

EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA

Any student interested in the possibility of an international externship experience should consider Cambodia. An externship in Cambodia will offer the opportunity to see and participate in the rebuilding of a society from the ground up.

UM's Cambodian Law and Development Program has, for a number of years, maintained relationships with many people and institutions in Cambodia. As a result of the years of ongoing contact, the range of potential placements available to students covers almost every field of law from intellectual property or international trade through human trafficking prosecutions.

The coalition government agreement following the 1998 election and the final demise of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement mean that the country is enjoying real peace for the first time in three decades. Cambodia needs to come to grips with its past while establishing a foundation for a stable future. But its recent history meant that the country was left with a largely dysfunctional legal infrastructure. A wide variety of organizations who are at work on various aspects of this process are in a position to accept students to work with them as externs.

These organizations include legal services organizations, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, and both local and international NGO's such as Oxfam, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center, the Cambodian Institute for Human Rights, World Vision and the Cambodian Legal Research and Development Center and many others. Fields in which there will be opportunity for law student contributions will include:

- 1 preparations for the Khmer Rouge genocide trial
- 2 a wide range of basic statute development
- 3 work with victims of human trafficking and domestic violence
- 4 land law reform

In addition to non-governmental organizations, there are also placement opportunities available with government agencies such as the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Ministers (the equivalent of the cabinet in the US government). A number of Michigan law students have already taken advantage of the opportunity to work in many of these placements in the past several years, either in an externship or as summer volunteer interns.

Clinical Professor Nick Rine will be happy to hear from students considering visiting Cambodia for study in credited externships. Students should feel free to contact him to discuss the wide range of possibilities at nickrine@umich.edu.