Global Reach, Global Impact
Our Rights on a Global Stage

Ann Buwalda (’90) is dedicated to seeking justice for the oppressed. Putting her devotion into action, she has naturally carved out a professional life of international advocacy.

In 1996, Buwalda opened Just Law International, an immigration law firm in the Washington, D.C., area that represents businesses and individuals around the world. Through asylum cases alone, her staff has represented clients from 32 countries. “Our largest contribution to this field is honesty and professionalism in handling immigration matters,” says Buwalda.

These contributions are born of her broad knowledge and dedication to country-specific human rights conditions. She spends hours researching countries to help tell her clients’ stories. “In the last four years,” says Buwalda, “I have had the privilege of visiting Australia and New Zealand as well as taking two fact-finding trips to Pakistan and India, one to Sri Lanka and one to Indonesia.”

Her love of foreign countries and their people no doubt motivates these tireless fact-finding missions, but it’s Buwalda’s dedication to her faith that started it all. “The Lord stirred my heart in these areas when [I was] a teenager,” she says. “And at Regent Law, He provided specific direction. I often spent my lunch hour on my knees asking Him how to walk out my passions.”

God gave her strategic answers to those prayers even before she graduated. In 1989, Buwalda launched the United States branch of the Jubilee Campaign. Formed in London in the early 1980s, the Jubilee Campaign aims to promote human rights and religious liberties in countries that imprison, terrorize or otherwise oppress minorities.

Under Buwalda’s direction, the U.S. branch advocates for children’s protection and refugee issues, and against religious and political persecution. The organization works to bring international intervention and assistance, which requires some creative and daring work at times. Buwalda has even helped head a refugee rescue mission in Pakistan.

While the Jubilee Campaign will push for change in law when necessary, Buwalda explains its main mission: “We support and empower partners within countries. We seek out partners who are already doing the work within our mandate and assist them in areas of need.” Currently, Jubilee Campaign partners with organizations in Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Egypt and the Philippines.

The burgeoning technology that is helping to shrink the globe allows Buwalda’s organization to carry out its mission. “Communicating country incidents is nearly instantaneous from the source of outbreaks of persecution to my computer,” she says. “When Reverend Renaldy Demanik was in prison in Indonesia for three years on trumped up charges, my office was able to text message with him from his prison cell in one of the remotest islands, known as Central Sulawesi.”

A seemingly shrinking world not only gives agencies an increased edge on combating vicious horrors that infringe upon human rights each day, but it also puts advocates face to face with global lawmakers.

Since 1990, Buwalda has participated almost annually at the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Council in Geneva, where she has given numerous interventions under various categories.

In 2004, she labored with other advocates before Congress to successfully pass the North Korea Freedom Act. In 2005 she testified before the Subcommittee on International Relations concerning North Korean refugees in China. That same year, her work in organizing speakers for a congressional hearing and briefing to free “Kids Behind Bars” in the Philippines led to a change of law to release Philippine children from adult prisons and transfer them to rehabilitation.

According to Buwalda, our shrinking world also increases the input international law has on domestic policies. “In today’s global reality, the opinions of other nations are influencing America’s presidential elections as well as our courts,” says Buwalda. “Efforts to revise domestic U.S. law have become more prominent in recent years.”

So, recently, Buwalda has been working at the U.N. to oppose attempts by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to stifle freedom of religion. She believes these attempts will eventually lead to a redefinition of the constitutionally protected right to religious freedom.

In 2007, a U.N. resolution proposed by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC passed in the General Assembly. The resolution alleges to combat things most people would jump to fight: racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance. But Buwalda and others concerned about this resolution believe it dilutes real racism legislation and masks its real task. “This [resolution] will be manipulated to limit public discussion and debate on the subject of religion and belief,” says Buwalda. “The resolution, in conjunction with others put forward by the OIC, is slowly wearing away these fundamental rights to religion and free expression.”

While her focus is religious freedom work at the U.N., these days, Buwalda is also dedicated to ensuring that her global impact doesn’t overshadow her local ministry. “I make every effort to make myself available to mission groups, prayer groups and even homeschooling classes,” she says. “In word and deed, Buwalda encourages all to strategically carry out the stirrings God places in their hearts—even to the height of a global stage.”
Boundaries of Law: Regent’s International Extension

In today’s geopolitical world, tomorrow’s leaders must have an intimate knowledge of international issues, cultural differences and matters of policy that affect global relations.

“Legal issues do not stop at our border,” says James Rice (’08) who has been working internationally since his second year in law school.

His perspective is that Regent students have immense international opportunities and a supportive dean and faculty, and therefore, should jump at the chance to expand their field of vision. “I encourage all my friends to work or study abroad,” says Rice. “There is no substitute for visiting a third-world country or learning about another culture and legal system in person.”

This is a truth Regent Law students know well. Each year they stretch Regent’s campus past its physical boundaries and reach across the globe through internships, organizations with a worldwide vision and study-abroad programs.

Global Impact
During his three years at Regent, Rice attended an Advocates International conference in the Dominican Republic, interned during the summers in Bulgaria and Sudan, and worked at a local immigration law firm.

Rice’s responsibilities in Bulgaria, a country recently making strides to protect religious liberties, included supporting the Rule of Law Institute in all its projects, which at that time focused on introducing a human rights evaluation tool for businesses. In Sudan, a country ripe with legal opportunity, Rice had the chance to work with an organization whose goal is to bring private, educational and governmental resources together for the purpose of professional and educational conferences. Rice pursued and cultivated several projects, including an opportunity to train attorneys who will shape the country’s present and future laws.

With extensive legal projects on his plate, Rice also managed to absorb as much local flavor as possible. “I endeavored at all times to engage the culture beyond the professional level,” he says. This coupling of cultural knowledge and a dedication to professional work in a developing country has great potential to affect that country’s business and legal future positively.

Global Community Houses the Global Church
A perspective on the global Church and issues of biblical justice also propels many Regent students to focus their work on the global community.

“International law provides a unique venue to interact with and support ministries around the world,” says Rice. “I grew up in a church that provided me opportunities to do international missions work. This was the beginning of my global involvement. Going to law school opened a new door to extend my international interest.”

It’s no surprise that a large percentage of Regent graduates find themselves working for non-profit agencies that devote themselves to acts of mercy and justice. In March of this year, The National Jurist ranked Regent Law School 21st in the nation (right alongside UC-Berkeley, the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin and NYU law schools) for the percentage of alumni working in public-interest law. Groups such as International Justice Mission, Advocates International and Alliance Defense Fund are attractive to students who want to put their faith into action inside their international vocation.

Local Labor for Global Causes
On campus, the International Law Society (ILS) provides a springboard for these students. The organization works hard to provide seminars, service projects and events that allow students to realize their global potential. It also opens a network for internships and externships around the world.

Bo Holden, ILS president, is passionate that ILS not just be an information facilitator. “We try to provide occasions for students to hear about global opportunities that might interest them and, in turn, provide possible career paths,” he says.

The ILS chapter also provides a global lens on local issues. Legal concerns such as immigration and asylum bring the world to America’s doorstep, and ILS helps students discover the global impact their practice can make, even if its zip code is local.

It was ILS that helped Rice find work at a Virginia immigration law firm. “I met Hugo Valverde of Valverde & Rowell at an ILS meeting where Hugo was the guest speaker,” says Rice. Valverde and Barry Rowell graduated from Regent Law in 2005 and now have a successful firm specializing in immigration and business. Giving strong legal representation to local immigrants, their firm is a great example of local labor making a global impact.

“As a law clerk with Valverde & Rowell,” Rice continues, “I interacted with local and international clients with various legal issues. Typical work included guest worker visa
just returned from a summer internship at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. She worked at the Office of the Prosecutor trying war criminals for genocide and war crimes committed in the early 1990s.

“I have not only gained a greater understanding of the practice of law and the work of trial lawyers, but I have also interacted with people who have been directly affected by the war—eye witnesses and victims who have remarkable stories to tell,” she says.

Holden and Grujin keep the ILS chapter one of the busiest and most diversified organizations on campus. Holden reports that last year ILS won the Best Event Award from the National ILS for showing the movie Hotel Rwanda paired with a question and answer time with a genocide survivor. The organization also contributed to international concerns through a book drive that filled libraries overseas. And, it sponsored on-campus speakers such as Paul Diamond, an English barrister who spoke on religious liberties, and Jonathan Moreno of the Center for Global Strategies who spoke about opportunities for students to work toward the development of third-world countries.

A Broad View of the Law

Another way for students to gain international expertise is through study abroad programs. Regent Law has directed an International Law and Human Rights program in Strasbourg, France, for over ten years. The school has also recently added an exciting summer program that centers on Israel’s unique international security situation.

Meghan Terry, who was part of the first trip to Israel this summer, said that studying Qur’anic and biblical law in the Holy Land exceeded her expectations. “It forced me to really see the legal ramifications of such an intimate connection between one’s religion and government,” she says.

Phil Jang, who traveled to Strasbourg this summer, says the up-close view of Europe’s legal system taught him more about his own common-law system. Trips to the European Court of Human Rights, a visit from the Court’s President and daily interaction with experts in human rights made him excited about international law. “Hopefully there will be a space for human rights in my future plans,” says Jang. “I think there’s a lot of promise to affect people’s lives and provide counsel, peace and the gospel.”

Abigail Moon was also a part of the Strasbourg program. Moon is a law student at Handong International Law School, a sister school of Regent located in South Korea. “My time in France was not only a window to crucial issues of comparative law, but an invaluable time of interaction and fellowship with other believers who have similar goals,” she says.

Handong International Law School in South Korea is founded on similar mandates as Regent Law; as such, the two share a distinct relationship. Currently, three Regent graduates are professors at Handong, and both student- and professor-exchange programs exist between the schools.

Most unique is the joint effort the two schools have made in publishing the Regent Journal of International Law (RJIL). Founded in 2000, RJIL is the first Christian academic journal dedicated to scholarly publications on issues of international law. Beginning in 2007, the two schools began a publishing relationship wherein both contribute through soliciting articles, editing, and publishing notes, making the journal truly international.

Other study abroad opportunities at Regent Law include semester-long programs at San Pablo University in Madrid, Spain, and at Abat Oliba University in Barcelona, Spain, as well as a summer program at Oxford.

Increasing Regent Law’s International Footprint

Regent Law’s scope is increasingly global. As the gospel spreads, millions of people worldwide are looking for concrete ways to influence their local communities for Christ. Regent Law students carry a torch to advance Christian values through legal practice. “Regent Law’s reach today is truly global,” says Dean Jeffrey Brauch. “I am excited about the international doors that have opened wide to our students and alumni. I look forward to seeing them increasingly serve others and promote justice throughout the world.”
Regent in Romania

Professor Craig Stern sees something good happening in Romania. And he sees Regent Law School as being a pivotal part of it.

In the last three years, Stern has taught as a visiting professor twice at Emanuel University of Oradea in northwest Romania, one of Europe’s few evangelical Christian schools. He’s fascinated by how Christian professionals from Emanuel and across the country are integrating themselves into positions of influence within post-communist Romania.

“There’s a change happening in Romania,” Stern says. “Christians are being more and more welcomed into culture, politics and commercial life. God is opening a space here, and He’s inviting Regent Law to come help.”

Two years ago during his first visiting professorship, Stern taught Biblical Foundations for the Rule of Law along with Biblical Foundations for Civil Government. He notes that at that time students were initially unsure of the success they’d achieve in impacting Romanian culture for Christ.

His impressions after his most recent visit are quite different. “I taught two sections of Introduction to Law and had a chance to work thoroughly with students in studying classic legal thought,” Stern says. “This time, I saw more uniform excitement and commitment to biblical principles and more widespread receptivity to the idea that Christians can integrate faith and professional life, and that they can do it in Romania.”

Indeed, as Romanian Christians expand their influence, Regent Law is poised to partner further with Emanuel University, as well as other prominent Romanian universities, toward extending the reach of timeless principles of truth and justice.

According to Stern, Emanuel University is interested in partnering with Regent to have Regent’s professors teach in the public policy concentration of their graduate management program.

Regent Law’s own dean, Jeffrey Brauch, has been invited to lecture at Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, considered by many to be the Harvard of Romania. Dean Brauch is exploring Babes-Bolyai’s interest in having Regent facilitate an on-campus American studies program.

“Regent Law’s Study Abroad programs offer a distinctive application of our mission to bring the will of God to bear upon legal education and the practice of law.”

Professor Scott Pryor

Regent in India

For your average law professor, winning a Fulbright professorship is an incredible opportunity to teach at a university “across the pond,” preferably one with a well-regarded faculty, located in an excellent climate, with robust cultural attractions and great photo opportunities.

But for Professor Scott Pryor, winning a spring 2009 Fulbright to teach at National Law University Jodhpur, India, is much more than an opportunity to teach Comparative Law and International Business Transactions at a solid Indian law school. Since Pryor is interested in the role Christians play in trade and commerce within an increasingly global society, his Fulbright is an avenue for him to live out his calling by teaching in the context of the burgeoning Indian economy.

“The phenomenon of the globalized world economy is an inevitable trend; it’s out there, and it’s coming whether we like it or not,” Pryor says. “Yet globalization from the bottom up—people interacting with each other through trade and commerce—is a good and positive thing. As Christians we have a great opportunity to be involved in shaping how it happens from the ground up.”

Pryor is no stranger to international travel and teaching. He’s taught for a few years at
Regent Law’s summer Study Abroad program in Strasbourg, France, as well as at Handong University, Regent Law’s sister-school in South Korea. He has also participated extensively in a recent Advocates International conference in Delhi, India.

He looks forward to the unique pedagogical challenges he’ll face in Jodhpur.

“The main difference between teaching in India and teaching in France, for example, is that in France I’ve taught American students, the majority of whom are already from Regent Law. There, we are, in a sense, deepening the work we already do,” Pryor says. “In India, I’ll be teaching Indian students exclusively. I look forward to conveying American entrepreneurial insights as to how law can be used as part of an emerging market culture.”

When asked how Regent Law excels in its international programs, he cited the fact that Regent was exemplary in the number and scope of its programs given its size, and he noted the genuine interest faculty show in their students.

“One of our recent Strasbourg students from another law school had attended another prominent school’s study abroad program before coming to Regent’s,” he says. “She raved about the quality and personal interest the Regent faculty director and on-site staff took in students and contrasted this with her previous program where faculty taught and then vanished with no personal interaction outside of class.”

“That’s a hallmark of Regent legal education across the board. We’re interested in students as human beings.”

Most importantly, Pryor notes that his international work along with that of his students directly follows Regent Law’s mission.

According to Pryor, “Regent Law’s Study Abroad programs offer a distinctive application of our mission to bring the will of God to bear upon legal education and the practice of law. We’re in France because human rights are an aspect of what it means to be created in the image of God, and via the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg we’ve watched this play out on the international stage. Our programs upon legal education and the practice of law.

A recent UNICEF report estimates that there are between 143 and 210 million orphans worldwide.

Other sources indicate that every day 5,760 more children become orphans due to factors such as AIDS, natural disasters and poverty.

Indeed, the state of the world’s children is tragic. As such, it is a priority issue facing the international community. In light of these overwhelming numbers, Tony Brewer (‘91) is working to “trade tears for hope.”

He started his mission in 1993 when, as a lawyer, he was asked, “Will you help us adopt a child from China?” That short, simple question uttered back in 1993 ended up capturing me . . . because on the other end of it was a beautiful, sometimes expressionless, needy child—the kind that your heart yearns to help as soon as you see him or her, and who unfortunately lives all over the world,” writes Brewer.

Through that exchange, he was propelled to establish A Helping Hand Adoption Agency, and eventually Orphan Voice, A Helping Hand’s outreach ministry to orphans around the world. Through these vehicles, Brewer has orchestrated several thousand adoptions.

Equally important, the two organizations aim to plant hope into the lives of children by providing Christian education, caring, nutritious food, vocational training and love. A Helping Hand specializes in adoptions in China, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Guatemala. Through Orphan Voice programs, Brewer’s team is ministering to over 660 children in countries including China, Cambodia, India and Myanmar.

Brewer manages his current role as director of Orphan Voice and senior advisor to A Helping Hand from Danang, Vietnam. He and his family of six moved there from Kentucky in June of this year in order to promote Orphan Voice’s work in Vietnam.

His presence there could not be timelier. Recently, the Vietnam government suspended adoptions with the U.S. due to alleged corruption in their program. While Orphan Voice aims to provide orphans with care inside their country, this moment in Vietnam’s history provides Brewer great opportunities as a legal advocate.

And he says his legal education helps him to be strategic in his work. After graduating from Regent Law in 1991, Brewer went on to complete an L.L.M. in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown Law.

“I loved the international law courses that I took at Regent,” says Brewer. “Later, my L.L.M. helped to prepare me to think about dealing with other cultures and legal systems. In some of the countries in which we work, there is no developed legal system, and my legal education has helped me see how legal protections should be put in place for the protection of children.”

The great contributions Brewer makes in the lives of the world’s orphans is a leading example of how Regent is preparing leaders to impact the nation.

Brewer sees his work as the natural extension of his Christian faith. “It has been my privilege to serve those of different cultures, and I feel greatly blessed by it.”

Regent Law Distinctives

Educating Lawyers from a Christian Worldview

The foremost distinctive of Regent Law is its Christian perspective. We couple rigorous scholarship with an emphasis on spiritual integrity, educating a different kind of lawyer uniquely prepared to practice law.

Regent Law’s faculty, a diverse group of legal scholars, professors and practitioners, actively inform the most pressing legal questions of our time. Our faculty’s excellence in legal scholarship and their commitment to the Christian perspective create a vibrant intellectual community, part of a rich and stimulating curriculum.

Award-winning Legal Skills Programs

In 2007, two Regent Law students went head-to-head with 219 other teams from the nation’s top law schools to take first place in the prestigious American Bar Association (ABA) National Negotiation Competition—the second consecutive national win for Regent Law. In 2006, a team of Regent students won the ABA’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition, winning the moot court contest and placing first for the nation’s Best Brief.

The connection is clear: our investment in facilities and programs developing writing, negotiation, trial and appellate advocacy skills yields law students who perform when and where it counts.

Impacting the World in Key Legal Positions

Raising up the next generation of servant leaders has been a focus of Regent since the beginning. Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell is just one of the many alumni who is utilizing talents and skills honed at Regent to serve others and make a difference in a key legal position.

Regent Law graduates often describe their law school experience as life-changing, and the experience truly enables them to make a difference in their communities, the nation and abroad. They serve as judges, legislators, human rights advocates and lawyers in public and private practice.