Taking the Local to Global and Global to Local

Using its Special Consultative Status with the United Nations, The Advocates brings local human rights concerns to the attention of the global community through monitoring and reporting to UN human rights bodies. The Advocates and its partners use findings from these bodies to advocate locally.

The Advocates collaborated recently with human rights organizations from five countries on four continents to prepare “shadow reports” that highlight concerns and make recommendations. “Shadow reports” are included in the official UN process of reviewing a country’s compliance with its obligations under international human rights treaties. Since State reports generally highlight positive human rights developments, the UN relies on civil society organizations like The Advocates to provide detailed information about human rights in the country under review.

The Advocates submitted a shadow report on Morocco’s challenges in addressing domestic violence in compliance with the Convention Against Torture. The report was prepared in collaboration with Global Rights and an alliance of 10 Moroccan civil society organizations from across the country. The Advocates’ team (Deputy Director Jennifer Prestholdt and Staff Attorneys Mary Ellingen and Beatríz Menanteau) joined Moroccan partners in Geneva to attend the 47th Session of the Committee Against Torture (CAT) from October 31 - November 2, 2011. In addition to briefing the CAT on the issue of violence against women in Morocco, the team attended both days of the CAT’s review of Morocco and sent out real-time updates through social media on the questions asked and the Moroccan government’s responses.

Our Moroccan partners reported that it was tremendously

(continued on page 13)

The Advocates Elected to the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty

In June, The Advocates was elected to the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. The World Coalition, based in Paris, is a worldwide alliance of more than 120 non-governmental organizations, bar associations, local authorities and unions. The World Coalition works toward the universal abolition of the death penalty by:

(continued on page 11)
The mission of The Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. The Advocates was founded in 1983 by a group of Minnesota lawyers who recognized the community’s unique spirit of social justice as an opportunity to promote and protect human rights here at home and worldwide.

We are a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents immigrants and refugees in our community who are victims of human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through research, education, and advocacy to engage the public, policymakers, and children in human rights work.

This new year will bring precinct caucuses and primaries around the United States in anticipation of the elections in November. These elections are critically important to the effort to move the United States closer to the human rights ideals that drive human rights around the world.

Over the next several months, we will have many opportunities to ask candidates for their views on important human rights issues. Not only does that help each of us as individuals determine who best represents our interests, it also sends a powerful message to candidates that human rights are important to their constituents.

Some important questions include:

1. Do you believe torture is always wrong?
2. Do you believe immigration reform should be based on due process and the respect for the inherent dignity of all human beings?
3. Do you believe that access to health care is a fundamental right?
4. Do you believe adequate housing and food are a fundamental right?

You likely have many more of your own relating to important issues such as working conditions, religious tolerance, rights of people with disabilities and children’s rights.

A detailed plan for how to ensure the fundamental human rights of everyone living in this country will be very complicated to develop, and we certainly will never be successful if we cannot agree on what these rights are. The United Nations has clearly defined the fundamental rights to which all human beings are entitled in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United States is out of step with the rest of the world in accepting the violation of some of the most important economic and social rights in its laws and public policy. We can only change this situation by working together to change the hearts and minds of our communities and our elected officials.

We have sample resolutions that can be used in caucus meetings and at state conventions on our website.

May this new year bring us closer to our vision of world where all people live with dignity, freedom, equality, justice, and peace. These are not only international human rights ideals, they are also American values.

Robin Phillips
Executive Director
Latvia/Lithuania:

Women’s Human Rights Program Director Cheryl Thomas and Hennepin County Judge Kathryn Quaintance traveled to Latvia and Lithuania in October to facilitate a training on domestic violence legal reform for police, prosecutors, and judges. Currently there are no laws on domestic violence in Latvia, but officials are considering an amendment to the civil code to provide a protective order remedy. One of the highlights of the two-day training was the presentation by ‘Skype’ of three officers from the Minneapolis Police Department. Both Thomas and Judge Quaintance noted that the police officers added insight, a history of how the Minneapolis system has evolved, and the importance of the police being on the forefront of reform. At the end of the conference, many participants said they had changed their views based on the training and expressed new commitment to work for legal reform on domestic violence.

From Latvia, Thomas and Judge Quaintance traveled to Lithuania to present at a conference on the implementation of Lithuania’s new domestic violence law. This event followed training conducted by Thomas and Quaintance in Lithuania in April.

Kazakhstan:

In November, The Advocates sent a delegation to Kazakhstan to facilitate a two-day training on monitoring and implementation of the country’s new domestic violence law. The group included Women’s Human Rights Program Director Cheryl Thomas, Director of Research Rosalyn Park, and Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Elizabeth Cutter. The Advocates’ partner and host organization in Kazakhstan, Podrugi, invited The Advocates to facilitate the training for prosecutors who Podrugi had identified as critical to the implementation of the new law.

The training focused on education about domestic violence, dangers of reconciliation, and challenges prosecutors may face, such as recantation by the victim. In addition to this knowledge base, prosecutors were given practical tools to prosecute domestic violence cases and keep victims safe. As the training went on, the presenters noticed a change in the attitudes of some of the prosecutors, shifting from complete refusal to recognize domestic violence to finding creative ways to prosecute the offender and protect the victim. This new commitment to enforce the law will make a significant difference in the lives of women in Kazakhstan.

The training was co-sponsored by The Advocates for Human Rights, Kazakhstan-based Podrugi, the Open Society Institute, and UN Women.
Teaching our children the knowledge, skills, and values of human rights is critical to a strong democracy and a just, peaceful society in the future. The Advocates is committed to training educators and creating resources to promote Human Rights Education (HRE). This past August, The Advocates held a free Summer Institute on HRE, open to all K-12 teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and school staff.

The training took place at the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) at Washington Technology Magnet School in St. Paul and was co-sponsored by The Advocates for Human Rights and the MRC (a joint project of St. Paul Public Schools and the East Metro Integration District). The course offered six CEU credits, with an optional graduate-level credit through Hamline University. Institute instructors included Sarah Herder and Kathy Seipp of The Advocates and Sherry Kempf of the MRC.

In addition to overviews of human rights and HRE, the workshop included information on the research-based benefits of HRE, including documented increases in student achievement and teacher satisfaction and decreased negative student behaviors, such as bullying. HRE also helps to close the achievement gap by creating safe and welcoming classrooms and empowering disenfranchised youth to take action for the betterment of themselves and others.

Workshop participants received numerous tools and resources to incorporate HRE in their own classrooms and had lessons demonstrated in breakout workshops. Eighty-two percent of participants said they would apply the new perspectives in their workplaces.

The Advocates intends to offer the Summer Institute again in 2012 and to create more opportunities for professional development around HRE. If you are located in Minnesota and are interested in having The Advocates talk to staff members at your school or providing a free workshop, please contact Sarah Herder, Education Director, at sherder@advrights.org or 612-746-4691.

The Advocates for Human Rights announces the upcoming publication of the third edition of its curriculum, *Energy of a Nation: Immigrants in America*, to be released in January, 2012. The curriculum is a comprehensive guide to teaching students about immigration in the United States. Designed for Grade 8 - adult audiences, and including a module for younger students, the curriculum is filled with engaging, student-centered activities that follow best practices for human rights education. Students learn by exploring their own immigrant history; role-playing a refugee's journey; playing games to understand the immigration system; and creating a service learning project for their classroom or school.

The entire curriculum will be available to school and community educators online, free of charge. The Advocates will also distribute it at targeted schools with high populations of refugee or immigrant students and at local and national conferences. In addition, staff will respond to teacher requests to demonstrate lessons in K-12 classrooms and train teachers on its usage through professional development workshops. If interested, contact Sarah Herder at sherder@advrights.org or go to www.discoverhumanrights.org and request a training.

The Advocates’ *Road to Peace* curriculum was recently adapted for Zimbabwe. The new edition features revised content relevant to Zimbabwean students, including country-specific fact sheets on human rights violations, ideas for students in Zimbabwe to take action in their own communities, and further resources for teachers, students, and activists.

To download a free copy of the Zimbabwe Edition of *Road to Peace*, visit www.discoverhumanrights.org.

Discover Human Rights incorporates the human rights standards of safety and security, non-discrimination, accountability, and participation into social justice goals and strategies. Intended for service providers, community organizers, policy advocates, and community leaders, Discover Human Rights helps social justice advocates identify what they want to change and how they can build movements to bring about that change.

Discover Human Rights workshops have taken place throughout the United States in 2011, including at national convenings of the Detention Watch Network, the US Human Rights Fund, the US Human Rights Network, and UNESCO’s international leadership training program.

The workshops train participants to identify social justice issues using human rights principles, to understand core human rights strategies, and to apply a human rights approach to their work. This hands-on workshop draws on participants’ skills, experiences, and knowledge and helps them improve their advocacy skills by applying a human rights framework to problems within their community.

Created with the support of the US Human Rights Fund, Discover Human Rights is designed to build the human rights movement in the United States and to strengthen the capacity of organizations to use human rights to combat entrenched inequality, injustice, and discrimination.

You can download Discover Human Rights: A Human Rights Approach to Social Justice at www.discoverhumanrights.org. To schedule a workshop, please contact Emily Farell at efarell@advrights.org or 612-746-4690.

Looking for Holiday Giving Ideas?

This year, give a unique and meaningful gift to those you care about... ...a gift to advance human rights.

The Advocates provides many ways to give, including:

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To learn more, go to www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/many_ways_to_give.html or call 612-341-3302.
2011 Human Rights Awards Dinner Thank You!

Thank you to all of our generous supporters who helped make the 2011 Human Rights Awards Dinner a success:

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Karen McDaniel & Serenkira Art Photography

Melting Pot of Minneapolis

From left to right: Jim Martineau, Barb Frey, Sally Martineau, Don and Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award Winner Shirin Ebadi, Catherine Jackson, Nancy Speer, Kathleen Graham, Carolyn Chalmers, Sonia Cairns, Mary Parker, David Parker, Ann Manning, and Zehre Keye.
Inhumanity of the Death Penalty CLE

October 10 was World Day against the Death Penalty, an annual event involving organizations and advocates from around the world. To mark the day, The Advocates sponsored a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course on the international jurisprudence on the inhumanity of the death penalty. The CLE, which was co-sponsored by Dorsey & Whitney LLP, included presentations by volunteer attorneys Julie Boehmke of Gray Plant Mooty and Tony Beasley of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi. They presented their pro bono work on researching and drafting shadow reports to United Nations treaty bodies on the death penalty in Jamaica and Morocco. The submissions examined death row conditions in both countries, which often include overcrowding, inadequate medical care, and unsanitary conditions.

Both shadow reports can be found at http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/archive_of_submissions.html.

The sexual exploitation of children in the United States and in Minnesota is a problem of growing urgency. The average age of a child lured into sexual exploitation is between 12 and 14 years. Until recently, Minnesota law defined children found to be “engaging in prostitution” as both victims of sex trafficking and delinquents. On July 20, 2011, Minnesota passed into law a public safety bill that includes protections for commercially sexually exploited children and clarifies that sexually exploited children are crime victims, not criminals.

With the passage of this law, Minnesota continues to prove its leadership in protecting sexually exploited children. The Advocates was proud to lead a coalition of partners to pass the law, including ECPAT-USA, The Family Partnership, Breaking Free, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, and the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office. Many in the law enforcement community provided critical input. The legislation was authored by Representatives Steve Smith, Tony Cornish, and Michael Paymar and Senators Sandra Pappas, John Marty, and Ron Latz. For more information about the Safe Harbors Law see our website at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/safe_harbors.html.

Give to the Max Day a Success

November 16 was “Give to the Max Day.” Thank you to everyone who supported The Advocates and helped us raise over $20,000 dollars for human rights!

Comments from donors included:

“Your reach, dedication, impact and accomplishments are awe inspiring. An honor to support your work.”

“Keep making a life-changing difference for women around the world!”
At the State Fair: I am an Advocate for Human Rights!

Since 2005, The Advocates has hosted a booth at the Minnesota State Fair, giving fairgoers information and a chance to discuss human rights along with their latest treat on a stick. This year, with a team of more than 90 volunteers, board members, and staff, The Advocates launched its “I am an Advocate” campaign and engaged nearly 5,000 people in activities and discussions about human rights during the 12 days of the fair.

The “I am an Advocate” campaign encourages all people to identify the human rights most important to them and to get involved in supporting human rights in local and global communities. Visitors to The Advocates’ booth in the lower level of the Grandstand had a chance to make a short video about their issue. To see a collection of those videos, go to www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.

“Minnesota fairgoers really connected with the idea of human rights in our state and communities,” says Michele Garnett McKenzie, advocacy director for The Advocates. “They expressed a powerful vision of a state where everyone’s rights are respected.”

Thanks to the many people who volunteered or stopped by the booth. We’ll see you next year!

Nepal School House Party

Supporters of The Advocates’ Sankhu-Palubari Community School gathered on August 14 at the home of Mary and David Parker to celebrate the school’s achievements, including:

- Providing a pre-kindergarten through 9th grade education to more than 300 children at risk of child labor, as well as scholarships to its graduates to attend 10th grade.
- Giving students an outstanding education. This spring, its second group of students, who started at the school in kindergarten, graduated from 10th grade. All of the graduates received either high distinction or first division on their School Leaving Certificate examinations.
- Encouraging gender parity in education. In the 2011-2012 school year, 52% of the students in K-8th grade are girls.
- Providing an alternative to child labor. Approximately $250 provides one child with a free education for one year, including books, uniforms, and school supplies.

Thank you to hosts David and Mary Parker

From left to right: Ed Hayward, Jessica Broyles, Allen Lenzmeier, host David Parker, host Mary Parker, Sarah Pennie, Erin Jones, Dan Pennie, and Padam Sharma.
One Voice Minnesota: Creating a More Welcoming Community

The One Voice Minnesota initiative is part of The Advocates for Human Rights’ ongoing commitment to eliminating anti-immigrant bias and creating communities in which every person, regardless of where they were born, can live with dignity. Built around a network of over 120 organizations, institutions, and individuals statewide, the One Voice Minnesota initiative works to build welcoming communities. The initiative provides tools to eliminate anti-immigrant bias; supports efforts to build relationships between refugees, immigrants, and long-term residents; and empowers communities to identify and eliminate barriers to welcome.

Facilitating Conversations

The Advocates partnered with Active Voice throughout 2011 to bring Welcome to Shelbyville to Minnesota. Set against the backdrop of a shaky economy, Welcome to Shelbyville takes an intimate look at a southern town as its residents – whites and African Americans, Latinos and Somalis – grapple with their beliefs, their histories and their evolving ways of life.

The One Voice Minnesota initiative hosted screenings in Austin, Edina, Lino Lakes, Minneapolis, Rochester, and Saint Paul in partnership with One Voice Minnesota members. In December, One Voice Minnesota and Somali Action Alliance hosted a community screening of Hawo’s Dinner Party: The New Face of Southern Hospitality, a 30-minute module created by Active Voice from the documentary, followed by dinner and lively discussion.

Blueprint for Welcome

Beginning in 2012, The Advocates’ One Voice Minnesota initiative will embark upon an ambitious human rights monitoring project to answer several questions:

• What does it mean to be a welcoming community?
• What barriers to welcome exist in Minnesota?
• How can those barriers be overcome?

The Advocates will identify barriers to and best practices for creating welcoming communities and release the results in a Blueprint for a Welcoming Minnesota, designed to help shape the policy discussion surrounding refugees and immigrants.

The Advocates will use a human rights framework to look at key measures of political and civic engagement; access to an adequate standard of living; and enjoyment of the rights to security, equal protection, and due process for all people.

Human Rights Education House Party

Thank you to host Ted Irgens

From left to right: Paige Gamet, Theresa Harich, Kathy Lenzmeier, Char Myers, Rebecca Gagnon, Ellen Sampson, Jim Dorsey, Nancy Warren, Pam Wandzel, Sarah Herder, and host Ted Irgens.
Human Rights Book Club

The Advocates for Human Rights’ Book Club will meet on December 16 and 19 to discuss *Sarah’s Key*, by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Set in Paris, the novel tells the story of Sarah Starzynski, a ten year-old Jewish girl, who is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel’ d’Hiv’ roundup in July 1942, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family’s apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours. Sixty years later, journalist Julia Jarmond investigates the Vel’ d’Hiv’ roundup and stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah.

Book Club meeting times and locations:

- 12:00 noon on Friday, Dec. 16 at Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. at 200 South Sixth Ave., 40th Floor, Downtown Minneapolis.
- 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19 at the home of Mary and David Parker, 2808 West River Parkway, Minneapolis. (Note: Must RSVP for this location.)

To RSVP for either book club meeting, please go to The Advocates’ website under “Get Involved.”

See the film, too! The new movie, *Sarah’s Key*, based on this book, was just released on DVD.

Inter-Parliamentary Union Meeting in India

Director of Research Rosalyn Park was invited by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to present at the Regional Seminar for Asian Parliaments, “Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls: From legislation to effective enforcement.” Parliamentary delegates from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Iran traveled to New Delhi, India to learn about implementing and monitoring legislation on violence against women and girls.

Park made two presentations to the delegates and moderated a working group on implementing domestic violence legislation. The first presentation focused on core elements of legislation on violence against women and highlighted the UN Model Framework for Legislation on Violence against Women and the UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls (www.endvawnow.org), both of which The Advocates helped create. The second presentation focused on monitoring the implementation of domestic violence legislation and featured The Advocates’ recently-published *A Practitioner’s Guide to Human Rights Monitoring, Documentation, and Advocacy*.

Women’s Fall House Party

Thanks to hosts Marlene and Tom Kayser

From left to right: Mary Louise Klas, Kathryn Quaintance, Ann Newhall, Carolyn Chalmers, Jean Thomson, Ellen Van Iwaarden, John Sandbo, Cheryl Thomas, and host Marlene Kayser.
Client Profile

Madad Bashir Rezak fled Ethiopia in 2009 after more than 20 years of persecution. Government security forces arrested Rezak a number of times between 1993 and 2008 on charges of supporting the opposition party, Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Despite continually denying membership to a political party or rebel group, Rezak faced beatings and was burned repeatedly with a hot iron during a nine month detention in 1993. Upon returning home, Rezak found his home looted and an uncle, neighbor, and close friend killed by the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) security forces. EPRDF again arrested and imprisoned Rezak in 1996 on charges alleging an affiliation with the OLF opposition party. Rezak recalls further physical and psychological torture during this period of detention.

After national elections in 2005 in which the EPRDF won amidst accusations of corruption, intimidation, fraud and mass killings of protesters, security forces again arrested Rezak under suspicion that he had campaigned against EPRDF candidates. Security forces detained Rezak for three months. In 2008, the governor of Chole summoned Rezak and warned him that he would meet the same fate as many of his relatives if his alleged political opposition activities did not cease. In 2009, fearing for his life and lacking a forum to protest the charges and affirm his innocence, Rezak obtained a visitor visa and fled Ethiopia for the United States. He contacted The Advocates in March 2009 and Attorney Laura Tripiciano handled his case. He was granted asylum in March 2011. He now lives with his son and daughter-in-law in St. Paul.

(continued from page 1)

lobbying international organizations and States; organizing international campaigns, including the World Day against the Death Penalty; supporting national and regional abolitionist forces; and supporting the action of members.

The Advocates participates in the annual World Day against the Death Penalty and recently provided pro bono resources to the World Coalition to assist in administrative legal matters, submit shadow reports to the United Nations, and draft a fact sheet examining the international jurisprudence of the death penalty as inhuman punishment.

In addition, Director of Research Rosalyn Park attended the World Coalition General Assembly’s meeting in Rabat, Morocco to present on the inhumanity of the death penalty. The presentation highlighted international and regional law, as well as circumstances that constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Such circumstances include denial of adequate medical care and sustenance on death row; methods of execution, including stoning, gas asphyxiation, and electric chair; denying families of sentenced persons information about the execution, and not giving family members the body for burial. The fact sheet discussing these issues is available on the World Coalition’s website at http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.html.

Refugee and Immigrant Program Fall House Party
Thank you to hosts Andrea & Jim Rubenstein

From left to right: Deepinder Singh Mayell, Emily Good, Host Andrea Rubenstein, Robin Phillips, Aviva Breen, Host Jim Rubenstein, Mary Scott, Chris Bercaw, Mark Frey, Ellen Van Iwaarden, Jerry Ziertman, David Kistle, Hung Nguyen, and Jim Dorsey.
Asylum Victories

The University of Minnesota Law School Immigration & Human Rights Clinic received a grant of asylum affirmatively this fall for a man from Togo based on his political opinion. The client said, “I won’t probably be granted from my asylum without my advocates’ help.” Professor Steve Meili and students Jonathan Moler, Kevin Lampone, Phoebe Taurick, Claudia Ochoa, Caty Wyly, Jenna Nand and Edmond Ahadome all worked on the case.

Dean Eyler and Liz Dillon from Gray Plant Mooty successfully won Withholding of Removal for a woman from Kenya who feared gender-based persecution for herself and her young daughter, who faced FGM if returned. After a long process, the client is happy to be able to stay legally in the United States and have safety for her and her daughter.

Anne Applebaum of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota won asylum for an Ethiopian woman and her children in a complex affirmative asylum case based on domestic abuse. The client is excited to be establishing a day care business now that she has a secure future, thanks to Anne’s efforts.

A young man from Yemen was granted asylum affirmatively thanks to the efforts of Marty Carlson. The young man sought asylum based on fear of persecution due to his sexual orientation and is relieved to have legal status in the United States.

After a lengthy delay, a client from Iraq finally received his grant of asylum. Thanks to the efforts of Loan Huynh, Debra Schneider, and Alexandra Mertens of Fredrikson & Byron for their persistent and continual advocacy to ensure this client’s human rights are protected.

Thanks to the work of students from the University of Minnesota’s Asylum Law Project in January of 2011, two clients received grants of asylum this fall. A young woman from Tibet who opposed an arranged marriage and a young Egyptian Coptic Christian who had escaped a forced conversion are relieved to have asylum status. We are grateful to Sam Manning, Susie Hallquist, Neal Schanz and Bryan Smith for their work.

Thank you to the following attorneys for their efforts on behalf of asylum seekers:

Laura Taken, Julie Boehmke, Jason Stover and Sue Swanson.

Please report your successes to The Advocates’ staff so that we can celebrate with you and acknowledge your work!

Thank you to the following volunteers who have taken on new cases, provided consultations to new volunteer attorneys, and translated and interpreted:

Jason Stover  Erin Hoffman  Tom Gilde  Patrick D’Silva
Julie Boehmke  Peter Ihrig  Lesley Guyton  Rasha Sharif
Matt Armbrrecht  Evelyn Levine  Marc Prokosch  Saida Abdelmalki
Mark Frey  Breita Linnell  The University of Minnesota  Nadine Nassar
Loan Huynh  Julie Matonich  Law School Immigration &  Wei Wang
Lisa Reiter  Jennifer Olson  Human Rights Clinic  Oana Alexan
Jana Sullivan  Christine Peters  Abraham Zerihunn  Nolberto Zubia
Sue Swanson  Wayne Popham  Sarah Spencer  Sam Manning
Laura Tripiciano  Art Snyder  Margaret Brunk  Liz Troolin
Angie Bortel  Kraig Jakobsen  Janelle Shoemake  Sara Karaki
Matthew Veenstra  Martha Overby  Patrick Finnegan  
Camillya Bryant  Shauna Holt  Walid Abid  

Thanks also to the many other volunteers who have generously donated their time to advance human rights.
Marie Elaine began volunteering with The Advocates during the fall of 2011, visiting the office many times during her lunch breaks to help complete mailing campaigns one hour at a time.

After fifteen years as a data analyst in the business sector, Marie is currently pursuing her Masters in Social Work through a joint program at the University of St. Thomas and St. Catherine University. “I’ve always been interested in human rights but didn’t feel it was possible for me to make any type of an impact,” says Marie, whose passion is working with survivors of sexual abuse. She learned about The Advocates while researching human trafficking and was impressed by the impact of the organization in combating sex trafficking locally and globally.

“The work I’ve done with The Advocates has been incredibly rewarding because there really are no small jobs when it comes to fighting for human rights. On my own, I’m just one person,” says Marie, “but getting involved with an organization like The Advocates allows me to become a part of something much larger.” She encourages anyone who has a desire to volunteer with The Advocates to do so. “Even if you only have a few hours to offer, it can, and will, make a difference.”

We ♥ Monthly Giving

Like many other non-profits, The Advocates appreciates its monthly Sustainers, those donors who commit to giving a certain amount each month. And our Sustainers appreciate how easy and flexible monthly giving is—your donation amount can be adjusted or cancelled any time. To become a monthly Sustainer of The Advocates today, visit our website at: www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Monthly_Giving.html

or contact Ellen Van Iwaarden at evaniwaarden@advrights.org or 612.746.4677.

Planned Giving

Have you considered adding The Advocates to your estate plan? Please contact Ellen Van Iwaarden for more information.

We ♥ Monthly Giving (continued from page 1)

meaningful to participate in the review and to be present when the UN asked the Moroccan government questions that came directly from the survivors of domestic violence, who they work with every day. The experience provided a good example of how going outside the local system to international human rights mechanisms can provide a new level of accountability for government. “I felt empowered,” said one of the women. The Moroccan partners are now planning to use their UN experience to enhance advocacy in their communities to protect women from violence.

In addition, The Advocates recently submitted shadow reports on:

**Death Penalty:** In collaboration with members of The World Coalition against the Death Penalty, The Advocates submitted shadow reports to the UN Human Rights Committee on **Iran** and **Jamaica**’s use of the death penalty. The reports focused on how methods of execution, death row prison conditions, and failure to notify families of impending executions violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In addition, The Advocates collaborated with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty on a shadow report to the Committee against Torture (CAT) documenting **Morocco**’s death row conditions as cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

**Rights of Minorities:** The Advocates submitted a shadow report to the UN Human Rights Committee highlighting ongoing human rights violations against members of the Oromo ethnic group in **Ethiopia**. Ethiopia’s violations of ICCPR include arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, and persistent discrimination against Oromos, as well as violations of the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

**Violence against Women:** Continuing our long collaboration with partners in **Bulgaria**, The Advocates’ shadow report to the Human Rights Committee recommended that the Bulgarian government reform their law to promote accountability for domestic violence perpetrators, continue trainings of the legal sector and public awareness campaigns, ensure adequate funding, and implement the necessary programs in order to create zero tolerance toward domestic violence.

The Advocates would like to thank volunteers **Karen Bridges** and **Sarah Nilsson Dolah**, who observe and take notes at UN human rights mechanisms in Geneva and report back to The Advocates.
Amy Bergquist joined The Advocates in December as a staff attorney with the International Justice Program. Ms. Bergquist is a graduate of Amherst College and the University of Minnesota Law School and recently completed a clerkship with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the United States Supreme Court. Prior to law school, Ms. Bergquist was a teacher at South High School in Minneapolis. She was also an instructor for the Moscow State Institute for International Relations and an interpreter for Interfax News Agency.

Kelsey Johnston joined The Advocates in September as a Program Assistant in the Refugee and Immigrant Program through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. She graduated from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa in May, where she majored in Religion and Sociology and minored in Women's Studies. After spending her summer in Las Vegas, she moved to Minnesota and is thoroughly enjoying the city and the weather.

Deepinder Singh Mayell joined The Advocates in August as a Staff Attorney in the Refugee and Immigrant Program. Prior to joining the Advocates, he was a Staff Attorney with Merrimack Valley Legal Services in Massachusetts, where he represented poor victims of domestic violence in family, immigration, and housing proceedings. Mayell has been committed to human rights issues throughout his career and has interned with the Texas Civil Rights Project, Human Rights Watch, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. As a research assistant, he examined the constitutionality of laws utilized to imprison individuals in Guantanamo Bay. Mayell received his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 2007 and a B.A. in Political Science from Boston College.

Mary O'Brien joined The Advocates in June as a Program Associate in the Women’s Human Rights Program. Prior to starting at The Advocates, O'Brien worked on a variety of human rights initiatives, including serving with the United States Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa. She also has experience working in events marketing and other capacities for nonprofit organizations, including Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People and Children’s Defense Fund. O’Brien graduated magna cum laude from St. Catherine University with a Bachelors of Science in Social Work.

Chanida Phaengdara Potter joined The Advocates in June as an Advocacy and Communications Assistant. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Global Studies and Communications from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Her previous work experience includes community outreach, capacity building, and development for Asian Media Access, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, and Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota. She has also worked in sustainable development and taught English for various non-governmental organizations in Southeast Asia. In addition to English, she is fluent in Lao and Thai.

Mary Scott joined The Advocates in June as an Administrative Assistant and Development & Communications Assistant. She received her Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, in Global Studies from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. Prior to joining The Advocates, Scott studied international development in India, where she worked with a tribal rights organization in rural Rajasthan. In Minnesota, she worked in the Sustainability Studies department at the University of Minnesota.

The Advocates wishes former staff members Anna Donnelly, Kathy Seipp, and Laura Young well in their new adventures.

Thank you to our summer and fall interns!

Summer Interns:

Development & Communications: Anne Feuss (Wake Forest University), Rebecca Schenk (Washington University), Elena Siegel (Occidental College), Matt Wandzel (Winona State), and Emily Weiner (Dickinson College).

International Justice: Tammi Etheridge (U of MN Law/Humphrey School), Colin Frederick (St. John's University), Kati Hollis (Boalt Hall School of Law – UC Berkeley), Barbara Marchevsky (Carleton College), and Smarika Thapa (William Mitchell College of Law).

Refugee & Immigrant: Zack Payne-Meili (U of MN), Ryan McLaughlin (U of MN Law School), John Sullivan (Notre Dame), and Maggie Brunk (Macalester College).

Research/Education/Advocacy: Victoria Dutcher (U of MN), Chris deLaubenfels (Gustavus Adolphus/Lehman College), Drew Grover (U of MN), Marko Kananen, Tamar Kaplan (Claremont McKenna), Tsesa Monaghan (Macalester), Amanda Mary O'Brien, and Mary Scott.
Peterson (Macalester), Grace Rybak (Columbia), Abby Schanfield (U of MN), and Yolande Klutse (Northwestern College).

Women’s Human Rights: Lucia Callizo (Macalester College), Heather Goodlett (University of Michigan Law School) Katie Heaney (U of MN Humphrey Institute), Katie Long (Marquette), Ami Schneider (Hamline University Law School) and Paige Starkey (U of MN Law School). Lisa Dailey is also working with the Women's Program as a volunteer attorney.

Fall Interns:

Development & Communications: Devin Hogan (U of MN Humphrey Institute) and Mark Jacobson.

International Justice: Bobby Koneck (St. Olaf College) and Dragana Marinkovic (Macalester College).

Refugee and Immigrant: Nolberto Zubia, Ellen Toobin, Lucia Callizo, Oana Alexan (all from Macalester College), Elizabeth Troolin (U of MN), Sam Manning (U of MN Law School), and Abby Peterson.

Research/Education/Advocacy: Christopher Motz (St. Thomas School of Law), Yolande Klutse (Northwestern College), Josh Nelson, Evan Druce (U of MN Law School) and Ruxi Zhang (Macalester College).

Women’s Human Rights: Leah Rogotzke (U of MN) and Britt Johnson (U of MN Law).

Donor Highlight: Jonathan Sage-Martinson

Although Jonathan Sage-Martinson’s house party for The Advocates’ Sankhu-Palubari Community School in Nepal did not take place at his house, his virtual house party raised $2,735—exceeding his goal. During September and October, he ran a campaign to benefit the school on the GiveMN website. Along with viewing a video tour and pictures of the students, visitors to his page could learn how the school provides needy children in the community an opportunity for literacy and a way out of child labor.

Sage-Martinson, who serves on The Advocates' board, decided to use the GiveMN platform to host the party online to reach more donors. “Sometimes it’s hard to take time out of your day,” he said. “You might not have an afternoon to go to a party but do have a few minutes to learn and donate.” To give donors another reason to give, Sage-Martinson and The Advocates solicited a few generous donors to create a matching grant of $1,000. Then Sage-Martinson notified a group of family and friends about the site to jump start the activity, and, along with The Advocates, kept up reminders through Facebook and Twitter as the deadline to meet the match approached. Deputy Director Jennifer Prestholdt, who oversees the school’s operations, summed up The Advocates’ response to Sage-Martinson’s idea when she said, “We are grateful to Jonathan for his commitment to The Advocates and new ways to gain support. His page captured the joy and beauty of our human rights work in Nepal—work that would not be possible without supporters like him.”

If you would like to run your own GiveMN campaign to benefit The Advocates, please contact Ellen Van Iwaarden, Director of Development & Communications, at 612.746.4677 or evaniwaarden@advrights.org.
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