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## Introducing Lisa Cruces Welty Librarian-in-Residence and Archivist

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## Meet our new Foreign, Comparative, and International Law (FCIL) Librarian: Trez Drake

The Notre Dame Kresge Law Library welcomes Trezlen Drake as the Research Department's new Foreign and International Law Specialist. Looking forward to being involved with Notre Dame Law School's Global Law Program and its study abroad programs, "Trez" (her preferred name) comes to Notre Dame well qualified and experienced with an academic background that is interesting, varied, and solid. It encompasses a BA with Honors in American Studies, with a concentration in Creative Writing from Colby College in Waterville, Maine where she was a Ralph J. Bunche Scholar; earned a JD from Georgia State University College of Law, Atlanta, GA with international course experiences abroad including Human Rights and Religious Freedom at the International Human Rights Institute in Strasbourg, France, and International and Comparative Commercial Arbitration in Linz, Austria; a Masters in Theology from Franciscan University in

Steubenville, OH; and an MLIS with a Special Certificate in Law Librarianship from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Pursuing a career in Library Science, Trez comes to the Kresge Law Library after serving as the International and Comparative Law Reference Librarian and Faculty Liaison for International and Comparative Law professors at New York Law School's Mendik Library in New York City. While there, her teaching experiences included Electronic Legal Research for first-year law students, International and Comparative Law Research sessions on Transitional Law, Transitional Justice, Media Law and Policy, and Human Rights classes. Trez participated in different capacities with Moot Court functions: a team advisor for the NYLS 2012 Jessup International Law Moot Court team and as a judge at one of the rounds at the NYLS 2012 Wagner Moot Court Competition. She also served as a member of the interview committee to fill the NYLS Government Documents Reference Librarian position.

Of African-American descent, Trez is a sophisticated woman of profound strength acquired by overcoming challenges in childhood that enabled her to reach up, out, and within. Trez grew up in a small town, an hour north of Durham, North Carolina, where she went to grade and middle school, in a place with little or nothing to do. "I walked the long winding roads, dirt paths, and wandered through the woods. I kept myself company."

While growing up in this rural area where pursuing a higher education was not the norm, Trez had no specific plans about her future. However, during middle school, Trez became a member of *Odyssey of the Mind*, an international educational program providing creative problem-solving opportunities ranging from building mechanical devices to presenting self-interpretation of literary classics. Mrs. Roddy, the *Odyssey of the Mind* coach and teacher, recognized Trez as a curious, gifted, and talented young girl. Providing direction, encouragement, and a challenge, Mrs. Roddy encouraged Trez to apply to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, an academically gifted residential high school program for juniors and seniors with strong aptitudes and interests in science, mathematics, and technology located in Durham, North Carolina. "Those who get accepted live on campus for two years. It was pretty much like college except every 6 weeks we had a long weekend and we went home." This was the beginning of an academic and career path that Trez would follow for the rest of her life.

Personal experiences and interest in human and civil rights as well as having an innate curiosity about people with different backgrounds, languages, and cultures motivated Trez to study Russian, law, and human rights and to go abroad. As a sophomore at Colby College with an interest in Russian and Soviet Studies, Trez traveled to Russia and Ukraine for a January class to "Russia's Five Capitals": Kiev, Ukraine; Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vladimir, and Suzdal in Russia.

### Introducing Lisa Cruces Welty Librarian-in-Residence and Archivist

Several years ago Kresge Law Library and Hesburgh Library created the position of [Librarian-in-Residence](#) with the purpose of attracting librarians with diverse backgrounds to Notre Dame. It was hoped that this position would bring to the campus talented young librarians from groups



historically under-represented in librarian-ship. Through a series of rotations over two years, the resident is introduced to all aspects of university and law library work.

Elizabeth Cruces Welty, who prefers to be known as Lisa, was hired as the 7th Librarian-in-Residence. Lisa just graduated from UT Austin with concentrations in

Archives & Librarianship. She holds dual BA degrees in History & International Studies from Texas State University—San Marcos.

Lisa is fluent in Spanish and has a long-standing research interest in Latin America. She received travel and professional development grants including a 2011 [SALALM](#) scholarship that recognizes her commitment to diversity and librarianship.

Lisa will spend the fall 2012 semester working in the Kresge Law Library processing and providing archival description to the Professor James Patrick White Papers. Along with creating the archival arrangement of the White Collection, Lisa will be appraising the papers for a possible digitization project.