Northeastern University
School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) is a leader in the growing international movement of scholars, institutions and advocates dedicated to promoting economic, social and cultural rights.

www.slaw.neu.edu/phrge

Human Rights Fellowship: An innovative model integrating scholarship and practice

The PHRGE Fellowship gives Northeastern law students the opportunity to address economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights both within the US and internationally. Each student fellow receives a stipend to work full time for three months as a staff member at a partner organization. Four students rotate through the position over a year. New fellows are able to build directly on the work of prior fellows, encouraging employers to engage students in the full range of the organization’s work.

Scholarship
During on-campus quarters, students hone their human rights knowledge with law professors who are leading legal thinkers on ESC rights, taking courses in Law and Economic Development, Refugees and Asylum Law, International Human Rights: Race, Gender and Culture, and others. PHRGE continually brings leading international experts to campus as well.

Partners
PHRGE employers are among the most effective ESC rights organizations in the world. In 2008-2009:
- Oxfam America, Boston
- Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Geneva
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Washington, DC

Fellows in Action
In February 2008, two PHRGE student fellows and a faculty member traveled to Geneva to speak before the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Their testimony is reflected in the final committee report, which includes one of the United Nations’ strongest statements ever on human rights principles and civil counsel. The committee urged the US to “allocate sufficient resources to ensure legal representation” of indigent minorities in civil proceedings, especially those “where basic human needs — such as housing, health care or child custody — are at stake.”

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“How to blend the analytical and practical habits of mind that professional practice demands is … the most complex and interesting pedagogical challenge in the preparation of legal practitioners.”

- Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law

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