

Brigid McCarthy

Arthur Watts Internship at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law

Dates of Internship: 11 June 2015 to 14 August 2015

Report of Activities:

My internship at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) represents the final capstone of my Juris Doctor (JD) at Melbourne Law School (MLS). I recently completed the last academic semester of my JD on exchange at the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies in London. The internship at BIICL followed on from this, starting 11 June 2015 and ending 14 August 2015. The internship was arranged in connection with MLS and generously supported by Allan Myers AO QC.

While at BIICL, I benefited from involvement in a variety of projects. Key among them was a forthcoming book series on British Influences on international law 1915-2015. Working with Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law, Ms Jill Barrett, I conducted research in connection with the books on a variety of topics, ranging from emerging issues in international law to its historical foundations. As part of the project I was also required to coordinate external contributors and resolve logistical issues. This gave me an appreciation of all that is required in managing such a large scale project and presented the opportunity to engage with senior legal and academic contributors. A particular highlight was the opportunity to write my own contribution to be published as part of the series.

In addition to work on the book series, I was able to assist with and attend a number of excellent events while at BIICL. Firstly, Ms Barrett spoke at a seminar at Oxford University as part of the International Human Rights Law summer school. I assisted with research and preparation for the seminar and was then able to attend. This allowed me to meet with other academics and students involved in the summer school at Oxford.

I also attended and wrote the report for an event on Managing Migration Flows in the Mediterranean held at BIICL. The event brought together a cross-section of thinkers and practitioners to discuss a highly topical issue. It was interesting to learn of the various legal frameworks and practical challenges faced in the EU.

Finally, I was very fortunate to attend two BIICL events at the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn associated with the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. The first concerned the relevance of Magna Carta Abroad and consisted of a lecture by The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin PC, Chief Justice of Canada. The second was on the topic 'Does the UK need a new Magna Carta?'. This was a panel event which included The Rt Hon Beverley McLachlin PC, Lord Hope of Craighead, Baroness Hale, Lord Lester QC, Professor Jeremy Waldron and Murray Hunt. Both were fantastic events, presenting the opportunity to hear insightful reflection and debate from persons whose work I had studied at MLS.

Overall, my internship at BIICL was highly rewarding and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity. I was able to develop a variety of skills, meet a range of interesting people in the legal world and gain valuable insight into the operations of a highly-regarded research institute.