

# International Law Fellowship: Year-End Report

Bryan Johnson

My experience as the International Law Fellow for the Center for International Law at New York Law School has been a diverse, challenging, and rewarding experience that I am both lucky and glad to have been given. It has improved my writing skills, exposed me to many different areas of international law, allowed me to meet prominent attorneys, government representatives, and other leaders in the international arena, and allowed me to work on a variety of exciting projects for the Center for International Law.

After an application process involving an intense interview and several phone conversations with Professor Tai-Heng Cheng, I began my duties as International Law Fellow under Professor Cheng's guidance in mid-July, 2006. The first major project that I worked on was a memorandum on the recently changed extradition laws between the United Kingdom and the United States and how they impacted the recent extradition of three prominent bankers facing charges in the United States relating to the Enron scandal from the United Kingdom.

To help provide me with additional guidance on the project, Professor Cheng introduced me to John J. Kenney, a prominent New York lawyer who specializes in white-collar crime. I met with Mr. Kenney several times, who guided me in my research, assisted me in finding hard-to-get court decisions from the United Kingdom, and provided comments on the various stages of the paper. The final version of the memorandum is pending as I wait for the results of a FOIA request, but the most recent draft is over 50 pages long and provides a detailed and accurate description of U.K.-U.S. extradition law. The experience also gave me an idea of what work in a law firm would be like, as Professor Cheng and Mr. Kenney set demanding deadlines and took the project very seriously.

During fall recruitment when the big firms are interviewing for summer associates for the next year, I was invited to two interviews. In both, my fellowship and the extradition memo were one of the first items on my resume that the interviewers asked about, and I am sure they were also key factors in being invited to the interviews in the first place.

The Center for International Law hosts many panels and presentations, and as Fellow I tried to attend as many as my class schedule permitted. After most events I attended a dinner with the guest speakers to which certain students and professors were invited, which always offered the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the guest speakers and to ask them questions relating to their presentation and their work in international law.

My most enjoyable experience as Fellow was with Ambassador Andrew Jacovides, who spoke at one of the Center's events on international law and his home country of Cyprus. Ambassador Jacovides needed someone to help him type his speech so he would have a type-written copy to read from and to distribute at the event.

Professor Cheng arranged for me to spend an afternoon at the Ambassador's home (a block from the United Nations) to type up his speech. I had expected to be handed a messy hand-written speech to type by myself, but was surprised when the Ambassador took an entire afternoon out of his schedule to dictate his speech to me, and repeatedly asked my opinion on substantive issues in the presentation (in addition to asking which jokes I thought were funny). It was a delight to meet the Ambassador and have the opportunity to work with him on his presentation.

This past year as International Law Fellow has been a very busy, but also very rewarding year, and I think that any student with an interest in international law would hugely benefit from the opportunities I have had. Professor Cheng has been instrumental in providing me with a balance of activities, introducing me to a variety of contacts in all areas of international law and politics, and in exposing me to as many areas of international law as he was able, and I have enjoyed working for him and under his guidance immensely.