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Alumni Profile

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ALUMNI PROFILE



Ms. LUZ ORIANA RIOSECO ORTEGA, a 1999 L.L.M. Washington College of Law (WCL) graduate, works to promote women's rights, particularly through the prevention of domestic violence, in her home country of Chile and throughout Latin America. Ms. Rioseco received her degree in judicial and social sciences from the University of Chile, Valparaíso, in 1986. She received a master's degree in sociology, with a focus in public politics and social planning, from the Catholic University of Chile in 1989. She began her legal career as a lawyer for the QUERCUM Center of Judicial and Social Studies in Viña del Mar, Chile. Ms. Rioseco later served as coordinator and lawyer for the Center of Legal Orientation and Psychology of Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence in the municipality of Conchalí, Chile, and later became a lawyer of the Legal Department of the same municipality. Before coming to WCL, she also served as coordinator for women and family law in the domestic violence program in the Women's Institute.

Ms. Rioseco's desire to study abroad led her to enroll in the L.L.M. program at WCL, where she further developed her expertise in the areas of gender

and the law. While at WCL she served as an assistant in the Women and International Law program. Ms. Rioseco's continued devotion to public interest law was recognized by WCL in 2001 when she received the Peter Cicchino Award for Outstanding Advocacy in the Public Interest along with Marcela Huaita from Peru. The Cicchino Award is presented to students and alumni who show an outstanding commitment to public interest work. The award honors Peter M. Cicchino, a former WCL professor and well-known public interest activist who founded the Lesbian and Gay Youth Project for homeless and indigent teens at the Urban Justice Center in New York.

Upon graduation from WCL, Ms. Rioseco returned to Chile where she taught classes at Diego Portales University Law School and worked as coordinator of the domestic violence program for the Corporation for the Development of Women (DOMOS). DOMOS is devoted to improving the lives of women through human rights and the law. DOMOS has a number of projects that address the specific needs of women, including a Domestic and Family Violence project, a Citizenship and the Rights of Women project, and a Gender and Social Management Responsibility project. Each project is implemented by a team of dedicated professionals who provide the relevant services; for example, Ms. Rioseco conducted a number of workshops and courses on the prevention of domestic violence during her tenure with the organization.

In 2001 Ms. Rioseco became a lawyer for Chile's National Woman's Service (SERNAM) in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. SERNAM aims to further incorporate women in economic development, promote the social and political participation of women, and improve the quality of living of women and their families by decreasing domestic violence and increasing access to health care. The organization also works to advance gender equity in a wide range of sectors, including politics, health, justice, education, and the work place. Ms. Rioseco later served as a consultant for the Program for Management Improvement in the justice sector for SERNAM.

She returned to DOMOS in 2003 as sub-regional coordinator for the International Criminal Court and Gender Justice Project. In April 2005 she took on the position of Chile's representative to the Organization of American States for the continuation of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women. During 2005 Ms. Rioseco also published a report for the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean entitled *Good Practices to Eradicate Domestic Violence in the Latin American and Caribbean Region*. The report, guided by international law in the wake of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 and the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, highlights accomplishments and

areas requiring further progress in the protection and promotion of women's rights.

Over the years Ms. Rioseco has conducted numerous courses and workshops to increase awareness and to educate others on legal issues related to gender and women's rights. These courses have included, "National and International Legal Aspects of Family and Sexual Violence in Chile," "Right of Family, Family Violence and Mediation," and "Law and Gender." She has taught these courses at a number of organizations and universities, including the University of Chile, the University of Diego Portales, the Judicial Academy, SERNAM, and DOMOS. Her audiences have included judges, officials, police officers, mediators, law students, and other members of the legal community. She has also participated in numerous seminars and conferences around the world regarding human rights, the International Criminal Court, immigration, and more. Ms. Rioseco attributes much of her expertise about women's rights to her time at WCL and the school's L.L.M. program. She is grateful that she has had many opportunities to share her knowledge and to bring the issue of women's rights to the forefront in Chile.

Ms. Rioseco is currently studying to become a family law judge at the Judicial Academy of Chile. Although the Judicial Academy is an intensive six-month training program, Ms. Rioseco continues to serve as the Chilean expert to the Committee of the Inter-American Convention to Pre-

vent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women. She maintains her focus on women, human rights, and public interest law, which she

now hopes to apply to her prospective judgeship. Most of all, Ms. Rioseco continues to share her passion through her courses and her many publica-

tions and hopes that her work will positively affect others now and in the future. **HRB**

Emily Wann, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, covers the Alumni Profile for the Human Rights Brief.

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50 YEARS IS ENOUGH: U.S. NETWORK FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC JUSTICE

www.50years.org

50 Years Is Enough: U.S. Network for Global Economic Justice is a coalition of over 200 U.S. grassroots, women's, solidarity, faith-based, policy, social and economic justice, youth, labor, and development organizations dedicated to the transformation of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade

Organization. The Network partners with over 185 international organizations in more than 65 countries. Through economic literacy training, public mobilization, and policy advocacy education and action, the Network seeks to transform the international financial institutions' policies and practices and to make the development process more democratic and accountable.

The Human Rights Brief is accepting submissions for the next edition of the "NGO

Update." If your organization has an event or situation it would like to publicize, please send a short description to hrbrief@wcl.american.edu and include "NGO Update" in the subject heading of the message. Please limit your submission to two paragraphs. The Human Rights Brief reserves the right to edit for content and space limitations. **HRB**

Lauren Bartlett, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, covers the NGO Update for the Human Rights Brief.

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hoc and hybrid criminal tribunals. She also delivered a presentation on the prosecution of gender-based crimes committed in the context of war or mass violence at the Global Women's Court of Accountability, held November 17-18, 2005, at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice of the University of San Diego. Over the past several months, she has participated in three sessions of the Working Group on Social Reconstruction and Reconciliation convened by the U.S. Institute of Peace. In January 2006 she also participated in a roundtable discussion on legal and judicial reform in Sudan convened by the Initiative for Inclusive Security.

Rick Wilson, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, served as a mod-

erator for a panel on "Globalization of Clinical Legal Education: Transplanting Clinical Models into Other Cultures and Families of Law" at the Sixth International Clinical Conference, UCLA/IALS, in Lake Arrowhead, California. He sponsored a report entitled "A Moral Choice for the United States: The Human Rights Implications for the Gwich'in Peoples of Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" along with the Gwich'in Steering Committee and the Episcopal Church. He served as a commentator on a presentation by Justice Richard Goldstone called "Perspectives on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights." He also served as a moderator for a panel on "International Prevention of Torture: The Role of the United Nations, International

Law and the United States" presented by the United Nations Association, National Capitol Area, and co-sponsored by the ABA Section of International Law. He was invited to serve as an international expert by the Clinical Legal Education Foundation of Russia to assist in the planning of three trainings of 24 selected clinical programs during 2006 in St. Petersburg, Russia. In November he was interviewed by Susan Kinzie of the *Washington Post* about WCL's clinics and other human rights activities. In December he was interviewed by the *National Journal* regarding the case of Canadian detainee Omar Khadr, represented by Rick and Muneer Ahmad. **HRB**

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NEW JUSTICES

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT of Justice is composed of 15 permanent judges who are elected by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council from individuals nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Elections take place every three years, with one-third of the judges retiring at the end of each cycle to ensure continuity within the Court. Judges may be re-elected.

On November 7, 2005, the UN General Assembly elected four new judges, who will begin their nine-year terms on the bench on February 6, 2006. The retiring judges include Nabil Elaraby of Egypt, Pieter Kooijmans of the Netherlands, Francisco Rezek of Brazil, and Vladlen S. Vereshchetin of the Russian Federation. The new judges include Mohamed Bennouna of Morocco, Sir Kenneth Keith of New Zealand, Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor of Mexico, and Leonid

Skotnikov of the Russian Federation. Judge Thomas Buergenthal of the United States, former Dean and Professor of International Law at the American University Washington College of Law from 1980 to 1985, was reelected for another term. **HRB**

Nicholas Leddy, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, covers the United Nations Update and the ICJ Update for the Human Rights Brief.