

## Fellowship Report

1. Your name, year of graduation and e-mail address.

Name: Smitha Krishna Prasad

Year of Graduation: 2012

Email address: [skp318@nyu.edu](mailto:skp318@nyu.edu) or [kp.smitha@gmail.com](mailto:kp.smitha@gmail.com)

2. Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization, FULL address, telephone number and website.

Organization name: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Division: Law and Legislative Advice Division (Trademark and Design Law Division)

Dates of work: 21/5/2012 to 27/7/2012

Address: 34, chemin des Colombettes, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Phone number: +41 22 338 9111

Website: <http://www.wipo.int/>

3. Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address.

Name: Marcus Hopperger

Title: Director, Trademark and Design Law Division

Telephone number: +41 22 338 9605

E-mail Address: [marcus.hopperger@wipo.int](mailto:marcus.hopperger@wipo.int)

4. Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.

I am not aware of any NYU alumni working at WIPO

5. Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.

I obtained this internship through the NYU International Finance and Development Fellowship. The application for the fellowship was submitted in November, followed by a short-listing and an interview conducted at NYU. My name was then forwarded to the organization. I did not have any further interviews with the organization itself and the internship was finalized by the end of January.

6. Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).

WIPO's mission is to promote innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries, through a balanced and effective international intellectual property system.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the United Nations agency dedicated to the use of intellectual property (patents, copyright, trademarks, designs, etc.) as a means of stimulating innovation and creativity.

WIPO promotes the development and use of the international IP system through:

- **Services** - systems which make it easier to obtain protection internationally for patents, trademarks, designs and appellations of origin; and to resolve IP disputes.
- **Law** - help develop the international legal IP framework in line with society's evolving needs.
- **Infrastructure** - build collaborative networks and technical platforms to share knowledge and simplify IP transactions, including free databases and tools for exchanging information.
- **Development** - build capacity in the use of IP to support economic development.

WIPO also works with member states and stakeholders to improve understanding and respect for IP worldwide, provides economic analysis and statistics, and contributes IP-based solutions to help tackle global challenges.

7. Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.

I conducted research on geographical indications and design law. The research included both international aspects as well as domestic laws of WIPO member states. I also had the opportunity to attend the meetings of the working group on the Lisbon Agreement, observe member states negotiate new treaty texts, and assist in preparing the report on the same.

8. An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.

The supervision and feedback received were very valuable but mostly task specific and limited to the individual person involved in the project my work was related to. I have not yet received any formal overall feedback on my work, but my discussions with the staff members showed that the team was happy and satisfied with the work performance.

9. Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?

I would highly recommend this internship to any student of NYU, especially to someone interested in trademark, geographical indication and design law. It was also a good experience just in terms of learning about the way an international organization within the UN system works. It must be noted that (especially the division I worked for) is more policy oriented and the work might not be as fast paced as students are accustomed to with internships in law firms.

10. How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?

This internship has advanced my interest in policy oriented work within the field of international law. I am now also considering working with organizations that focus on IP related issues where I can put to use the knowledge I have gained from my internship with WIPO.

11. Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a Note and if so, please briefly describe.

I chose to wait and select a paper topic that was relevant to my internship, so yes the internship did provide me with a topic.

12. Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.

To the student I suggest that there should be a specific interest in IP policy and that they should keep an open mind regarding the bureaucratic manner in which an international organization works. It would also be great if the organization was not so rigid with regard to the timing of the internship. Given that July and August are slow months in Geneva, it would be nice to have the option of starting late August especially since most students will be interested in writing the New York Bar Examination. This way the intern would also have an opportunity to be at WIPO during the months when the standing committee meetings and assemblies take place.

13. If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale.

I worked in Geneva which is a very expensive city. I found that although in terms of rent it was about the same as New York, the cost of living in terms of food etc was much more. It is also very difficult to find short term housing as there are hundreds of interns looking for accommodation at any given time. I suggest that interns start looking as early as possible, a room at one of the residences/foyers is the cheapest option but finding a room requires constant follow up with the residences ([www.car-ge.ch](http://www.car-ge.ch) has information about most of these residences). Some websites such as [www.glocals.com](http://www.glocals.com) as well as the facebook pages of the Geneva Interns Association can be used to find apartments or rooms (Rent for a room/apartment is at least 1000CHF whereas rent for a room in one of the residences is much lesser). French speakers could also look into accommodation in one of the bordering French villages.

The fellowship amount of \$6500 is just about enough to cover the expenses incurred during the internship. If one is conservative and is lucky enough to get cheap accommodation, it is possible to save some money to travel around Geneva. Summer is a great time to travel and I would suggest that interns look into buying tickets for travelling as well as the many festivals organized in the region in advance.

14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.

No, I did not receive any additional funding.

## Fellowship Report

1. Your name, year of graduation and e-mail address.  
Pablo Martin Richards. LL.M. Class of 2012. pmr309@nyu.edu
2. Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization, FULL address, telephone number and website.  
International Development Law Organization (IDLO). Viale Vaticano 106, 00165 Rome, Italy.  
Tel. +39 06 4040 3254. Fax +39 06 4040 3232. Website: www.idlo.int
3. Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address.  
Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero. Acting Director of Research and Policy. Tel. +39 06 4040 3254 Fax +39 06 4040 3232. Skype: ilaria.bottigliero. ibottigliero@idlo.int
4. Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.  
N/A.
5. Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.  
I obtained the internship through NYU under the internship programs managed by the Office of Graduate Affairs. There were two rounds of interviews. The first one with research associates at NYU and a second round with Ilaria Bottigliero, the head of research at IDLO. I believe that the advantage I had in the selection process was that I had worked for IDLO when I was an associate at my firm and that they selected me because I had a really different profile from those that usually apply; my background has nothing to do with public interest law, my courses were mainly focused on corporate and financial topics but I had some experience working in pro bono projects. In addition, I had some experience in Italy before (I did an exchange program in Milan) and speak Italian which I think that showed some interest in Italian culture too (I believe that I mentioned that during the interview!). I always say in the interviews that I wanted to explore this area of law and that the internship was just one way to see if I was interested in pursuing a career in public interest law. Maybe the piece of advice I can give you is be honest with your objectives not matter which ones you have and try to have a good time during the interview. People like to have fun with their coworkers!
6. Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).  
The current mission and vision of the organization is under review! They changed Director General this year and they are going to reformulate the objectives of the organization. Today, the scope of the organization is really broad and I suggest that you go to the web to check it out. In one line: they concentrate in themes related to the rule of law and development (the whole idea of law and development!)
7. Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.  
I worked in the research department. I concentrate in one specific project during my brief 10 week placement (PPPs and the aid community) but I supported other research initiatives, mainly in women and the law.

8. An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.

I did not receive too much feedback. They were grateful with my

9. Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?

I would recommend it with some reservations. The research department is flexible enough to encourage any kind of project you are interested on but the real projects are happening in other departments. Try to be assigned to a different department where you feel that you can concentrate your efforts in a project you are interested in.

10. How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?

It was very useful to learn how to work in research and follow a strict methodology in a paper.

11. Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a Note and if so, please briefly describe.

Yes, definitely.

12. Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.

Not that I can think of at this moment.

13. If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale.

It is quite difficult to find affordable lodging in Rome, especially for the summer. I would suggest you take one week of hotel or you rent a tourist apartment to find a place. Tourist apartments are always overpriced and it is difficult to find somebody willing to lease it for only two months. First, talk to people in the organization. After I had already paid for mine, several colleagues told me that either they were leaving a room or they knew somebody that was leaving one. Secondly, try in internet in Craigslist or Affito.it (knowing Italian is a plus). Beware of the scams in internet because there are many. They usually say they are out of the city and that there is a special way through moneygram/westernunion to send you the keys. That is not true!

Prices range according to the location. I would suggest Prati, which is near the office, Gregorio VII or around the Vatican, which is only 5 minutes away walking. If you are on a budget San Giovanni could be an option. Live in Trastevere only if you are expecting to go out a lot. It is REALLY noisy! Expect to pay between \$900 to \$1200 for a simple studio/one bedroom or \$500 to \$900 for a room in a shared apartment. Prices always in euros!

Regarding groceries, Rome is much cheaper than NYC. A beer in a bar is between 3-5e. A restaurant costs between 15-30 e at the most (always depending on your preferences). A subway or bus ride is 1.5e but there are *abbonamenti* that can make you commuting cost lower. I cannot give you a total number because I came here with my wife which makes it difficult to determine how much I would have spent alone.

14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.

No. I finance between the NYU grant and my own savings.

## Fellowship Report

- 1. Your name, year of graduation, e-mail address, and whether this was a 1L, 2L, or LLM internship.**

Cansu Kahya ([cansukahya@yahoo.com](mailto:cansukahya@yahoo.com)), LL.M.'12

- 2. Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), address, telephone number and website.**

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Office of General Counsel  
One Exchange Square  
London EC2A 2JN  
United Kingdom  
+44(20) 7338 6000

- 3. Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address.**

Tom Hammack, Chief Counsel, Banking Operations  
+44 207 338 6000  
HammackT@ebrd.com

- 4. Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.**

Angela Delfino, NYU LL.M.'08  
Enrico Canzio, NYU LL.M.

- 5. Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.**

In November, I was first interviewed by a committee of three at NYU and they have chosen 3 candidates that they would offer to the institution. Later, in January, I was interviewed by two counsels from EBRD. The interview was focused mainly on my previous experience of working at law firms and my future goals. It was one of the most focused interviews that I have ever had, it was straightforward. I learnt about the results in early spring.

- 6. Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).**

The EBRD is an international financial institution that supports projects from central Europe to central Asia. Investing primarily in private sector clients whose needs cannot be fully met by the market, the Bank fosters [transition](#) towards open and democratic market economies. In all its operation, the Bank follows the highest standards of corporate governance and sustainable development. It aims to promote market economies that function well – where businesses are competitive, innovation is encouraged, household incomes reflect rising employment and productivity, and where environmental and social conditions reflect peoples' needs.

- 7. Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.**

EBRD uses two methods to finance its clients: it either facilitates loans (under a debt structure) or it injects money to the company and becomes a minority shareholder (equity transactions). I worked on both types of the deals, helped the counsels to draft the documents at the various level, such as briefing memorandums for the internal approvals, term sheets and the actual agreement itself. There was no specific sector or country that I had to focus on. I worked both on sovereign and private sector deals.

- 8. An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.**

I started my internship on August, during the Olympics and Bank was encouraging its employees to take vacation. End of August is also one of the popular periods for taking days off. Therefore, there were three counsels who were on annual leave at some point during my internship. I have started working with them before their leave so I had the chance to be introduced to such deals and when they were on leave, I managed the cases, together with the operation leaders (who are bankers, not lawyers). When I was leaving, they told me they appreciated the work I did for them and that they were really happy with the quality of my drafts.

- 9. Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?**

The lawyers that I worked with EBRD offered me help many times and they often took the time to explain the projects and details to me, for which, I was truly grateful. I would highly recommend this internship to another NYU student.

- 10. How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?**

I have always been interested in working at an international financial institution. EBRD helped me to gain an insight. I had the chance to see the points that the Bank focuses, such as promoting development in developing countries and the corporate governance in companies. I also enjoyed being an in-house counsel. I will consider a similar position in the future.

- 11. Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a journal article and if so, please briefly describe.**

Yes. During my internship, Russian Supreme Court issued a decision on the invalidity of the dual jurisdiction clauses (a clause that provides both access to a local court and to arbitration) that did not provide equal options to both sides of the transaction (the Bank would have the option to go either to

arbitration or to a local court, whereas, the client would be bound with the arbitration). This decision causes the Bank to review its standard jurisdiction clause and to discuss the potential outcome of a dispute. I took advantage of such disputes in choosing my paper topic (*please note that the topic is not approved yet*).

**12. Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.**

Some experience in working at project finance can be useful.

**13. If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale.**

I started my internship during the Olympics and it was truly difficult to find accommodation at this time of the year. I exceeded my budget. I used various ways to find short-term rental housing, including some websites, but at the end, the only thing that worked out was connections through friends.

**14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.**

No, I did not.

## Fellowship Report

1. Your name, year of graduation and e-mail address.

Tiantian Zhuang, LLM '12, tz449@nyu.edu

2. Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization, FULL address, telephone number and website.

International Monetary Fund  
Legal Department, Fiscal and Financial Law Unit  
August 1 – October 12, 2012  
Address: 700 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20431  
Tel: + 1 (202) 623-7000

3. Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address.

Wouter Bossu  
Senior Counsel, Fiscal and Financial Law Unit (FFL), Legal Department  
Wbossu@imf.org

4. Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.

Francis Chukwu  
Research Officer, Country Unit, Legal Department  
LLM'11 Alumni

5. Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.

I obtained the internship through the IFD Fellowship Program. After the first round interview by the PILC, a few candidates are shortlisted and provided to the Legal Department of the IMF for further selection. The second round interview was conducted through Skype. The questions I was asked include my interest, my previous experiences, the reasons why I apply for the internship, and the classes I took etc., which are questions frequently being asked during interviews. In terms of timing, I started the application process in late October and have interviews in mid November and mid January separately. I was informed of the offer in early February.

6. Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).

The International Monetary Fund is an organization of 188 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

7. Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.

My primary work includes legal research and memo/note drafting on specific topics assigned by the supervisors. In light of my background and the current economic conditions, my supervisor, Mr. Wouter Bossu, guided me to specifically work on bank resolution and related topics. Different from law firms, the work at the FFL of the Fund is to assess the legal framework and financial stability of countries and to provide advice on improvement. At the end of the internship, every intern at the FFL is required to make a presentation on one of the projects they worked on. The matters I primarily work on include:

- Assessment of the legal framework for the bank resolution in Republic of Serbia
- Assessment of the legal framework for the bank supervision in North Sudan
- Comparative study of the legal framework for the resolution of insurance firms and banks
- Assessment of the legal framework for cross-border supervision and resolution of branches of Jordanian banks in West Bank and Gaza
- Review of the legal framework of the resolution funding system in the US, Canada, Korea and Sweden
- Review of the legal framework of the bank supervision in East Caribbean Currency Union

8. An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.

The work at the FFL requires knowledge and work experience in financial institution regulation sector. You are expected to know what the law is and also what the law should be. Equipped with these knowledge and experience you could provide solid assessment of the legal framework for the financial market of a country. The supervision I had in the course of internship is generally appropriate. My supervisors tended to give me enough time to think and draft, and provide sufficient guidance and explanation. The deadlines are not as tight as law firms. Importantly, the supervisors usually assigned work to every intern based on their interest and taking into account the transferability of the knowledge we would learn from the tasks at the IMF to the future work.

9. Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?

I think the work experience at the IMF is very unique and precious. It provides me with an opportunity to know how international organizations work and what they are doing, which I wouldn't have any chance to know otherwise. In particular, I like the dynamics of the FFL that all the staff goes for lunch together everyday. We had a variety of interesting topics during lunch. I would highly recommend the internship to people who are interested in working in this type of international organizations.

10. How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?

The internship definitely advances my interest in this type of international organizations and, more importantly, provides me with opportunities to know what kind of people and experience they are looking for. I think it is very helpful for me to plan my career path in the next 5 years.

11. Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a Note and if so, please briefly describe.

Yes, one of my research topics is comparative study on the resolution framework for banks and insurance firms. My paper will discuss the distinctions of insurance firm resolution from banks and explore the underlying reasons.

12. Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.

The work at the legal department at the IMF varies from unit to unit. For the FFL, I thought it is of great help to take classes such as banking law and financial institution regulation, especially if you do not have work experience in this area. It will help you get on the right track quickly. In addition, I think a class taught by Prof. Kevin Davis called "Financing Development" is very helpful to know about the international financing organizations like IMF and the World Bank in general. In addition, networking is of course very important if you would like to seek further development in this area. People at the Fund usually have a coffee break at 3 or 4 pm, which is a good chance to meet different people.

13. If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale.

Like apartments in NY, short-term rental housing in DC is generally more expensive. It normally goes from USD1,500 to USD2,000, depending on the location. A lot of people live in Virginia or Maryland and commute to DC every day by subway, which is very convenient. Food is almost at the same price as NY but fewer varieties I am afraid. Usually you can eat at the cafeterias of the IMF for lunch.

14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.

No. The only funding I received is the stipend provided by the PILC for this program.