

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL CLASS OF 2018



**CLINICAL AND PRO BONO PROGRAMS
LEARNING THE LAW | SERVING THE WORLD**

COMMENCEMENT NEWSLETTER

Ha Ryong Jung (Michael) J.D. '18

Ha Ryong Jung is an outstanding student from South Korea, with an unparalleled commitment to clinical education and the field of children's rights. At HLS, he contributed more than 2,000 pro bono hours with the International Human Rights Clinic, Child Advocacy Clinic, and HLS Advocates for Human Rights. He also worked pro bono at the regional office of the United Nations Children's Fund in Thailand, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Boston Juvenile Court, and Volunteer Lawyers Project, tackling children's rights from many angles.

"Jung has spent the better part of his lifetime building his capacity to promote the human rights of children, particularly the neediest children," wrote his nominators in the Child Advocacy Program.

His clinical and academic work were outstanding, showing a drive to learn, intellectual curiosity, and the ability to make connections. In the Child Advocacy Clinic, he received special recognition for his important contributions to his placement organization and the quality of his participation and engagement in the clinic seminar. He worked on laws and policies affecting children and young people, including those undergoing removal proceedings and experiencing custody complications due to undocumented parents facing deportation. "His thoughtful and reflective contributions made him a beloved member of his fieldwork office and the class," wrote his nominators.

Jung has taken his clinical experiences and infused them into his other aspects of law school life. He became the first student to complete the Harvard-wide Child Protection Certificate Program administered by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Additionally, he re-ignited the student group, Child & Youth Advocates, organizing events and skills-based training related to child welfare, education, and juvenile justice, as well as starting a student database to encourage networking among HLS students and graduates interested in the field of child advocacy.

Establishing the Child Advocacy Hub was one of his most impressive accomplishments. Seeing an unmet need in the legal services community for additional help, and a desire on the part of HLS students to volunteer, Jung came up with the idea of matching the two groups. With this vision and his exceptional organizational and leadership skills, he reached out to stakeholders and launched the Hub in early 2018. "Jung's efforts were driven by his ability to identify a problem and solve it, and also by his deep drive to ensure that the range of opportunities to gain skills and participate in child advocacy-oriented activities for current and future HLS students is as robust as possible," wrote his nominators.



Credit: Lorin Granger
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"Jung is truly a one-of-a-kind person and student, and he is undoubtedly going to make significant contributions to the field of children's rights once he begins his career," his nominators concluded.

Reflecting on his three years at HLS Jung said, "When I was notified about this award, my first reaction was one of puzzlement and amazement because I knew so many students who were deserving of an award, and I never considered myself to fit that definition. However, the feelings that followed were of immense gratitude and honor with the understanding that the individuals I deeply admire had recognized my work as contributing to the lives of children and trusted that my efforts will firmly persist. I feel blessed to have been a part of the International Human Rights Clinic and the Child Advocacy Clinic for most of my time in law school, and those experiences have undoubtedly taken me a step closer to becoming an effective advocate for children. This award is the greatest gift that I have received, and it will serve to be an immeasurably valuable source of support and encouragement for me as I continue my pursuit of helping to protect children and their rights."