RULE OF LAW

PROLAW graduates put new expertise to work around the globe

Rule of Law for Development program alumni already having an effect in their home countries and beyond

A PROLAW graduate, you understand we’re on the right track.”

The first few classes of PROLAW graduates are already making a significant impact in the field. Leslie Jansen, a 2012 PROLAW grad, works for Natural Justice, a Cape Town, South Africa-based international organization that operates at the intersection of human rights and environmental law. “My work involves working with indigenous and local communities in South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia around their relationship with natural resources,” says Jansen, explaining that Natural Justice uses an international environmental law context to protect and advocate for the rights of these communities.

Jansen is also an appointed expert member to the African Commission’s Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa, which “does research and advocacy work surrounding the human rights concerns of these marginalized communities,” Jansen says.

2014 PROLAW grad Ashot Agaian entered the program seeking specific knowledge and practical skills—“I realized that classic legal education was not enough for me to make a difference and create an impact,” he says—and is now an officer in the Ukraine Juvenile Justice Reform Project.

“I work on enhancing the rights of the child in Ukraine and advocating for establishing a youth-friendly criminal justice system that will be responsive to the specific needs of children,” he explains. Agaian works with stakeholders on improving legislation, trains prosecutors and judges on international standards for criminal proceedings involving minors, and is now being called upon to contribute to policy development. Agaian also works with another PROLAW graduate from Ukraine, Iryna Ivankiv, to conduct training for Ukrainian civil society organizations and activists on how to design effective and implementable projects improving governance and rule of law.

A Zimbabweene PROLAW graduate in the class of 2012, David Hofisi serves as a senior project lawyer for Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. Hofisi now conducts public interest and constitutional litigation in the higher courts.

“I’ve also led a coalition of civil society organizations in monitoring implementation of Zimbabwe’s new constitution, and am tasked with overseeing engagements with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission as well as production of constitutional publications,” he says.

Hofisi has presented in Rome as a PROLAW visiting lecturer and has also presented papers on constitutional reform at several international development gatherings. Last summer, he held a fellowship with Presidential Precinct, a consortium of American universities and historic sites dedicated to helping young leaders work on issues surrounding successful civil institutions and nation building.

“PROLAW taught us how to see more and get more from what we’re doing to create greater impact,” says Agaian. “Now I see the place of my specific project on the bigger map of international development and recognize the importance of every minor activity for the purpose of achieving our overall goal.”

Read more about the important work being done by PROLAW grads at LUC.EDU/PROLAW/ALUMNIREPORTS.