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Center News

Human Rights Brief

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CO-DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Washington College of Law (WCL) is pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of the *Human Rights Brief*. The newsletter is the product of J.D. and LL.M. students, as well as staff and administration, at WCL who are concerned with international human rights and interested in making a difference. It will focus on contemporary issues in the interrelated disciplines of human rights and humanitarian law and certainly on emerging issues in these fields that merit particular attention. In addition, the *Human Rights Brief* will highlight and present activities of WCL and center staff and students which relate to the promotion of the principles of human rights and humanitarian law.

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, established in 1990, inter alia, trains judges and lawyers from around the world, undertakes domestic and international litigation, assists emerging democracies and other nations in developing laws and institutions to protect human rights, and hosts conferences with inter-governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The International Legal Studies Program at WCL provides students with not only a scholarly understanding of international human rights and humanitarian law issues but also an opportunity to gain practical experience. Many LL.M. and J.D. students intern at human rights organizations in Washington, D.C., and/or litigate asylum and other cases through WCL's International Human Rights Law Clinic.

Through the *Human Rights Brief*, WCL and the center envision broadening the understanding of challenges facing human rights activism

in the world, as well as presenting the ways in which members of the WCL community are meeting those challenges. Through the *Human Rights Brief*, the two institutions hope to advance principles of human rights and humanitarian law universally and to truly make a difference. ☉



Melissa Laitich

Co-Directors: from left to right, Robert Goldman, WCL acting dean Claudio Grossman, and Herman Schwartz

Center Hosts Conference

"Inter-American Human Rights System: Defending Human Rights, 1959-1994" is the title of the conference to be hosted by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, together with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, on Tuesday, April 5, 1994. The conference, part the Washington College of Law's ongoing examination of human rights in the Americas, will commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Commission. The conference will also function as a regional meeting of the American Society of International Law.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for periodic and systematic dialogue on the protection of human rights in this hemisphere. The conference will convene jurists, diplomats and human rights activists from nongovernmental organizations to analyze human rights violations in the Americas and the institutional response to such violations. Each of the organs of the system will be surveyed: the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the General Assembly and the Permanent Council. The final panel, "Looking Ahead: Development Institutions and Human Rights," will examine the relevance of human rights concerns in development decisions.

Reservations are required and seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling (202) 885-3679, or by faxing (202) 885-3601, no later than Friday, April 1, 1994. Advanced registration is \$20.00 while lunch is an additional \$5.00. Registration on the day of the conference is \$25.00. The conference will be held in the sixth floor Butler Board Room, Bender Arena on the campus of The American University. For more information, call (202) 885-2719. ☉

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