



## winning places

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From August 29, 2008 to December 3, 2008, I undertook an internship at the State Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Special Section for War Crimes, in Sarajevo. It is difficult to limit why the experience was a winning one, but if I had to choose just one category, it would have to be that of a winning place. The office was an amazing place for exposure to cutting edge international criminal legal work, and also for its location in a city and nation struggling to rebuild not only its physical infrastructure, but its political, economic and legal institutions. As a current law student interested in international law and criminal law, the internship was a perfect match for me right from the beginning.

Whilst there, I worked on a prosecution team that focused on Eastern Bosnia, an area of Bosnia where some of the most horrific war crimes of the '92-'95 war were committed, both in terms of brutality and scale. My main work consisted of investigating potential crimes and criminals, including taking and reading witness statements, conducting on-site visits, and undertaking legal research that would allow the prosecutor to make an informed decision on whether and whom to indict. I worked on several incidents, but the majority of my time was spent on two: one involving a mass pit-grave of around 100 men and boys of military age that were summarily executed, and another on an alleged rape camp.

The internship was obviously emotionally difficult at times, but it was a phenomenal way to gain experience in international criminal law and war crimes. I was given a high level of responsibility and the caliber of assigned projects really allowed me to delve into serious and important issues in my field. It was truly a great experience.