

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ) – Fayha Najeeb

My internship with Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ) was a transformative professional journey for me in the realm of international law and women rights advocacy. I found myself immersed in the intricate workings of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the impact it has on issues of sexual and gender-based crimes. My experiences were multifaceted, ranging from drafting comments on the Office of the Prosecutors policies to attending International Criminal Court proceedings such as the Al-Hassan closing statements. The exposure provided me with a comprehensive view of the international legal landscape, introducing me to key stakeholders and their roles. Balancing substantive work with the privilege of witnessing legal proceedings and consultations broadened my perspective on international legal dynamics. I regularly engaged with professionals from diverse backgrounds, including ICC prosecutors, leaders of civil society organizations, and fellow Canadian lawyers working in The Hague, enriching my understanding of career pathways. I quickly grasped the significance of simplifying complex legal concepts to make them accessible to broad audiences which culminated in my contributions to the WIGJ's report on the ICC's decision making on sexual and gender-based crimes. In addition, participating in projects such as supporting Ukrainian partners in their efforts to combat gender-based violence deepened my understanding of the connection between domestic and international legal frameworks. As I reflect on these unique experiences, I recognize that my time with the WIGJ has ignited a passion for gender justice advocacy within the international legal framework. Equipped with new skills, insights, and a broader perspective, I am determined to contribute to the pursuit of gender equality and justice in my future legal endeavours. My journey with the WIGJ has not only enriched my understanding of international law but has also solidified my commitment to creating more just and equitable environments.



Debwewin Summer Law Internship - Emily Sinclair

This summer I had the opportunity to complete my internship remotely with the office of the Senator Kim Pate. In this internship I had the opportunity to work on projects that addressed decolonization, decarceration, and decriminalization. Much of the work I completed included conducting legal research, creating parliamentary briefs, and writing witness questions to be asked by Senator Pate. Other projects I worked on including summarizing witness testimony, conducting charter analysis, and analyzing Supreme Court cases. These tasks enhanced my statutory interpretation skills, my legal research and written communication, to name a few. This opportunity exposed me to different avenues following the completion of one's JD and enhanced my understanding of the intersections



between Indigenous people and the criminal legal system. In addition, I had the opportunity to meet many interesting senators and politicians, many of which have law degrees. Overall, I had a great experience in my internship and felt as though I learned a lot from the material and from my supervisors.

Debwewin Summer Law Internship - Liying (Coco) Xu

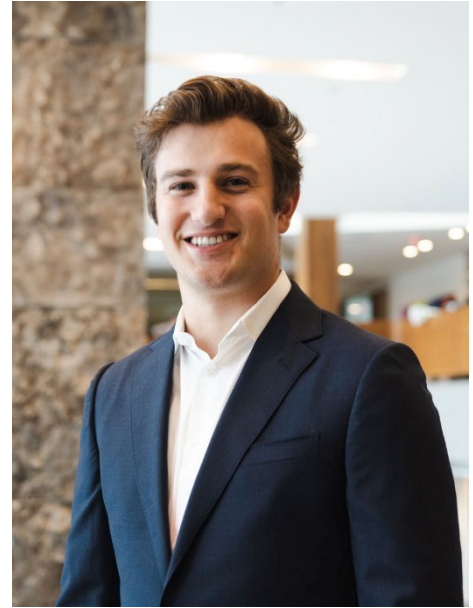


This summer, I interned with the Keepers of the Circle through the Debwewin Summer Law Program, which allowed me to assist a group of people that is still experiencing historically systematic discrimination while also applying the legal skills and theories that I learnt. My experience working with Keepers of the Circle proved to be both enriching and personally fulfilling. I found it truly humbling to be entrusted with addressing an issue as consequential as the local Mino Msh'ki-ki Indigenous Health Services Clinics. This particular experience served as a unique arena in which I could refine my expertise in legislative interpretation, a skill of paramount importance within the legal profession. Collaborating with a team dedicated to the well-being of the Indigenous community was deeply inspiring, reaffirming the significance of the work at hand. Furthermore, this experience not only deepened my comprehension of the intricate legal nuances but also allowed me to apply

my knowledge and skills in tort and criminal law, bringing a multifaceted perspective to the table. It strengthened my commitment to pursuing a career in Indigenous law and advocacy, leaving me with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the privilege of contributing to such vital work.

Canadian Olympic Committee - Jacob Waltman

My experience as an intern for the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) was an unforgettable one. I learnt so much about law, being a working professional, and myself, over the course of the summer. Throughout my internship I was given meaningful projects in various areas of law. Whether it was reviewing digital service contracts, researching the International Olympic Committee's nationality eligibility requirements, or drafting and amending a premier national sponsorship agreement, there was no shortage of interesting work and I always felt like I was making a valued contribution. One such example, was my unique experience of authoring a set of compliance guidelines for the Abuse Free Sport program that was endorsed and distributed by the Sports Integrity Commissioner to over 90 National Sport Organizations. It was such a fascinating and valuable opportunity to work with Team Canada in the area of sport law and hone and develop various skills. I know it will help me tremendously throughout the rest of my career.



Ontario Bar Association (OBA) - Mikayla O'Neill



My internship at the Ontario Bar Association (OBA) was an excellent learning experience. The OBA does a mixture of professional development programming and policy work around issues affecting the legal profession. With over 40 practice areas I was able to explore different areas of law by attending insights meetings and helping plan and attend professional development programs. One of my favourite events I attended was Techxpo, a full day event focused on how lawyers can utilize technology and artificial intelligence to improve their practices. A memorable part of my internship was doing extensive cross-jurisdictional research into solutions for civil court backlog in Ontario. My research was used for the Bail to Boat policy session, which I helped run in the role of a facilitator to encourage discussion and capture the ideas from lawyers, judges, and individuals from the Ministry of the Attorney General's office. I was able to continue this work by helping put together a civil rules reform task force to

analyze long term solutions to court backlog by changing the rules of civil procedure. From this internship I learned to take on tasks I had never done before and quickly familiarize myself with how to execute them. This was an exceptional steppingstone in my legal career. Thank you so much to WLIP and the OBA for an amazing summer.

Debwewin Summer Law Internship - Ritika Gupta

This summer I was a Debwewin Intern with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. The OFIFC is a non-profit organization that supports and advocates for Friendship Centres across Ontario. Friendship Centres are non-government organizations that provide programs and services to Indigenous peoples living in urban areas. I was a part of the Justice team. I conducted academic and legal research on topics pertaining to Indigenous peoples' experiences in the justice system. Topics I touched on included human rights law, the purpose and application of Gladue factors, and the ongoing issue of human trafficking. I also prepared and presented two Public Legal Education seminars for my colleagues and Friendship Centre staff members. One of the highlights of my summer was partaking in the organization's cultural events. For example, I was honoured to join a Summer Feast where I witnessed a Pipe Ceremony, received teachings from Elders, and shared a meal with my team members. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Debwewin Intern. I learned a lot about the challenges Indigenous peoples experience in the justice system, and the positive impact that grassroots-level advocacy and programming can have. Moreover, everyone at the OFIFC was very welcoming, and made sure I felt like a part of the team. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity. Thank you to the OFIFC for hosting me, and to WLIP and the Indigenous Justice Division for organizing this internship.



Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY) - Molly Gangbar



This summer I had the opportunity of interning with Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY). JFCY is a nonprofit legal aid clinic dedicated to providing legal information, advocacy, and representation to youth under 18 and homeless youth under 25 across Ontario. During my time as a summer intern at JFCY, my responsibilities included facilitating client intake calls, maintaining ongoing client communications, drafting legal documents for clients and test cases, conducting legal research, initiating investigative legal work, reviewing, and summarizing police reports, composing legal memorandums, examining legal factums, and attending court proceedings across various locations in Ontario. During these experiences, I had the privilege of working

with a highly esteemed team of litigators, allowing me to hone my legal research, writing, advocacy, and analytical skills.

One unique experience during my time at JFCY involved being tasked with conducting extensive research to compose a legal memorandum for a high-profile legal case. This memorandum served as foundational research for the JFCY factum submitted to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and I was fortunate enough to witness its presentation in court! Through this opportunity, I experienced each stage of the court process,

and learned to pivot effectively and perform exceptionally, in fast-paced, high-stakes legal matters- skills that will undoubtedly be critical for my future legal career.

Another interesting experience at JFCY was when being placed on a JFCY team following a prolonged criminal trial. My role was to attend all trial proceedings at the Ontario Court of Justice and was responsible for taking accurate trial notes. In this position, I learned to adapt to changing court settings, operated with uncertainty, and balanced the demands to communicate to both the JFCY legal team and our client.

Overall, working with JFCY was a privilege, and I recommend this internship to students passionate about youth legal justice. I'm grateful to JFCY and WLIP for providing me this memorable and enriching experience!

Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) - Mathie Smith

During my internship at the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), I had the opportunity to develop and apply a wide range of transferable skills that are crucial in the legal profession and beyond.

First and foremost, I honed my legal research and analysis skills. Working on projects related to climate change impacts on vulnerable communities, I conducted extensive research to inform our advocacy efforts. This involved sifting through legal documents, environmental reports, and case law to build a strong foundation for our initiatives.



Additionally, my time at CELA allowed me to strengthen my written and oral communication skills. I prepared tailored briefs for municipalities, requiring me to distill complex legal and environmental information into clear and persuasive documents. This also included writing a comprehensive response to the Government of Canada's National Adaptation Strategy, where I had to communicate our findings effectively to a broad audience.

Canadian Red Cross (CRC) - Tucker Seabrook



I had a great experience during my summer internship working with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) as part of their International Humanitarian Law (IHL) team. I had the opportunity to be involved in a variety of projects, including legal research, report writing, and humanitarian education activities. One highlight of my internship experience was a project that involved distilling complex information from several intricate pieces of legislation, including Bill C-41, and the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, into clear summaries to educate a broader public. In addition to this research, I summarized multiple reports pertaining to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the humanitarian consequences of urban warfare for children. These experiences amplified my independent legal research and writing skills along with my ability to articulate complex information, and I am certain these abilities will serve me well in my legal career. Working with the IHL team at the CRC was a rewarding and enriching experience. If you have an interest

in international law, IHL itself, or simply want to explore an exciting area of law while working with an outstanding organization, I recommend this internship!

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Canada (UNCHR) - Sarah Abdul-Jalil

My summer internship at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Canada (UNHCR) in Ottawa was truly a remarkable and unforgettable experience. Throughout this internship I was able to gain valuable insight on the role UNHCR plays within Canada as well as on the international front. I was able to hone my legal research and writing skills for assignments that had tangible outcomes (such as published policies), as well as conduct research in preparation for potential projects that UNHCR would be a part of. One of the most noteworthy projects that I had the privilege of working on was writing the background guide for a Supreme Court of Canada case and was fortunate enough to witness the aftermath of the release of the decision during my internship. This



experience not only deepened my understanding of international refugee, immigration, and human rights law, but also reinforced my passion for using my legal skills to inspire positive change. The people I had the privilege of meeting and working alongside, as well as the lessons I learned during this internship will undoubtedly continue to shape my personal and professional journey for years to come.

Thronton Grout Finnigan LLP World Bank Group Internship - Thomas Hewitt

My summer internship at the World Bank Group was an extraordinary experience which enabled me to develop my professional knowledge of international insolvency and bankruptcy. I had the unique opportunity to work with knowledgeable and experienced legal specialists to assist countries around the world with legislative and policy reforms relating to their insolvency systems. As part of my internship, I had the opportunity to travel to Cairo, Egypt to assist with the First MENA Forum on Insolvency, Business Restructuring & Investment Promotion.



Our team also hosted a training session for Egyptian Insolvency Practitioners on Corporate Insolvency. At these events, I was exposed to leading legal experts, judges, and practitioners from around the world who discussed best practices and potential future reforms. The World Bank aims to eliminate global poverty and I was honored to have the opportunity to work with this organization in pursuit of this vital goal. The highlight of my time at the World Bank was the mentorship and knowledge I received from the brilliant and talented individuals on the World Bank team, and I am extraordinarily grateful for their guidance and support.

Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP Student Internship in Mining Finance (with Newmont) - Ciaran Sheahan



This summer, I had the honour of interning with the in-house legal team at Lundin Mining Corporation in Toronto. Lundin is a base metals mining company with operations in Brazil, Chile, Argentina, the United States, Portugal, and Sweden. Over the course of the summer, I was exposed to a variety of legal work, including working extensively with contracts, corporate governance at both the company-wide and site-specific levels, and conducting legal research into legislative and judicial updates across Lundin's various jurisdiction. I was particularly fortunate to be involved in

the closing process of Lundin's acquisition of the Caserones mining site in Chile. This work allowed me to gain hands-on experience of an acquisition and joint venture in real-time, an experience which has greatly stimulated my interest in transactional work going forward. I was also fortunate to be supervised and mentored by Lundin's General Counsel who always made sure I understood how my work (be it research, contract work, or otherwise) would fit into a final product, an aspect which greatly helped me understand the processes integral to being counsel for a sophisticated corporation like Lundin. In addition to enhancing my understanding of corporate practice, this internship greatly enhanced my legal research and writing skills while also further bolstering my critical thinking abilities. I would like to thank Lundin, the WLIP committee, and Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP for a thoroughly memorable and rewarding summer!

LeClair & Associates South African Labour Law (SASLAW) –

Tiana Gleason

This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in the LeClair & Associates South African Labour Law (SASLAW) Fellowship. Throughout the summer, I worked at the SASLAW Pro Bono NPC offices and multiple local affiliated law firms in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. As an intern, I was able to work directly with clients, completing client intakes and drafting various legal documents. Overall, this internship enhanced my legal research skills and has allowed me to grow as an independent, critical thinker. I would recommend this internship for any law student with a sense of adventure looking to develop their legal skills. Thank you, WLIP and LeClair & Associates for an unforgettable summer!

Will Stevens

I had the opportunity to intern for the SASLAW Pro Bono NPC, a labour and employment organization in South Africa. This position has been this summer has been an incredible experience and learning opportunity. For three months, I lived and worked in cities across South Africa. Living in South Africa allowed me to experience the country's vibrant culture and gain exposure to an entirely new body of law. In this role, I split my time between pro bono clinics and some of South Africa's most prestigious law firms. In both settings, I was tasked with client consultation, drafting affidavits, facta and other legal documents, and conducting extensive legal research in labour, employment, contract, and property law. This position offered a uniquely elevated level of responsibility. Due to the limited legal resources available and the overwhelming number of clients, I would often handle complex cases on my own. I enjoyed the pressure and responsibility of this role because I feel it helped me become a better legal thinker. Outside of work, I had the opportunity to travel across South Africa and experience all its beauty and excitement. This included safaris, rugby games, wine tasting, and so much more. I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity and would recommend the position unconditionally.



McCarthy Tétrault LLP Business Law Internship (with CIBC) - Shashank Chaddha



Throughout my time at CIBC, I worked with lawyers from different practice areas. This provided me an insight into how an in-house legal department of a large financial organization functions. I had a particular interest in exploring technology contracts, and once I communicated my keenness to tap into this area, I was looped into technology and AI meetings.

CIBC's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion is commendable and everyone in the legal department was welcoming, regardless of their background.

I had weekly catch-up calls with my manager every week to take stock of my deliverables and timelines. This provided me with an opportunity to ask any doubts that I may have.

Working in-house has been a rewarding experience, as I learned how multiple lines of business coordinate with each other and work together on matters that affect the end customer directly. In this process, the role of legal is extremely crucial as banking is a regulated sector. The internship also made me reflect on how legal advice from an in-house counsel is curated considering the bank's overall commercial and strategic goals.

Everyone at CIBC was friendly and welcoming and ensured that interns felt comfortable throughout the term. They were supportive of all the resources and help I needed to get a task done. This internship is a valuable opportunity for a student interested in business law.