WINTER 2018 GLOBAL REPORT
REFLECTION ON THE FALL

Friends,

I am eager to share with you an update from the last several months.

In addition to our routine activities, we have exciting news about our work and relationships with Uganda, new relationships in Ghana, a training opportunity in Brazil, and a legislative drafting practicum tackling the issue of human trafficking. It’s been a busy fall.

We are thankful for the prayers, support, and participation from all of you to make this program happen. So many of you have traveled abroad with our program, so many of you have financially supported this work, and so many of you encourage and affirm us as we continue to engage in legal development around the world. This is one of the most rewarding lines of work to engage in, but the grit it takes to overcome the consistent challenges is really a reflection on the larger team surrounding and supporting us in so many ways. Thank you again for all you have done to build and strengthen this program—we couldn’t do it without you!

Enjoy the report!

Jim Gash
Director, Sudreau Global Justice Program
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During my second week working at the DPP (Department of Public Prosecutions), I was able to accompany one of the prosecutors to trial. There was a special session for cases of aggravated defilement. Before the session started, we were able to meet with the judge and she told us a little bit about what was going to happen.

Aggravated defilement sessions are usually less formal than any other sessions in Uganda. The judge doesn’t wear the signature red robe and wig. The lawyers dress more casually. This is all in an effort to make the session less frightful and intimidating for the children who have to testify. Additionally, in Kampala, they recently installed a new system in which the children can testify from the judge’s chamber and it is livestreamed into the courtroom. This is to avoid retraumatizing the child by making her be in the same room as the alleged defiler as she recounts what happened to her.

The girl who testified that first day in court was eight. I could tell that even with all the precautions the court took, she was still nervous. But as she started to tell her story, I could see her confidence grow. She answered all the questions posed to her in a clear and concise manner. There were times it was obvious that she was understandably uncomfortable, but she soldiered on. When she was done, the judge thanked her for her time and the little girl asked if she could return to coloring. With that, the live stream was turned off and the session proceeded.
Unfortunately, this case was adjourned because another witness failed to appear (a common problem here) so she will have to wait awhile longer for justice to be done. While I won’t be there for the final judgment of this case and while I will likely never see this girl again, I will never forget her incredible courage and fortitude. She will always be an example to me and I can honestly say that I hope I am half as brave as she is when I grow up.
Jakarta, Indonesia – Quite the “Adventure”

All students interning this summer in the Sudreau Global Justice Program received a student handbook with all necessary information regarding the program and the country they are visiting. My handbook was titled “Adventurer,” and boy that is exactly what my time in Jakarta has felt like, an ADVENTURE!

Only one student before me has ever come to Jakarta, Indonesia through the Sudreau Global Justice Program. So, in a sense, he (last year) and I (this year) are paving the way for what will hopefully lead to students coming here for years to come and making a significant, even if small, impact on the future of Jakarta and their justice system.

The reason I say my time here has been an adventure is because I dove right into a foreign country without knowing the language, people, customs, or foods (for that matter), and have just had to figure it out. Which is, to be honest, part of the fun! Will my taxi ever arrive? Not sure. Will I get sick if I eat this? Maybe. Does this person understand what I’m saying? Probably not. But having to just figure things out and make them happen are the very things that make this adventure fun while at the same time providing me with, what I feel, will be life experiences that are priceless and build tenacity and character.

My roles so far in Jakarta are twofold: I am assisting Professor Patrick Talbot, a Professor of Law at Pelita Harapan University, with his compilation of anti-human trafficking laws. I am also assisting Mardian Budadjaja with the Indonesian Christian Legal Society, Perhimpunan Profesi Hukum Kristiani Indonesia (“PPHKI”) by researching Juvenile Law in Indonesia, and by speaking to current law students in Indonesia about my experience as a law student in America.
The aim of my research with Juvenile Law is to gather a compilation of the historical progression of Juvenile Law in Indonesia so that PPHKI can train paralegals to assist juveniles who often do not receive proper legal representation because attorneys rarely take cases since either the juvenile’s family cannot afford an attorney, there is not much money in it for the attorney, or attorneys do not have an interest in helping the juveniles. PPHKI aims to train paralegals to be the support juveniles need, with the end goals of better rehabilitation opportunities for juveniles and for juveniles to also get the fair justice they deserve. I will write a later post about the depths of corruption that exist in the government and judicial system here, but I have learned from several Indonesians that the corruption is very real.

My other role with PPHKI this summer will be to speak to Indonesian law students about my experience as a student in America, and specifically how I (and we at Pepperdine) interweave our Christian faith and beliefs into our work as future attorneys practicing law. PPHKI is hoping to thwart corruption in the legal field by starting with the youth.

I usually spend my days at Mardiana’s office: Lawyerindo. My co-workers in the office are so amazingly kind, warm, friendly, and have accepted me as one of their own. We eat lunch together. They invited me to the office outing to have dinner and see an Indonesian film, Lima. The girls in the office even told me to wear a white shirt and jeans on Fridays to match them. I have been blessed to be put in such good hands during this “adventure."
Pepperdine Law Professor Maureen Weston joined with Pepperdine SOL alum and Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Boyd, former Texas Secretary of State Geoffrey Conner, and former judge and current Director of Texas Center for the Judiciary, Mark Atkinson, in presenting a Conference on Considering the Common Law in Sao Luis, Brazil, in the northern coastal state of Maranhao. Maranhao Supreme Court Justice Paulo Velten, also Director of the state’s judicial education institution invited the US Justice Team to convene with over 100 Brazilian civil-law judges to help understand the common-law system as a means to strengthen the rule of law in a civil-law system. Professor Weston presented on The Caselaw Method, Stare Decisis, and Judicial Precedent, and Civil and Common Law in Arbitration: Considering Challenges in the Private Resolution of Disputes Involving Multi-System Parties and Laws. The team also met with Maranhao Supreme Court Justices and the Lieutenant Governor, in addition to a Justice Boyd’s keynote address to about 350 judges, legislators, and community leaders on “Pursuing the Rule of Law.” The conference was arranged through the efforts of Mark and Melinda Dye and Justin and Jill Hill, missionaries in Sao Luis, with Portuguese-English translation by Cea and Isabella Baselar, and supported by the Pepperdine Law Sudreau Global Justice Program.
In late September, a delegation of 10 Ugandan Judicial officials visited Pepperdine for a week-long training in mediation. Trainers from Pepperdine Law’s Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution Professor Selina Schultz and retired Judge Mitch Goldberg led the course. The delegation also traveled to Judicicate West, a mediation center in Los Angeles, where they had the opportunity to sit in on live mediations. Appellate mediators from the California Court of Appeals also visited Pepperdine to train on that method of reducing case backlog in the appellate courts. The delegation consisted of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Director of Public Prosecutions, Solicitor General, three Appellate Court Justices, one High Court Judge, the Technical Advisor to the Judiciary, the Technical Advisor to the Justice, Law, and Order Sector, and Director of the First Parliamentary Counsel.
In early October, Jim headed to Uganda for his 25th trip this decade. Joining him on this trip was Pepperdine Economics Professor Dr. Julia Norgaard, who has joined the Sudreau Global Justice Program team to assist with statistical analysis of our justice sector interventions in Uganda. Jim and Julia, along with the year-long, Uganda-based Nootbaar Fellow Katy Mitchell (’17), spent several days meetings with leaders in the court, prisons, and at the US Embassy. A few days into the trip, Jim journeyed to Mbale in Eastern Uganda for the fourth annual graduation ceremony at LivingStone International University (LIU) -- a rapidly growing Christian university where Jim serves as Chancellor.

While Jim was in Mbale, Julia and Katy focused on assessing data sources and gathering data. Jim, Julia, and Katy also had the chance to spend the day with Henry (featured in the documentary “REMAND” and book “Divine Collision”) and his new bride Lillian. Henry is now in his fifth year of medical school and will finish in about a year.
On behalf of the Sudreau Global Justice Program and in his capacity as Honorary Consul of Uganda in California, a position he has held for almost a decade, Dean Danny DeWalt traveled to Washington D.C. in October to meet with the new Ambassador to the United States from Uganda, Mull Sebuja Katende. His visit, intended to be two or so hours, was out-matched by traditional Ugandan hospitality. The day consisted of meeting at the Ambassador's office with standard etiquette of introductions and speeches followed by an authentic Ugandan lunch at the Ambassador's home, which his wife, Maliam, laboriously prepared for this visit.
I have now traveled to Africa 26 times since early 2010, but the primary purpose of every prior trip revolved around my beloved Uganda. Until now. Ghana has been beckoning to me for several years now from multiple angles.

In 2018, two things happened that caused me to heed this call. First, Pepperdine graduate Laure Sudreau decided to invest heavily in the future of the global justice program’s work. Her incredible generosity allowed what is now the Sudreau Global Justice Program to think more expansively about ways we could provide access to justice beyond East Africa.

Second, the field office director for International Justice Mission (IJM) in Gulu, Uganda – with whom I had been able to work for several years – relocated to Ghana to lead that field office. Just before Will Lathrop made this move, we were together in Washington, DC during the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between IJM and the Ugandan Justice, Law, and Order Sector. While we were together, Will probed Pepperdine’s willingness to expand into West Africa. While IJM’s work in Ghana is focused upon rescuing children trafficked into the Lake Volta region for forced labor and/or sexual exploitation, he and his IJM colleagues, he explained, would be happy to open up their network of contacts within the justice system to allow us to discuss Ghana’s level of interest in us providing the type of assistance we have provided to Uganda (and, to a lesser degree, Rwanda) in the criminal justice realm.

From my prior research on Ghana, I was aware that, like Uganda, Ghana had inherited a British form of criminal justice structure that mirrored in important ways our own. I also knew that Ghanaians spoke English, had democratic elections, and had an infrastructure that would be sufficiently safe and comfortable for our students. Likewise, I was aware that Ghana, like virtually all developing countries, struggled with the same challenges that Uganda did in providing timely access to justice for those charged with crimes.

So, over the course of the last six months, Will and I settled on an early December collaboration between Pepperdine and IJM in Ghana.
For his part, Will and his team would arrange for meetings with all of the important sectors necessary for Pepperdine to ascertain whether the Sudreau Global Justice Program could assist Ghana in its quest to deliver justice to its people through the involvement of Pepperdine faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

When circumstances prevented Danny DeWalt to join me, I called Dane Ball – a Houston criminal defense lawyer extraordinaire. Dane is a former student, a good friend, and nothing if not adventurous. He joined our prison project in Uganda this summer and made me promise to let him know when the next African justice trip was coming. He immediately accepted my invitation to join me in Ghana the next week.

Will and another IJM colleague perfectly orchestrated a series of highly productive meetings with: the Legal Counsel for the Ghana Prison Authority; the Chief Director and Deputy Director of the Ministry for the Interior; an influential Member of Parliament; the Director of Public Prosecutions; a Supreme Court Justice; and two human rights lawyers who are leaders among Ghana’s criminal law bar.

The meetings couldn’t have gone better. Ghana does have many of the same criminal justice challenges as Uganda, is eager for the type of assistance we can provide, and wants to have Pepperdine summer interns and year-long Pepperdine fellows. I expect that we will have 2-3 students serving as interns in Ghana this summer and I predict that we will have a year-round Sudreau fellow on the ground in the near future.
This year, we have a pilot practicum taking place for students interested in legislative drafting on the issue of anti-human trafficking. Pepperdine Law 3L, Jake Herbert, initiated this practicum after learning about the need for legislative solutions to fighting trafficking in California. Students are researching and meeting with prosecutors and judges around the state to narrow in on topics for legislation that will support the work of California lawyers and judges to eliminate human trafficking. Eleven students are participating in this 9-month practicum.

As part of the practicum, which will culminate in drafting a bill for consideration by the California legislature, students are teaming up in pairs of two and traveling to the five largest counties in the state to meet with judges, prosecutors, public defenders and politicians to understand what type of legislation is needed and what type of legislation is most likely to be approved. Initial meetings were convened in the fall and two additional meetings with each county will occur during the spring semester as the class is drafting the bill.
Raleigh Sadler is the founder of Let My People Go, a nonprofit organization working to empower the local church to fight human trafficking. He will be with us on February 13th to talk with our students about the challenges and successes he has had working to eliminate human trafficking and to discuss his new book, Vulnerable: Rethinking Human Trafficking.

On March 4-7, the Sudreau Global Justice Program will host religious leaders from around the world for discussions around religious freedom. This conference is in partnership with the DC-based Religious Freedom Institute, Baylor's Institute for the Study of Religion, and Pepperdine's Center for Faith and Learning. Thursday, March 7 is the day that will be open to the public. We encourage you to come!
For almost a decade, Gary Haugen, Founder and CEO of International Justice Mission, has taught an intensive course on International Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Developing World. This year, Gary's class will take place March 1-7, 2019. We typically see enrollment of 35-40 students in this course each year.

On March 7-17 our Program will be heading to Uganda to train on plea bargaining in prisons. This 10-day trip is an opportunity for students (12 Pepperdine Law and 2 Yale Law) to serve in a practical and helpful way, as well as learn about our work and relationships in Uganda.

In late March, Rwandan Chief Justice, Sam Rugege, will be coming to campus for a three-day visit of meetings and lectures. Three Pepperdine students intern for Justice Rugege each summer.