

## **Lueka Grogga, Kingston Law School alumni, shares her experience of working at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda**

### **April-September 2012: Internship at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Office of the Defence**

During the course of this internship I have undertaken multiple tasks, including researching and drafting memorandums on issues related to terrorism for the purpose of advising and providing defense strategies to the four defense teams on specific legal issues.

Most of the *memorandums* I drafted focused on the procedural and evidential aspect of the Ayyash et al. (STL-11-01) case. For instance, I drafted *memorandums* on the probative value of documentary evidences and telecommunications evidences (telephone intercept, phone tapping), and on the weight given to circumstantial evidences in international criminal law cases and terrorism cases. For this purpose, I had to look not only into the existing case law of the *ad hoc* international tribunals, but also into the case law of countries such as France, the UK or the USA.

My experience at the STL defense office was enriching as it enabled me to understand how the defense office of the STL worked as an organ (being the first one ever established in an international tribunal) within the tribunal. It also permitted me to further my understanding of the procedural aspect of the proceedings as well gaining an insight into the way defense teams construct their strategies in cases.

### **October 2011-March 2012: Internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Appeals Chamber Unit**

During the course of this internship, I greatly familiarized myself with the functioning of the ICTR, specifically the Appeals Chamber. In assisting Judge Vaz, I was able to examine issues related to the interpretation of the law (the Statute and Rules) and its application to complicated and controversial genocide cases such as *Kanyarukiga*, *Ntawukulilyayo* or *Hategekimana*.

Moreover, I gained valuable experience in the legal drafting, as I was asked to draft decisions, judgments and *memorandums* both in French and English. This enabled me to understand the reasoning of judges and their interpretation of genocide, persecution, and crimes against humanity. I also undertook research on specific issues related to the interpretation of rape as being *actus reus* for the crime of genocide.

It was an enriching experience as I had the opportunity to learn more about the Rwandan genocide, and understand the effects it had and still has on the stability of the region