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Alumnus Profile: Martín Abregu

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about the Panel's report and subsequent actions taken by the Bank.

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possible. A request for investigation can be filed anytime up to the closing date of the project, i.e. the date on which the last part of the Bank's loan is disbursed. The request can be submitted in any language, although English is preferred. It may be filed at the Bank's headquarters in Washington, DC, or at any regional office. The complaint need not be in any special form, however, using the sample form prepared by the Panel is recommended.

The Panel's proceedings are not the only proof of its effectiveness. According to the Panel members themselves,

the mere existence of the Panel has enhanced Bank staff awareness that they are accountable for the Bank's compliance with its own policies and procedures. Thus, the term "Panel approving approach" has enriched the World Bank's parlance. Furthermore, other multilateral development banks are discussing the establishment of inspection panels.

The success and the effectiveness of the Panel also depends on an adequate flow of information concerning the

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project at issue. The following documents are now available at the Public Information Center of the World Bank, either free or for a standard charge of \$15: original and revised project infor-

mation, environmental assessments, staff appraisal reports, legal agreements between Bank and borrower, and impact studies. *The Human Rights Brief* will also continue to report on the Panel's activities and its further legal development. ☉

For further information, contact:

World Bank Inspection Panel, 1818 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20433, U.S.A.; phone (202) 458-5200; fax (202) 522-0916; Internet: PANEL@WorldBank.org

Public Information Center, 1818 H Street N.W., Washington, DC 20433, U.S.A.; phone (202) 458-5454; fax (202) 522-1500; E-Mail: pic@world-bank.org



ALUMNUS PROFILE

Alumnus Works to Change Argentina's Human Rights Policy

by Alexandra Wisotsky

Martín Abregu, a 1994 graduate of the WCL LL.M. program, is now Executive Legal Director of the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. CELS is the only organization in Argentina working to develop and change Argentina's institutional policy on human rights. "Although the dictatorship in Argentina ended years ago," said Abregu, "we are still trying to move the country's policy toward a new democratic methodology." CELS publishes an annual report on the state of human rights in Argentina, covering such issues as legal protection, discrimination, and inquiries into the disappearances that occurred during the dictatorship. CELS is also working to improve relations with the Argentine government to change the country's human rights policies. For example, CELS recently held a confer-

ence in conjunction with the Association for the Prevention of Torture, a Swiss NGO, at which members of the current administration discussed proposed improvements in prison conditions.



Martín Abregu (right) with fellow LL.M. alumnus Antonio Maldonado.

Before coming to WCL, Abregu worked as an attorney for CELS. While at WCL, he assisted Professor Claudio Grossman, now Dean of the law school, in his work as member of the Inter-American Commission on Human

Rights. Abregu found this experience invaluable in learning how the Commission functions. He is now applying the knowledge he gained to bring cases before the Commission. It also makes the international law course he teaches

at the University of Buenos Aires more interesting for his students, who value the ability to learn from his experience.

Abregu was also one of the founding editors of *The Human Rights Brief*. Although *The Brief's* readership has expanded, Abregu and his colleagues initially focused on "what former LL.M.s could gain by reading the articles back in their own countries." Through his work on *The Brief* and his studies at WCL, Abregu acquired knowledge and contacts, which he applies in his everyday work with CELS. ☉

Courtesy of The Advocate