

## Human Rights Lawyer's Association Bursary Report

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**Location:** International Criminal Court (The Hague, Netherlands)  
**Dates:** October 2016 – April 2017  
**Recipient:** Tetevi Davi

In 2016 I was fortunate enough to receive a bursary from the Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA) to complete an internship at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague. This internship, which without the assistance of the HRLA I would not have been able to undertake, provided me with a profound insight into the workings of the Court and allowed me to greatly enhance my knowledge of international criminal law whilst making some excellent professional contacts for the future.

The International Criminal Court is a permanent institution which is responsible for investigating, and where necessary prosecuting, those responsible for the most serious crimes of international concern. These crimes are referred to in the Court's statute as the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The Court is often described as one of 'last resort' because it will only intervene in a situation if a state has shown that it is unwilling or unable to carry out the investigation or prosecution of these crimes itself. In this sense, the Court is complementary to national jurisdictions and does not absolve them of their duty to bring the perpetrators of serious crimes to justice. Through its work, the Court aims to contribute to the fight against impunity and help post- conflict societies to achieve long- term peace, stability and equitable development.

I was assigned to work in the Legal Advisory Section (LAS) of the Court during my internship. LAS is part of the Office of the Prosecutor and is responsible for providing legal advice to the Office's Divisions and Sections on a range of legal issues as and when they arise. During my time in LAS my tasks included writing memorandums on areas such as witness preparation and the admissibility of evidence, as well as on the Court's rules for receiving confidential information and disclosing exculpatory material. I was also involved with the organisation of guest lecture events by the Office of the Prosecutor and I also produced weekly court reports and summaries which set out the most salient events that had occurred at the Court in a given week. Working in the LAS I was also fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a variety of senior members of staff such as the Deputy Prosecutor of the Court and I also produced work for the Head of the Investigations Division.

Working at the ICC has been a truly enriching experience and I can only stress once again how grateful I am to the HRLA for providing me with the funds to be able to benefit from this opportunity. It is an unfortunate fact that at the early, crucial, stages of any career focused on

establishing justice and the rule of law, unpaid internships often prohibit many individuals from these career paths. Whilst the amount provided by HRLA is modest, it can make the difference between an individual having the chance to undertake one of the crucial internships or not having that opportunity and in my case, the award made all the difference. I would encourage people to apply for this award and hope that, as it has helped me, it can help them also to achieve their career goals.