1995 she and classmate Tyler Giannini co-founded EarthRights International, which now has offices in Thailand and Washington, D.C., as well as schools in Southeast Asia and Ecuador, an annual budget of more than \$1 million and a staff of 33. In 1996, EarthRights filed *Doe v. Unocal* in California in state and federal courts, arguing that companies — specifically energy giant Unocal, which funded a pipeline in Burma that led to alleged human rights abuses — could be sued under the statute. In 2004, Unocal entered into an unprecedented settlement, the first time outside the Holocaust context that a corporation had agreed to compensate human rights victims. Business Week reported that a settlement worth roughly \$30 million was reached, calling it “a milestone in human rights advancement,” and the largest payout to such victims in history.

## EVENTS

Since its inception in 2003, the Human Rights Program has brought leading figures in the field to the Law School. Recent events include:

- Interrogation and Torture in U.S. Policy: A Forum with Retired U.S. Generals
- What Islam? Whose Islam? Gender and Other Constitutional Rights in Pluralist Legal Systems
- The Iraq History Project: The Right to Truth, Transitional Justice and Mass Data Collection in a Conflict Zone

## HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

[www.law.virginia.edu/humanrights](http://www.law.virginia.edu/humanrights)

CONTACT Professor Deena Hurwitz

(434) 924-4776 | [deena@virginia.edu](mailto:deena@virginia.edu)

STUDENT COORDINATORS

Melanie Stuart '11 | [ms9yq@virginia.edu](mailto:ms9yq@virginia.edu)

John White '11 | [jw7dp@virginia.edu](mailto:jw7dp@virginia.edu)