

**BILINGUAL EXTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS (English-Spanish)  
INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM IN GUATEMALA  
University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Seattle University School of Law,  
University of Denver Sturm College of Law**

**Monday, June 18 to Friday, August 10, 2012**

**Description of externship seminar and externships:**

After completing three weeks of law study in Spanish (four credits), students enrolled in the Inter-American Program in Guatemala will have the opportunity to do externships with non-governmental organizations working on issues of trade, labor, environment, and migration. These students will enroll in the one-credit externship seminar in order to prepare for these placements and to engage in guided reflections about the experience. Students will also receive significant supervision on their externship projects, including research assistance, project consultation and revision of draft work product to be submitted to institutions where the students are placed. During the first week of the placements, students will participate in the externship seminar during the morning, and will work at their externship placements in the afternoon. For the remaining seven weeks, students will work 40 hours per week at the externship site.

**Units: 1 credit (graded) for externship seminar; 3 credits (pass/fail) for externship placement.**

**Faculty: Externship seminar taught by Raquel Aldana, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law**

**Taught in Spanish**

**All placements are in Guatemala City:**

**1. [GUATEMALAN EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION \(AGEXPORT\)](#) (Asociación Guatemalteca de Exportadores)**

The Guatemalan Exporters Association is a private non-profit entity, established in 1982, that represents, promotes and develops non-traditional exports from Guatemalan companies. A membership organization, **AGEXPORT** represents dynamic and innovative Guatemalan entrepreneurs who are participating and competing in world markets, as well as companies preparing to export. AGEXPORT provides high-level assistance to the exporters, serving the business community at large in international trade activities and investments, whether in Guatemala or abroad. In addition, AGEXPORT participates in national fora to design foreign trade policies and strategies; it lobbies Guatemalan institutions to maintain a stable macroeconomic environment; it participates in trade negotiations; and it designs strategies and action plans related to taxes, labor and

environmental issues affecting its members. Externs would be assigned to work on specific projects under the direction of an in-house attorney.

## **2. ASSOCIATION FOR INVESTIGATION AND SOCIAL STUDIES (ASÍES)** **(Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales)**

Founded in 1982, ASÍES, is an incorporated not-for-profit, non-partisan organization, comprised of members, including several prominent human rights figures in Guatemala, who come from a variety of backgrounds and professions and who have come together to promote the development of a democratic society dedicated to concepts of justice, liberty, peace and solidarity. ASÍES functions like a think-tank in the U.S. and publishes studies on a variety of subjects. It also creates legislative proposals to be considered for passage by the Guatemalan National Congress. The organization's areas of focus include congressional oversight for compliance with the country's 1996 peace agreements; studies on peace and democracy in Central America, especially Guatemala and El Salvador; and studies on transitional democracy for post-conflict societies. Externs would be assigned to work on specific projects under the direction of an in-house attorney.

## **3. INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY (DEMOS)**

Founded by prominent human rights lawyer Frank la Rue, currently a UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of freedom of opinion and expression, the group seeks to promote democracy and the rights of Guatemalans to have access to economic development, scientific knowledge, education, and justice. At the same time, DEMOS promotes the maintenance of Guatemala's ethnic identities and protection of the environment. Externs would be assigned to work on specific projects under the direction of an in-house attorney.

## **5. CAFTA ENVIRONMENTAL SECRETARIAT**

The Secretariat for Environmental Matters (SEM) is an international organization that was created within the framework of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) where, for the first time in the region, a free trade agreement included a chapter on the environment (Chapter 17). In this regard, the SEM was established to take charge of the functions set forth in CAFTA-DR articles 17.7 and 17.8. Specifically, the Secretariat receives and processes complaints from civil society involving non-compliance with its domestic environmental laws in the context of trade and foreign investment. To date, the Secretariat is handling seven complaints, including two from Guatemala involving violations to protected forests and parks of Guatemala.

## **6. ABOGADOS SIN FRONTERAS**

The Canadian-based NGO, Lawyers without Borders, was founded in 2002 by a group of lawyers from Quebec, whose mission it is to provide support to vulnerable populations and legal activists who are seeking justice through legal mechanisms. In Guatemala, lawyers without borders Canada is supporting the work of key human rights organizations working on emblematic wartime cases with the goal of ending impunity for the gross human rights violations committed in the country during its 36 year civil war. The organization provides technical legal support and accompaniment to the victim survivors and their representatives and training to Guatemalan human rights lawyers; promotes best practices and strategies for documenting and successfully litigating human rights cases; and creates a network of support for human rights activists.

## **7. MADRE SELVA**

Founded in 1996, Madre Selva is a non-governmental organization dedicated to halting environmental degradation in Guatemala. Madre Selva represents rural and indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve and protect the natural resources necessary for human flourishing. The organization works on issues of mining, hydroelectric projects, forest conservation, and environmental risk management. It seeks to promote the consultation and participation in governmental decision-making of communities affected by development projects.

### **In Quetzaltenango**

## **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network. It advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

UNDP is on the ground in 177 countries and territories, working with governments and people on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.