



(above) Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) in Phnom Penh



Current IHRC students, (top row, from left to right) John Flynn, Zach Crowley and Dorna Moini (bottom row) Siyuan An, Alisa Randell, Lisa Fouch, Christine Parkins and Jennifer Ehrlich



(above) International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania (below) USC Law Prof. Hannah Garry (right) with USC Law graduates Aysha Pamukcu and Brian Rifkin at the ECCC



# IHRC Students Fight Against Genocide and War Crimes

*Clinic gives students firsthand legal experience.*

BY ZACHARY CROWLEY, IHRC STUDENT '12

Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes are the most pressing human rights concerns of our day, and the subjects of USC Gould School of Law's International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC).

Launched by USC Law Prof. Hannah Garry in 2011, the clinic is training the next generation of lawyers to fight against human rights abuses. In unique partnerships established by the clinic, students have worked with judges and their staff on some of the world's most notable war crimes cases.

This past summer, six USC Law graduates were invited to work with the United Nations as judicial interns at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. They received the coveted invitations after spending their last year at USC working remotely for judges at these tribunals.

The graduates worked on trials involving some of history's worst crimes against humanity: the Cambodian Killing Fields of the 1970s, the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and atrocities committed during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

"USC Law is committed to giving our students real-world experience in the field," Garry said. "I am confident our students will go into the legal profession with a keen understanding of international law and all that is at stake."

This year, the clinic is broadening its scope by helping with human trafficking cases. Clinic students are assisting victims with their immigration status in connection with The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, and are working on an amicus brief in support of a petition for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Movsesian* case, involving heirs of survivors of the Armenian Genocide seeking payment on life insurance policies.

In addition to the students' substantive legal work, the International Human Rights Clinic has



Brian Rifkin visits a victims' memorial site in Cambodia.

organized several lectures and events to publicize international human rights issues. Garry organized a lecture by Luis Moreno Ocampo, prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, in conjunction with USC's School of Cinematic Arts. The IHRC also hosted lectures by Judge Joan Donoghue of the International Court of Justice, Eli Rosenbaum, director of the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section at the Department of Justice and David Scheffer, former Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes. The Clinic engaged in more direct advocacy with two events in spring 2011, presenting a screening of *Imprisoned in Iran*, a film documenting the struggles of the American hikers arrested in Iran, and hosting a press conference on behalf of the victims' families calling for their release, which took place in the fall 2011.

To read more about the USC Law IHRC graduates, who were invited to work with the United Nations as judicial interns at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (in Arusha) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, please go to: <http://tfm.usc.edu/spring-2012/lawyers-borders>.