

Miller Fellow: Helena Von Nagy

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Laurel E. Fletcher

Project: Reconsidering International Human Rights Praxis



Helena Von Nagy is a 3L at Berkeley Law and a Human Rights Center Scholar focusing on international human rights and humanitarian law. While at Berkeley, she has served as a student researcher for the International Human Rights Law Clinic and a Co-Leader of the International Human Rights Workshop. She is currently the Senior Submissions Editor for the Berkeley Journal of International Law. Outside of law school, Helena has worked for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights doing defensive asylum work and the U.N. Team of Experts for Sexual Violence in Conflict. Helena was also chosen as a 2021 Summer Human Rights Center Fellow, and the HRC's generous grant is funding her work this summer in the Human Rights and Refugees division, Office of the Legal Adviser of the U.S. State Department. Along with several other law students, Professor Eric Stover, and Research Fellow Sarah Craggs, Helena is preparing an article for submission to peer-reviewed journals proposing better methods of information sharing between international humanitarian organizations and tribunals to speed the process of accountability.

Helena Von Nagy will work with Professor Laurel E. Fletcher at the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law on a project that reconsiders international human rights praxis. International human rights came of age in a particular political context which shaped the international human rights imaginary. These foundational ideas and understandings about what international human rights meant and therefore how they should be advanced have continued to influence the international human rights movement and driven the rift within the movement. This research critically will examine the current debates about the future of human rights, and propose a new conceptualization of international praxis to address the current crisis.