

Freeman Foundation Fellowships for Law Students from Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam

The Freeman Foundation has once again endowed multiple fellowships to candidates from Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam to study law at the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law. The Fellowship covers tuition and living expenses for two students each year to participate in the one-year Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program.

The LL.M. Program enables people who have earned their bachelor's degree in law from outside the U.S. to study American law, side-by-side with American law students. It gives them the opportunity to learn not just the rule of law, but also how it is applied in our society. In return, these international students bring incredible diversity of cultural and legal experience to the Law School. Currently there are 12 students from 11 countries, including Cambodia, China, France, Germany, Japan, Micronesia, Nepal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and Taiwan. The result is a healthy exchange of ideas and better understanding of the many of the challenges and legal issues that people face around the world. Fellows are chosen on the basis of their credentials, public service experience and potential.

Law School Dean, Aviam Soifer commented, "We are thrilled by the continued support of the Freeman Foundation to enable students to have the opportunity to study in our LL.M. Program. Our current and previous Freeman Fellows have all been outstanding, and will definitely be leaders in their respective legal communities. We value all of the legal experience and diversity that they bring to Hawaii."

Professor Alison Conner, founder of the LL.M. Program, had this to say, "Since cost is a major deterrent for students from Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam to study in the U.S., the Freeman Foundation enables us to recruit the very best students, who will learn about our legal system and make lasting relationships here, thereby fostering closer ties with these countries. Our two previous Fellows from Cambodia and China are great examples: one is a Legal Officer at the East West Management Institute, Program on Rights and Justice whose mission is to improve the court system of Cambodia, and the other is a rising star in the Supreme People's Court of China.

LL.M. Program Director, Spencer Kimura said, "We encourage our LL.M.'s to make the most out of their time here, whether it be studying, discussing legal issues with professors, socializing with fellow students, taking a break at the beach, or even hiking Diamond Head with our Dean. Our goal is to help them have the best experience possible, both academically and socially, since they will be our 'Ambassadors of Aloha' when they return to their home countries. It is exciting to work with such talented individuals who will be future leaders in their home countries."

If you would like further information on the Freeman Foundation Fellowship or the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program, please contact:

Spencer Kimura
Director, LL.M. and Summer Programs
William S. Richardson School of Law
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 1-808-956-9038, Fax: 1-808-956-6402
Email: kimurasp@hawaii.edu
Web: www.hawaii.edu/law