

Amy O'Shea - Lawyers Without Borders, Connecticut – Summer 2017

This summer, I spent two months interning at Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB), at their headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut.

LWOB is an NGO that promotes the rule of law and access to justice specifically through neutral, capacity building initiatives. They train lawyers, judges, and police in key aspects of building and prosecuting a case, primarily through their flagship-programme, STTATs (Support Through Trial Advocacy Trainings). They also create educational resources for the public, such as graphic novels, to help raise awareness of certain crimes and resources for help.

Lawyers Without Borders has two separate offices, one in New Haven and one in DC. There are two projects currently ongoing at the New Haven office, both based in Tanzania. One project is on Anti-Trafficking in Persons, and the other on Wildlife Crime. I worked more so on the Anti-Trafficking in Persons project, specifically on creating teaching modules for the training sessions. One module I worked on was on Writing a Statement. The aim is to teach trainee police officers how to write useful witness statements, which will make better evidence in a court case. In order to create this module, I had to research into different types of trafficking in order to create a fictional interview. From this interview, the trainees are then asked to write a statement. I also had to write a reasoned model statement, to guide not only the trainees, but also the trainer himself – a Tanzanian law enforcement official who is trained by Lawyers Without Borders to teach these modules. I also adapted PowerPoint presentations from other modules to make them more suited to short 2 hour teaching sessions, having to critically decide what content should be included. I revised a PowerPoint on Interviewing Trafficking Victims, including elements such as making the victim comfortable and how to ask questions in order to elicit responses from the interviewee.

I also took on two organizational roles: Student Divisions and Social Media. For student divisions, I wrote a report for LWOB's JustGiving page, liaised with student divisions regarding their tasks, including a storybook project in conjunction with Ropes & Gray and SOAS division, and reviewed the Student Division Manual. In terms of social media, I designed a new campaign, setting up an Instagram account and managing the social media pages until my departure.

The highlight of my internship was creating a presentation on the human rights of older persons, as part of a collaboration between Linklaters, the United Nations and LWOB. The presentation looked at changing population demographics, and the current national and international frameworks for the human rights of older persons. I was then invited to attend the meeting at the Linklaters office in New York, where the Executive Director of LWOB and UN representatives gave the presentation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pembroke for giving me this grant, which allowed me to undertake this rewarding internship.