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ASIL AWARDS NINE INTERNATIONAL LAW FELLOWSHIPS

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) is pleased to announce that nine outstanding law students have won the 2007 ASIL Helton Fellowships for projects in international law. Selected from 42 applicants from Africa, Asia, Europe and Eurasia, Oceania, and North and South America, the winners will receive \$1,000 micro-grants to pursue fieldwork in or research on issues involving international law, human rights, humanitarian affairs, and related areas.

ASIL established the Helton Fellowship Program in 2004 in honor of Arthur C. Helton, an internationally renowned lawyer and advocate for protecting the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons. Helton died in the August 19, 2003, bombing of the UN mission in Baghdad.

Helton Fellows undertake their fellowship fieldwork and research in association with established educational institutions, international organizations, or non-governmental organizations. The following are the 2007 ASIL Helton award recipients.

Ilana Bleichert (of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada), who is a JD Candidate at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. Ilana will spend the summer interviewing internally displaced persons in the Republic of Georgia with the United Nations High Commissioner for

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Refugees. Her work will also involve monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of international and domestic protection programs.

Kristian J. Collins (of Montgomery, Alabama), who is a JD Candidate at the University of Alabama Law School. Kristian will travel to South Africa where she will assist the Refugee and Migrant Rights Department of Lawyers for Human Rights, a local non-governmental organization, in providing legal assistance to asylum seekers.

Lindsay M. Harris (of Mountain View, California), who is a JD Candidate at the University of California Berkley School of Law. Lindsay will work with the Forced Migration Studies Program at the University of Witwatersrand and Lawyers for Human Rights to examine gender based asylum claims and to investigate border experiences of female asylum seekers crossing into South Africa from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Mitchell T. King (of Duluth, MN), who is a JD Candidate at William Mitchell College of Law. Mitchell will spend the summer working on human trafficking prevention programs in Rwanda in association with the International Leadership Institute. Mitchell will develop a training manual that instructs students and youth groups in human rights and human trafficking risk factors through the use of interactive theatre techniques.

E. Rania Rampersad (of Bellevue, Washington), who is JD Candidate at Georgetown University Law Center. Rania will assist the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Relocation Unit in Dadaab, Kenya in interviewing Somali refugees, including young single women, ethnic minorities, and the physically disabled, for purposes of relocation evaluation and fraud detection.

Jared Shepherd (of Arnold, Missouri) and **Eissa Villasenor** (of Los Angeles, California), who are JD Candidates at the University of Minnesota. Eissa and Jared will support the

international and public interest litigation work of the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights and participate in community outreach and human rights trainings on civil and political rights as well as the legal issues surrounding access to HIV/AIDS medication.

Wang Peipei (of Mao-ming, China), who is an LL.M. Candidate at Sun Yat-sen University School of Law. Peipei will work in southern Tibet with the Women and Gender Study Center researching gender equality and providing legal assistance to local Tibetan women and refugees from Burma.

Sarah R. Weinman, who is a JD Candidate at the University of California-Berkley School of Law. Sarah will travel to Iraqi Kurdistan where she will work with the Heartland Alliance and local non-governmental organizations to monitor and document detention conditions, develop training materials detention monitoring, and draft guidelines and checklists which will be used to identify and assist individuals subject to arbitrary detention.

“It is with great pride that ASIL announces its third set of Helton Fellowships,” said ASIL Executive Director Elizabeth Andersen. “And the high quality of this year’s winning applications indicates that this new ASIL program is thriving and meeting an important need to support young professionals pursuing innovative and exemplary fieldwork in international law. We wish these students well as they undertake their summer projects and congratulate them on being named 2007 Helton Fellows.”

Helton Fellowships are administered by ASIL through its Career Development Program. For more information, including eligibility and application information, visit <http://www.asil.org/aboutasil/heltonindex.html>. To contribute to the Helton Fellowship fund, visit <https://www.asil.org/aboutasil/heltonfellowshipform.cfm>.

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL's mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members (from nearly 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law. For more information, visit www.asil.org.