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Alumni Profile

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ALUMNI PROFILE



MR. BRIAN D. TITTEMORE, a 1995 LL.M. Washington College of Law (WCL) graduate, is a senior staff attorney at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. He currently serves as the Commission's desk officer for the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Haiti and provides general legal and administrative counsel to the IACHR Secretariat. He is specifically responsible for processing human rights petitions, drafting IACHR reports, coordinating IACHR on-site visits and hearings, conducting litigation before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and organizing and participating in seminars and lectures.

One of the highlights of Mr. Tittmore's work at the Commission was managing 32 death penalty cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Court), which resulted in the Court's 2002 judgment in the case of *Hilaire, Constantine and Benjamin et al. v. Trinidad and Tobago* and ultimately a decision by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London commuting the petitioners' death sentences. In addition, he was the principal drafter of the Commission's

2002 Report on Terrorism and Human Rights, which analyzes the manner in which international human rights and humanitarian law inform state conduct in responding to terrorism. He was also recently involved in producing a detailed report on the administration of justice in Haiti.

According to Mr. Tittmore, his experience at WCL and the support and encouragement of its faculty inspired him to pursue a career in international law, and he feels extremely fortunate to be involved in the interesting and challenging work of the Inter-American Commission. Mr. Tittmore has remained active in the WCL community since his graduation from the LL.M. program. He is an adjunct professor at WCL and co-teaches an intensive three-week course on International Humanitarian Law at the Annual Academy on International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law with Professor Robert Goldman. In addition, he served as a Senior Research Associate in the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) from 1996 to 1997. During this time he worked closely with WCRO's founders, Professor Diane Orentlicher, and fellow WCL alumnus Rochus Pronk to coordinate and supervise research projects related to international humanitarian law, human rights, and comparative criminal law issues for a number of international clients, including the Office of the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Under the auspices of the WCRO, he also co-authored and co-edited a major report on the interna-

tional criminal responsibility of former Khmer Rouge leaders for atrocities committed in Cambodia in the 1970s with Dr. Stephen Heder of the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Mr. Tittmore has also authored two hypothetical cases for the Inter-American Moot Court Competition, one that he co-wrote with fellow Commission attorney Veronica Gomez in 2000 and a second for the Competition's 10th Anniversary in 2005. While a student at WCL, Mr. Tittmore served as an LL.M. Editor for the *American University Journal of International Law & Policy* and as an Articles Editor for the *Human Rights Brief*. He is a member of the *Brief's* Founder's Board.

provided advisory legal services to government ministers, departments, and agencies. His areas of practice included immigration, constitutional law, human rights, and international trade law. During Mr. Tittmore's tenure with the Department, he had the opportunity to serve as co-counsel with Canada's Chief General Counsel during the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Commission of Inquiry, which investigated allegations of abuse by security forces during the 1997 Asia Pacific Economic Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In addition to his work with the Canadian government and the Inter-American Commission, Mr. Tittmore has participated in several innovative inter-



Courtesy of Brian Tittmore

Brian Tittmore in the field with former Inter-American Commission on Human Rights President Clare K. Roberts (third from left) and troops from the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

Before pursuing his degree at WCL, Mr. Tittmore worked at the Canadian Department of Justice in the Civil Litigation Branch in Ottawa, Ontario. As litigation counsel for the Department, he prepared for and conducted trial, appeals, and other related litigation before federal and provincial courts, tribunals, and commissions, as well as

national law and policy initiatives and has continued to lecture and write in several areas of international law. In 2002 and 2003, he served as a consultant to the Council on Foreign Relations' Independent Task Force on Immediate Threats to Democracy, co-chaired by Madeleine Albright and Bronislaw Geremek, where Mr. Tittmore examined the possible de-

velopment of an international “crime against democracy.” His analysis and conclusions were subsequently included in the book *Protecting Democracy: International Response*, published by Lexington Press in February 2005. His pending publications include a paper that he presented at a workshop on crimes against humanity convened at

the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Bilbao, Spain, entitled “Ending Impunity in the Americas: Role of the Inter-American Human Rights System in Advancing Accountability for Serious Crimes under International Law.” It is forthcoming in Southwestern University’s *Journal of Law and Trade in the Americas*.

Mr. Tittmore credits WCL for many of his career opportunities in international human rights and humanitarian law. “The faculty members at WCL are among the finest in the world,” he notes. “They challenged me to be exacting and rigorous in my legal work and at the same time encouraged me to push the boundaries, to

play a role in shaping the law and advancing the humanitarian values that lie at the foundation of our work. You can’t ask for more than that from a legal education.” **HRB**

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

NGO UPDATE: *continued from page 70*

After the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast in August and September of 2005, AAJC forged ties with and advocated on behalf of Asian communities affected by the storms, many of which are now displaced. Louisiana alone was home to more than 60,000 Asian Americans, more than half of which were Vietnamese. Most of these individuals were refugees and some were undocumented immigrants. In response AAJC has provided

a resource page on its website for Asian Americans affected by the hurricanes, helped connect these Asian communities with local legal resources, and written several reports on the situation of these affected communities, which it has shared with law firms and attorneys working along the Gulf Coast.

The Human Rights Brief is accepting submissions for the next edition of “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 NGOs for the Human Rights Brief.

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interviewed by *Media Matters* on electronic surveillance and FISA and by *Japanese News Service* on the Supreme Court. He also participated in a documentary on the Supreme Court for PBS. In February Professor Schwartz lectured on Human Rights in Legal Education for Syrian law professors and presented at the New Israel Fund Forum in New York on “Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State.”

Rick Wilson, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, served as detailed defense co-counsel representing Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen charged with alleged war crimes in Afghanistan in *United States v. Khadr* before a U.S. military commission in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. He co-edited *International Human Rights & Humanitarian Law: Treaties, Cases & Analysis* with Francisco Forrest Martin,

Stephen J. Schnably, Jonathan S. Simon, and Mark V. Tushnet. Professor Wilson also served as a commentator for a presentation by Aryeh Neier, Director of the Open Society Justice Initiative, on economic, social, and cultural rights at WCL. Professor Wilson and Muneer Ahmad co-authored an editorial in the *Toronto Star*, “Canada: The Time to Speak on Khadr is Now,” in January. Professor Wilson was interviewed by a Texas Lawyer regarding a profile of two lawyers from Texas defending cases at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He was a panelist on “Military Commissions and the Status of Fair Trial Norms” at Amnesty International Lawyers’ Conference, “Fulfilling the Legacy: International Justice 60 Years After Nuremberg,” in Seattle, Washington. In February Professor Wilson was the closing speaker on “Forty Acres and a Mule: Is

Property More Important than Happiness?” at the Conference on Poverty and Human Rights sponsored by the International Law Society and National Lawyers’ Guild at George Washington University School of Law. He was interviewed by RadioFrance on the legal situation in Guantánamo Bay and by CanWest about the UN’s report on conditions at Guantánamo, which called for the closing of the U.S. prison, and its impact on the *Khadr* case. He was a panelist at “The Inter-American System’s Legal Framework on Torture,” a Training Seminar on the UN and Regional Systems’ Legal Framework on Torture, held at WCL on March 3, 2006. He was an invited expert at the “Working Group Review of Draft Legal Education Reform Index,” organized by the American Bar Association CEELI, in Washington, D.C., on February 28, 2006. **HRB**

UNITED NATIONS UPDATE: *continued from page 60*

ent context, a key question is how the court will assess the burden of proof. Genocide is typically addressed in a criminal court, which carries a much higher burden of proof than civil courts.

JUDGES ELECT FIRST FEMALE JUDGE AS PRESIDENT OF THE ICJ

On February 6, 2006, the ICJ elected Judge Rosalyn Higgins as President of the Court and Judge Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh as Vice-President, each for a term of three years. Judge Higgins of the

United Kingdom is the first female judge at the ICJ and the first to be elected President of the Court. Judge Al-Khasawneh is from Jordan. **HRB**

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

Security Council that she had formally asked President Obasanjo to extradite Taylor so he could stand trial at the Special Court. On March 29, 2006, Nigerian police arrested Taylor as he was attempting to cross into Cameroon and “repatriated” him to Liberia, whereupon he was placed in the Special Court’s custody.

Taylor served as President of Liberia from 1997 to 2003 and was indicted by the Court in March 2003 for war crimes committed during the civil war that gripped much of the region in the early 1990s. On April 3, 2006, Taylor made his initial appearance before the Court and pled not guilty to eleven counts of the amended indictment, including five counts of crimes against humanity (murder; rape; sexual slavery and any other form of sexual violence; other inhumane acts; and enslavement) and six counts of violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II (acts of terrorism; murder; outrages upon personal dignity; cruel treatment;

conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups, or using them to participate actively in hostilities; and pillage). Citing security concerns, the Special Court has since formally requested that the Netherlands host Taylor’s trial, an option that President Johnson-Sirleaf also supports.

DEATH OF SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC

On March 11, 2006, Slobodan Milosevic, former President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was found dead in his cell in the Scheveningen Detention Unit of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). ICTY President Judge Fausto Pocar ordered a full inquiry into his death, although Dutch authorities later confirmed that Milosevic, who suffered from chronic heart ailments, died of natural causes. On March 14, 2006, the Trial Chamber that was trying Milosevic ordered the proceedings against him terminated. *HRB*

Mariam Ahmedani, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, covers the ICTY and the ICC for the Human Rights Brief.

Meghan Stewart, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, wrote the Prosecutor v. Simba summary for the Human Rights Brief.

Brianne McGonigle, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, wrote the Prosecutor v. Kajelijeli summary for the Human Rights Brief.

Lizzie Rushing, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, wrote the Prosecutor v. Kamuhanda summary for the Human Rights Brief.

Anne Heindel, Assistant Director of the War Crimes Research Office at the Washington College of Law, edited all of the ICTR case summaries.

Leslie Thompson, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, covers international criminal issues for the Human Rights Brief.



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