

# Refugee and Legal Advocacy Internship

# 2021

## Our Experience

From January 6 to January 26, we virtually interned with the Refugee Legal Advocacy Center (RLAC) in Cape Town, South Africa through the partnership of the Kellogg Institute, VACorps, and Kaya Responsible Travel. Through the five tasks our supervisor, RLAC founder Aleck Kuhudzai, provided us, we were exposed to current legal cases in South Africa, case law, international law, public policy, and comparative national laws.

01

### Task 1

Our client's friend defaulted on a loan and needed to file an affidavit with the South African Magistrate's Court. We learned how to research case law, rules of the court, and worked together to overcome initial challenges.



02

### Task 2

To help our client contest a will to gain child support, we researched case law, freedom of testation, and drafted a list of averments to present before the court. We gained experience working with systematic arguments and the application of case law.



03

### Task 3

We scrutinized South Africa's proposed One Stop Border Post Policy (OSBP) to evaluate its compliance with international law. We practiced preparing a comparative analysis of the asylum procedures of various countries.



04

### Task 4

To determine whether our client could wage a legal claim against an airline that destroyed his luggage after a pandemic-driven change in travel plans, we searched the airline's policy to compile standard company procedures. We became comfortable crafting a nuanced argument based on the application of company policy.



05

### Task 5

In a contested divorce, our client was seeking access to his child and we researched legal precedent which could support this case. We learned how to consult and apply legal documents, further developing our group dynamic and research process.



## Culture Series

Four times a week, Kuselwa and Kholi from Kaya held online sessions to introduce us to South Africa's vibrant culture. The amazing topics covered included the South African Work Setting and Opportunities, Ethnic Groups and their Cultures, the Xhosa Language, Beadwork and Culture, and Travel and Tourism Tips. These fantastic workshops allowed us to delve deeper into South Africa and recognize the diversity and richness of its culture.



Through this internship experience, we have built our teamwork skills, improved at communicating our goals and needs, practiced staying calm under pressure, gained knowledge of the South African legislative procedure, developed our cultural knowledge and awareness, and learned how to effectively navigate the virtual workplace. This has been an incredibly rewarding and enlightening experience.

# Thank You!