



Nairobi International Law Institute

Dear Widener Law student:

Our summer program in Kenya will begin again in 2009 from June 15 to July 16! After the presidential election of December 2007, there were ethnic troubles, and we suspended the program. Mwai Kibaki, the president, and Raila Odinga, the new prime minister reached a power-sharing arrangement and conditions returned to normal. The



DOWNTOWN NAIROBI

Nairobi summer program is an extraordinary academic and cultural experience that will change the way you view the world. Since 1988 Widener has operated this summer program in partnership with the University of Nairobi. In 2009 we will offer three two-credit courses: International Environmental Law and Trade, Comparative Constitutional Law, and Comparative Family Law. Contact fellow student Matt McCrystal who attended in 2007 or in Harrisburg contact the co-director, Professor Ann Fruth, who will teach Comparative Family Law.

Kenya is one of the most beautiful and interesting places in the world. It is justly famous for its extraordinary national parks teeming with wildlife, beautiful beaches on the Indian Ocean, and excellent hiking in the mountains including Mt. Kilimanjaro. Less well known is that Nairobi is a bustling international city with unique resources. Nairobi is the world headquarters for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the regional headquarters for the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. It is also the regional home of the vital NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that are helping to reshape our world, such as the World Wide Fund for Nature, Oxfam, Doctors Without Borders, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). With over 100 diplomatic embassies and a wealth of international organizations Nairobi has a cosmopolitan atmosphere and a large selection of reasonably priced restaurants.

The program has been arranged to help you get the most out of your experience. We have expanded the number of group activities and more closely tied them to the material you will be studying in your courses The weekend before the program begins (June 13 &



14) we will travel to Lake Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley about 50 miles west of Nairobi. In the past we have stayed, as we will this year, at the lovely Lake Naivasha Hotel with its magnificent gardens and wildlife. On Saturday we will take a boat launch to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary, where you will walk among giraffe, antelope, gazelle, wildebeest, and other wildlife. The next morning you may wish to hike in Hells Gate Gorge National Park or some may wish to climb Mt. Longonot, a 9000 foot extinct volcano with a deep crater and excellent views of the Great Rift Valley and Lake Naivasha below. The climb is rather steep in places requiring several rest stops.

After the first week of classes we embark on a three-day, two-night safari (June 19-21) to the famous Samburu National Reserve and the nearby Shaba National Reserve, up and around Mt. Kenya and then down into the subdesert region that is the home of the Samburu people. Dr. Patricia Kameri-Mbote will give a lecture on Kenya's conservation policies in our International Environmental Law and Trade course before the trip. At this point it appears that we will stay at the beautiful Serova Shaba Lodge on the banks of the Ewaso Ngiro River. Google Sarova hotels for more information. There you will encounter lions, leopard, cheetah and elephants as well as rare animals unique to Samburu: the reticulated giraffe, the long necked gerenuk, the Somali ostrich, Grevy's zebra, and the Beisa oryx. After the second week of classes (June 25-28) we help arrange a group trip to Diani Beach on the Indian Ocean 20 miles south of the port city of Mombasa. You will swim and snorkel in the coral reef protected waters and experience the lifestyle and culture of the Swahili people. We will stay at the Baobab Beach Resort hotel right on Diani Beach. www.baobab-beach-resort.com All of these safari's are at special discounted rates.



During the second or third week of classes we tour the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) facilities and hear a lecture from a top lawyer at the UN on the Ozone Treaty and the Montreal Protocols. Prof. Githu Muigai, an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, if he is available, will take us on a tour of the Kenya court system. After exams we will help arrange a safari to the world famous Masai Mara National Reserve host to the Annual Migration of wildebeest and zebra. .



BABOON AT LAKE NAKURU



At the end of the program July 16 there will be plenty of time to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, complete internship projects, or return home for a clerkship. In most years several members of the group make the trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro or travel to the Indian Ocean beaches of Kenya or the nearby Island of Zanzibar in Tanzania.

This year we have arranged comfortable housing at Bid Apartments, a low-rise series of apartment units behind the Sarit Center in Westlands in a gated, secure compound. Members of the Institute will be able to share one and two bedroom apartments or rent a studio for one person. The accommodations include TV, telephone, and a swimming pool. It is convenient to shopping centers and restaurants. The security is excellent. People who have participated in this program have had their lives changed. It is an unparalleled opportunity for personal enrichment and growth. Many Nairobi Institute members fall in love with Kenya and develop lasting friendships. I wanted to start such a program because I had a similar experience when I was in law school that changed my life. I joined the Harvard Africa Volunteer Project in Kenya and taught at the University of Nairobi. I fell in love with Kenya, made many friends, and have been returning ever since. In 1988 Widener University, in conjunction with the University of Nairobi, created this program in order to give you the same opportunity.



BID APARTMENTS



INDIAN OCEAN BEACH

You will find that Kenyans are as generous and friendly as any group of people in the world. The country is currently debating a draft constitution that would reduce executive power and increase the independence of the judiciary. Several members of our Institute faculty have helped lead the fight for comprehensive constitutional reform and are members of the Constitutional Review Commission. Prof. Ann Fruth of our Harrisberg campus who taught the Comparative Family Law course in 2007 will again teach it with her Kenyan counterpart, Prof. Pauline Nyamweya. You will find that the Nairobi Institute faculty members are unusually interesting people and compelling teachers.

On weekends students travel in groups to game parks, visit the unspoiled and uncrowded beaches on the Indian Ocean for snorkeling, scuba, or relaxation, hike in the mountains or visit friends that they make. There is far more to see and do than one person could possibly enjoy in a summer. You may be interested in visiting or volunteering with Water is Life, Kenya, an NGO devoted to provide clean water to remote villages to reduce disease and improve the prospects for rural women or to volunteer at an orphanage for abandoned children. You may wish to arrive early and stay beyond the program's end. Most flights to Kenya go through Europe. If you wish to experience that continent as well, you can stop in any of the capital cities (London, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, etc.) on the way to Kenya or on the trip home. South African Airways flies to Nairobi via Johannesburg, South Africa if you wish to see that country.



HIPPO POOL

For more information go to our web site at www.law.widener.edu and click on Academic Programs and then the Summer Study Abroad link to the left and then click Nairobi. Participants rave about the program. The National Jurist, the magazine for law students, ran a feature story on us, "Legal Safari," in the January, 2000 issue. You are welcome to call me at my office 302-477-2124 or email me at jpkelly@widener.edu or contact Prof. Ann Fruth of our Harrisburg campus at 717-541-3978 or aefruth@mail.widener.edu If you wish to talk to one of the students who participated in the 2007 program, email Matt McCrystal at mlmccrystal@mail.widener.edu

Sincerely,

J. Patrick Kelly, Professor of Law
Director, Nairobi International Program

JPK:pb