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Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies Fellowships for Incoming Graduate Students

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I spent twelve weeks of my summer 2015 in Germany to study in the Giessen University Law School and work as an intern at an international law firm in Frankfurt. In the first seven weeks, I worked at Linklaters in the Mainstream Corporate Department. I participated in a joint venture demerger project, attended seminars, and had regular meetings with my supervising partner and managing associate. I also worked closely with other interns who are German law students. Besides working together on the assignments, we attended social events and talked about different legal cultures and education systems in Germany, the European Union, and the United States. Upon completion of the internship, I had better knowledge of cross-border mergers and acquisitions, general business and corporate law as well as German law. I also did a research on the laws of other countries including the Netherland, France, and Italy. Legal cultures in Europe were much different in that countries as members of the European Union had shared policies and close interactions. The clients of the firm were international as well, and I had opportunities to interact with firms not only in Germany but also in Asia and America. The internship was an invaluable experience to learn international legal works and develop a global network.

After the internship, I moved to Giessen city and participated in the US-Germany Giessen Summer Program hosted by the University of Wisconsin Law School, Marquette University Law School, and the University of Giessen Law School. I took two summer courses: in international business transactions and international intellectual property law. Our class had students from twenty different countries and we spent most of the time together during the program. We took classes, attended social events, and traveled to Berlin and Munich in the second and third weekends. The trips to Berlin and Munich were the most memorable experiences I had during the program. We visited a high court of Munich and met with a judge. We also visited Dachau concentration camp and learned about victim's tragic stories. In Berlin, we had free time to discover the city including historical sites and museums. After the program, our class became great friends and we still keep in touch on our Facebook page. I also took German language course and learned basic conversations during the program.

Returning to the United States, I began my research on globalization of legal services based on my summer experience at the Giessen University and Linklaters. I was grateful to receive the Mellon Foundation Scholarship. By its support, I was able to have an invaluable experience during my law school years. As the current President of Wisconsin International Law Society, I shared my summer experience with my fellow law students and initiated several new events based on the idea that I had while working and studying in Germany.