

**Press Release: ILS Congratulates the 2008 ILS Global Justice Fellows:
Deidre McGuigan and Seher Khawaja**

ILS is pleased to announce that **Deidre McGuigan** and **Seher Khawaja** have been selected as the 2008 ILS Global Justice Fellows. The ILS Global Justice Fellowship is an entirely student-run fellowship program that aims to sponsor BLS students who are committed to working overseas, but lack the resources to do so.

The Global Justice Fellowship program was launched this year in the hope that ILS would be able to support one deserving student to work overseas this summer. Having received an overwhelming number of exceptional applications this year, the Fellowship Selection Committee decided that instead of supporting only one student, ILS would support two fellows whose summer projects were interrelated. Deidre and Seher will both be working in South Africa for non-profit organizations that focus on providing legal services for South Africa's most vulnerable populations, namely refugees from other African nations and South African citizens who continue to face discrimination even after the end of apartheid in 1994.

Deidre McGuigan, Class of 2010, will be interning with Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) In Johannesburg, South Africa in the Refugee and Migrant Rights Project. Deidre will be assisting refugees that have recently arrived in South Africa from Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Angola, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Deidre's work will focus on assisting asylum-seekers and refugees with completing their applications for asylum or permanent residence in South Africa, advising them of their rights and responsibilities in South Africa, and preparation for appeals to South Africa's Refugee Appeal Board. Deidre's passion for this project stems from her work mentoring a young Somali refugee girl. Deidre explains that through her experience as a mentor, "I was able to learn about both the challenges that refugees like this girl and her family have had to face, as well as the life-altering opportunities the law has bestowed upon them."

Seher Khawaja, Class of 2009, will be interning with the Legal Resources Center (LRC) in Grahamstown, South Africa. Seher's project with LRC has two distinct components. First, Seher will assist (LRC) with providing free legal services to marginalized people in South Africa that face discrimination based on race, class, gender, disability, and socio-economic and historical factors. Second, Seher will undertake a research project with the guidance and support of LRC that will focus on the socioeconomic consequences of long-term discrimination in South Africa, and the extent to which equal protection jurisprudence in the United States, Israel, and South Africa has addressed this problem. Based on her experience in Israel last summer and her work with the NAACP here in New York, Seher's research will compare differing definitions of discrimination in South Africa, the U.S. and Israel and identify the legal frameworks that provide the most effective remedies in countering discrimination.

The Fellowship Selection Committee was impressed with the high-degree of dedication and the level of interest of the two fellows and of all the applicants this year. We hope that next year ILS will be able to support more students as Global Justice Fellows.

ILS would also like to congratulate **Katharine Bodde** and **Jared Watkins** on receiving the Brooklyn Law School International Human Rights Fellowship. ILS is pleased that Brooklyn Law School this year has decided to provide much-needed financial assistance to students working in the field of international human rights law.

The first edition of ILS Newsletter in the fall semester will highlight the experiences of the 2008 Global Justice Fellows, the BLS International Human Rights Fellows, and other BLS students who are working abroad this summer.

For more information on ILS, please go to: <http://ils.brooklynsba.org>

Sara Schuman & Brian Barbour
ILS, Co-Chairs