

KOVLER PROJECT AGAINST TORTURE/UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE PROJECT
SPRING 2017 SURVEY

In spring 2017, the Kovler Project Against Torture conducted a survey of KPAT/UN CAT Project alumni (2004-2016). Response highlights include:

- 100% indicated that they would recommend participating in the Project to other students

- 100% indicated that the Project contributed to their knowledge of and skills in 5 key areas including international human rights law, monitoring and strengthening compliance with treaties; and advocating more effectively through skills, strategies, etc., before an international body

- 94% indicated that their Project experiences helped them to be better prepared for their present job

- three-fourths indicated that their Project experiences helped them secure internships, externships, clerkships, and other professional experiences including jobs

Alumni further indicated that their Project experiences have helped launch and shape their careers in international, human rights, and other areas of the law, while strengthening their efforts to make positive social change:

“My experience allowed me to be employed by the Torture Survivors Project of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, where I provided legal services to survivors of torture.”

“In my current role as Chief Legal and Policy officer for a community health center, I do a lot of advocacy and policy work. Understanding both the power and limitations of the UN system and UNCAT has informed my current work of how to work towards social change.”

“The UN CAT Project was one of the most valuable experience[s] I had in law school, and I still draw upon that experience today when considering legal strategies for causes and clients.”

“The Kovler/UN CAT Project has played a significant role in my legal education. It gave me very valuable experience in advocacy skills and an in-depth knowledge about the Committee and Convention [a]gainst Torture. It was very fulfilling to go to Geneva and see our work being used in a practical way during the Committee Sessions.”

Project alumni form a global network committed to strengthening human rights and ending torture worldwide. Their range of experiences, both in the U.S. and abroad, cuts across all sectors - government, multilateral and international organizations, civil society and NGOs, law firms and associations, tribunals and courts, academia, and public service/public interest – and includes the areas and organizations identified below.

GOVERNMENT

Capitol Hill; numerous Judicial Clerkships; Offices of United States Attorneys; Peace Corps; Public Defenders Services; U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Department of Justice; U.S. Department of Labor; U.S. Department of State; U.S. Navy JAG Corps; the White House

INTERNATIONAL COURTS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Civil Liberties Union; Amnesty International; Anti-Torture Initiative (ATI); Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation; Ayuda; Center for Constitutional Rights; Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL); Center for Reproductive Rights; Chemonics; Children’s Law Center, Development Alternatives; Girls Foundation of Tanzania; Habeas Corpus Counsel; Inherit Your Rights; Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); International Committee of the Red Cross; International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and its successor UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT); Legal Aid Societies; Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation; NGOs founded by KPAT/UN CAT Project alumni (e.g., Justice & Empowerment Initiatives in Nigeria, and Juvenile Justice Advocates International in Mexico); Open Society Justice Initiative; The World Bank; Torture Survivors Project; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE); World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

LAW FIRMS

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft; Grossman Law; Hammond Young Immigration Law; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Venable; White & Case; WilmerHale