

SPANISH-SPEAKING SU LAW STUDENTS SUMMER 2012 OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NICARAGUA

Since 2001, Seattle University has been creating ties to the Universidad CentroAmericana (UCA), the Jesuit university in Managua. The UCA law school houses the pre-eminent law clinic in Central America. In the summer of 2003 we started a “pilot project,” in which two SU law students, Eric Gutierrez and Karen Green, worked alongside Nicaraguan law students in the UCA law clinic on criminal, civil, labor and/or human rights cases. The pilot was a success and we have been sending students since. Also starting in 2008, students visited rural Nicaragua for one week to a location where UCA’s microlender and associated lawyers serve rural people in preserving and gaining title to their lands. 3Ls Emily Varcalli and Meghan Casey went in 2010 and 2Ls Whitney Phelps and Ernie Collette went in 2011 . If you have any questions you can contact them as well as Raven Lidman.

This summer we are offering that same opportunity to 2 SU law students for 6-7 weeks. If you are fluent in Spanish, not committed this summer, and are POSSIBLY interested in applying, please read on.

This is a great opportunity to work towards social justice in Nicaragua, to learn about another legal system, to reflect on our own, to enhance SU’s developing relationship with the UCA Law School, and to have a unique summer experience with good “resume value.”

Dates: The expectation is that the students will work at the clinic from @ June 15-August 1. These dates are flexible at the front end, depending on the schedule of the 2 students.

Living Arrangements: SU students will live in a boarding-type home near campus sometimes sharing space with other UCA or visiting Spanish students.

Costs: Transportation (\$600-800), health and evacuation insurance (\$50), exit fees (\$30), and room and meals (@\$15/day).

Funding: Since 2006 this program is being supported by the Dean and The Center for Global Justice through PILF-level grants of approximately \$440 per week plus a \$1000 travel stipend.

Law School Credit: Credit is not available for this project. (There is some chance that independent study might be warranted, but this would need to be worked out separately.)

Requirements: Must have good Spanish skills and must be able to adapt to 3rd world conditions.

Application: (1) Letter with relevant background and interest (2) attached resume, and (3) SU transcript to Professor Raven Lidman at rlidman@seattleu.edu, or drop off at Ronald A Peterson Law Clinic. If you have any questions, contact Professor Lidman at the above email.

Timeline: Submit applications by **January 31, 2012**. Interviews will be held the following week.

Look for an announcement of when Whitney and Ernie will give a presentation.