

2012

## Center News/Faculty and Staff Updates

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## CENTER AND FACULTY UPDATES

### CENTER NEWS

#### **MARYLAND LEGAL AID BUREAU AND TEXAS RIO GRANDE LEGAL AID SELECTED AS LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERING PROJECT PARTNERS**

The Center's Local Human Rights Lawyering Projects works with legal aid organizations to provide training, coaching, mentoring and technical assistance for integrating international human rights norms into domestic legal aid work in the U.S. Funded by the Ford Foundation, the project is the first of its kind — working at the state level to incorporate human rights norms, language and strategies into domestic work to help advocate for increased protections.

After receiving more than 10 applications from legal aid organizations across the United States, the Center selected Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. ([www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org)) and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc. ([www.trla.org](http://www.trla.org)) as its Project Partners for the Local Human Rights Lawyering Project. Maryland Legal Aid Bureau and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid are both highly respected and creative legal aid organizations with a demonstrated commitment to human rights.

The Project has also established an Advisory Board with over twenty members, consisting of leading legal aid attorneys and human rights experts from across the United States. Work on this project expands on nearly ten years of work by the Center in promoting human rights law in the U.S. Through trainings, workshops, mentoring, and research, the Center seeks to enhance understanding of international law and its applications to domestic social justice work. The Center aims to bridge the gap between the U.S. role in actively promoting human rights abroad and recognition of international law and standards within the U.S. legal system. For more information, visit the Local Human Rights Lawyering Project at <http://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/center/locallawyering.cfm>.

#### **GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH WITH SUCCESSFUL POST-TRAFFICKING RE/INTEGRATION IN NEPAL UNDERWAY BY CENTER'S PROGRAM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOR**

The Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor is midway into a first-of-its-kind study to investigate the re/integration strategies of women who are living in Kathmandu Valley after having been trafficked into forced prostitution in India. The study involves qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with 30 women who escaped or were rescued and repatriated to Nepal from 2 to 8 years ago, and then entered the care of one of two Nepal NGOs. The study will investigate women who, for various reasons, have not returned to their natal/family and community, and have sought to live independently in urban Nepal society (Kathmandu). This is a positive deviance study and the sample women have been purposively selected for their re/integration success. The Program is collaborating with a Nepalese research institute and an expert consultant in Nepal.

This pioneering research will collect valuable information on NGO service delivery and on successful self-initiated re/integration strategies, leading to recommendations to strengthen NGO practices to support the re/integration of returnees and to address the legal and social obstacles of discrimination and stigma that prevents many former victims from rebuilding their lives.

The culminating report will be finalized by early Summer 2012. For more information on the Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, visit: [www.RightsWork.org](http://www.RightsWork.org).

#### **CENTER PARTNERS WITH ROBERT F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO DEVELOP PIONEERING HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR LAW STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The Center has partnered with **the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights** (RFK) to create a one

semester program for law students to learn about various human rights education pedagogies and to teach RFK's Speak Truth to Power (STTP) human rights curriculum in local high schools. The program will create an innovative, replicable model for experiential learning and teaching of human rights. It is unique in its focus on training students on the use of different strategies and methodologies to create points of entry for discussion of rights-based issues; refining understandings of ways to talk about rights to different audiences; and providing practical experience of examining hard legal issues with non-legal audiences. The pilot program will be taught as part of the Fall 2012 WCL curriculum.

Speak Truth to Power, a project of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, uses the experiences of human rights defenders from around the world to educate students and others about human rights and empower them to understand and operationalize the rights framework in their own lives. The project's renowned human rights curriculum, which has been taught to thousands of students in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States, encourages youth to become personally involved in the protection of human rights. The STTP Law Project builds on the success of the STTP curriculum, and expands on more than two decades of work by the Center to help prepare law students to effectively discuss and advocate for human rights.

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH RESEARCHER JOINS ON-THE-GROUND JOURNALIST TO HIGHLIGHT ETHICS IN RESEARCH ISSUES IN POST-EARTHQUAKE HAITI**

The Center and the American University Washington College of Law International Human Rights Law Clinic hosted an expert panel discussion on November 7, to discuss and debate the challenges of human rights research and investigative journalism in a post-disaster setting. **Amanda Klasing** is a Researcher in the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch (HRW) and author of "*Nobody Remembers Us*": *Failure to Protect Women and Girls' Right to Health and Security in Post Earthquake Haiti*. **Kathie Klarreich** is a well-known

journalist and author on Haiti and a Knight International Journalism Fellow at HRW. The panel addressed logistical challenges, potential obstacles to acquiring true and informed consent from interviewees, and limitations of the legal framework. The event received international press coverage and was featured on Voice of America's Creole Service: <http://www.voanews.com/creole/news/Yon-Fowom-sou-Dwa-Fanmak-Timoun-ann-Ayiti-133827168.html>

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES HIGHLIGHTS FOUR FILMS RAISING THE PROFILE OF KEY ISSUES; AWARDS GRANT TO ASPIRING HUMAN RIGHTS FILMMAKER**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Film Series, first organized in 2000 and co-sponsored by the American University Center for Social Media (CSM), showcases the power of film to educate and advocate about human rights. Four exceptional documentary films that exhibit excellence in filmmaking and explore a broad spectrum of human rights issues are screened each fall. The 2011 selections were: *If A Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*; *How To Die In Oregon*; *The Redemption of General Butt Naked*; and *Not in Our Town: Light in the Darkness*. Following each screening, there was an opportunity for the filmmaker and an expert human rights practitioner to discuss the issues highlighted in the screening with the audience. A Student Human Rights Grant Competition is carried out in conjunction with the Series to promote and support student's multimedia initiatives around human rights. This year's winner, student filmmaker Yi Chen, will utilize her award to tell the untold stories of Washington, DC's Chinatown neighborhood and raise awareness of the need for advocacy for the basic human rights of the community's residents. The Human Rights Film Series and the Student Human Rights Grant Competition are campus-wide initiatives supported by all six schools at American University. For more information on the 2011 Human Rights Film Series, visit: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/center/12thannualhumanrightsfilmsseries.cfm>.

#### **THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT TODAY: DID LIBYA KILL R2P? EXAMINES EMERGING ISSUE IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**

The invocation of the emerging doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect was seen as a watershed moment for the development of the principle. With the overthrow of the Khaddafi regime, the status of R2P and how it was applied is now in question. On November 15, the Center's Student Advisory Board convened a panel discussion with three experts on the status of the doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in light of the crisis in Libya. UN Security Council Resolution 1973 provided the international community with authority to intervene to protect civilians in Libya. Speakers included (in alphabetical order): **Jonas Claes**, Senior Program Specialist, U.S. Institute of Peace, Center for Conflict Management; **Don Kraus**, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens for Global Solutions; and Prof. **Clovis Maksoud**, Professor at WCL and the American University School of International Service (SIS) and Director of the Center for the Global South at SIS. The panel was moderated by Student Advisory Board member **Kaitlin Brush**. The event was webcast live with 40 remote locations participating in the discussion via live webcast.

#### **BEDOUIN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL: STRUGGLING FOR RIGHTS**

The Center welcomed advocates who work on behalf of the Bedouin community of the Negev on a panel discussing issues facing unrecognized villages in Israel and the latest plan issued by the Israeli government to address those issues. Speakers included WCL 2008 LLM graduate and US-Israel Civil Liberties Law Fellows Scholar **Rawia Abu-Rabia**, now a member of the Israeli Bar Association and a practicing lawyer at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel in charge of the Bedouin rights project; **Thabet Abu Ras**, Director of the Negev Project at Adalah, the legal center for Arab minority rights in Israel; **Hanan Alsaneh**, Director of Education and Community Development at Sidreh Association; and **Michal Rotem**, Program Coordinator of the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality in Israel. The event was held in collaboration with **Project Engage**.

#### **INDONESIAN MIGRANT RIGHTS DEFENDER ANIS HIDAYAH SPEAKS ON ABUSE AND PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS**

On November 3, the Center and the WCL Women and the Law Program hosted a panel discussion featuring **Anis Hidayah**, recipient of Human Rights Watch's 2011 Alison Des Forges Award. Striving to protect and promote the rights of Indonesian migrant workers abroad, Ms. Hidayah currently serves as the Executive Director of Migrant Care, a non-governmental organization based in Jakarta, Indonesia. Ms. Hidayah spoke about her work monitoring abuse of Indonesian domestic workers in countries such as Kuwait, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, and advocating for their protection by calling for better labor laws, oversight of recruitment practices, and more effective immigration policies.

#### **ANTI-SLAVERY EXPERT AND SURVIVOR SHARES GHANA'S EXPERIENCE**

On Thursday, February 9th, the Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor welcomed **James Kofi Annan**, a prominent figure in the global anti-slavery movement, to speak to the WCL community about issues concerning Ghana's law and policy enforcement in the context of forced labor and child trafficking in West African fishing and cocoa industries. Mr. Annan is the Founder and Executive Director of Challenging Heights, one of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in West Africa. A former victim of child trafficking in Ghana, James has devoted his career to fighting child slavery and has received international recognition for his work. Before a capacity-filled room, Mr. Annan shared his personal experiences and assessed local, national and international efforts to advocate for the rights of the child and allow communities the ability to reject child slavery and exploitation.

#### **RIGHTSWORK.ORG PROJECT OF PROGRAM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOR PUBLISHES NEW RESEARCH**

In January and February 2012, the Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor published two new articles looking at demand and transparency as it relates to human trafficking. The articles, *Lack of Transparency in Recruitment Spurs Trafficking* by **Cathleen Caron** and

Addressing the Demand Side of Trafficking by **Phil Marshall**, can be found on [www.RightsWork.org](http://www.RightsWork.org). The site also published reviews of two new books looking at the differentiation between trafficking victims and labor migrants: **Rhacel Parrenas'** *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo* and **Pardis Mahdavi's** *Gridlock: Labor, Migration, and Human Trafficking in Dubai*.

#### CENTER SELECTS 2012 STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD, RECOGNIZING AND TRAINING FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

The Center is proud to announce the newly selected 2012 Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Student Advisory Board (SAB) members: **Christina Fetterhoff, Upasana Khatri, Diana Navas, Rachel Schulman, Corrie Walters, Jacqueline Zamarripa, and Alyssa Zamorra**. The SAB is a group of highly qualified and committed Washington College of Law students interested in human rights and humanitarian law who work closely with the Center over the course of a year. As part of its long-standing commitment to cultivating future human rights leaders, the Center selects SAB members based on their commitment to pursuing human rights careers and advancing human rights issues. The SAB assists the Center in developing programming that reflects student interests and priorities and each member serves as a Fellow to a core Center project. Members also receive specialized skills training in topics such as grant-writing, public speaking, advocacy, and field research to enhance their capacity to carry out meaningful human rights work. To learn more about the current SAB members visit: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/center/2012/sab.cfm>.

*Webcasts and podcasts of recent Center events are available for download on the Center's website, [www.WCLCenterforHR.org](http://www.WCLCenterforHR.org).*

#### FACULTY UPDATES

**Claudio Grossman** is the Dean of American University College of Law (WCL) and a Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. He is also the Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law. In December 2011, Dean Grossman gave

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a presentation to the Chilean Congress on the "Real and Universal System Protection of Human Rights." The following month Dean Grossman received the 2012 Deborah L. Rhode Award from the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities, for work on behalf of pro bono and public interest programs throughout the country. That same month Dean Grossman participated as a panelist at the AALS Annual Meeting for an event concerning globalization and legal education entitled "Are U.S. Law Schools Giving Their Students the Tools They Need to Succeed in a Globalized Environment?" In February, Dean Grossman participated as a co-organizer and panelist at a conference on the Use of Forensic Evidence in the Fight against Torture. The conference was cosponsored by WCL and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims. Dean Grossman served as a panelist for "Using Forensic Medical Evidence in Court" and his topic was "Standards Regarding Evidence." Later that month he traveled to Australia to give several presentations. In Melbourne at the Monash University Law Conference on Implementing Human Rights in Closed Environments, Dean Grossman participated in the Plenary Session 1, speaking on International Perspectives on Recognizing Human Rights in Closed Environments. At that conference he also served as a discussion facilitator for Parallel Session 3B on the Exploration of the International & Comparative Perspectives — Disability Settings. Also in Melbourne, Dean Grossman gave a lecture on The Relevance of the Convention against Torture in Preventing and Redressing Violence against Women at The Human Rights Law Centre and Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. At the University of Sydney, Dean Grossman gave a guest lecture on The Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights: Challenges. Over these few months Dean Grossman was interviewed by a variety of organizations including CNN en Español, El Mercurio, Right Now and Latin Pulse Podcast.

**Susan Bennett** is Professor of Law and Director of the Community and Economic Development Law Clinic at WCL. She is 2011-2012 chair of the advisory board for the Community Economic Development Pro Bono Project of the D.C. Bar. She also serves on the board of directors of

the D.C. Interpreter Bank, which links interpreters and translators to D.C. legal services providers. In January 2012, Professor Bennett was appointed as an Advisory Board Member of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law's Local Human Rights Lawyering Project, and as an Executive Committee Member of the AALS Section on Law and Poverty. She also gave a presentation, "Under Milkweed: A Chronicle for a Pedagogy of Community Economic Development Law and Community Lawyering," at the AALS Workshop on the Future of Legal Education.

**David Baluarte** is the Practitioner-in-Residence for the International Human Rights Law Clinic at Washington College of Law. Professor Baluarte continues his work to combat statelessness in the Caribbean and the United States. He was recently selected by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to implement a project with a Law Clinic in Nassau, The Bahamas that will develop the capacity of that clinic to defend the citizenship rights of Bahamians of Haitian descent. Baluarte has continued his work in the Dominican Republic, and spoke in support of nationality rights of Dominicans of Haitian descent on a panel at Georgetown Law Center at the end of the 2011; the panel included experts from UNHCR and the US State Department as well as the Dominican Ambassador to the US. Professor Baluarte will accompany a group of students from WCL on an Alternative Spring Break trip to the Dominican Republic to do legal documentation with the Jesuit Refugee Service in *bateyes* surrounding Santo Domingo. Baluarte further awaits the launch of a report he authored for the UN High Commissioner on Refugees and the Open Society Justice Initiative on stateless persons in the United States, which is expected in 2012.

A founding member of the National Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (NLCHR) of Peace Brigades International, Professor Baluarte has also been supporting the work of human rights defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. In June 2012, Professor Baluarte will lead a NLCHR delegation to Mexico to investigate the situation of migrants' rights defenders and review the implementation of Mexico's new immigration law. Professor Baluarte also continues his work on the implementation of the decisions of human

rights bodies. The American University International Law Review will publish his article “Strategizing for Compliance: The evolution of a compliance phase of Inter-American Court litigation and the strategic imperative for victims’ representatives.” Additionally, he recently travelled to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for a meeting of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and gave a presentation on the experiences of implementing the decisions of human rights bodies in the Americas to an audience of Kyrgyz government and civil society actors.

**Claudia Martin**, Co-Director of American University WCL Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Professorial Lecturer in Residence. Professor Martin published *The Role of Military Courts in a Counter-Terrorism Framework: Trends in International Human Rights Jurisprudence and Practice* in Counter-Terrorism and International Law and Practice, Ana M. Salinas de Frias, Katja Samuels and Nigel White, eds., Oxford University Press (2012). In February 2012, she served as a judge for the 2012 International Humanitarian Law Student Writing Competition organized by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at WCL American University. Also, she served as a member of the Honor Jury of the Essay Competition “Gender and Justice,” sponsored by the Supreme Court of Mexico. From March 12-16, 2012, Professor Martin lectured on human rights and indigenous peoples at the Erasmus School of Law in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, as part of a WCL faculty exchange program. In March 2012, she served as a member of the Honor Jury that selected the winners of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Human Rights Essay Competition. In addition, Professor Martin has continued to

serve as a Contributing Editor to *Oxford Reports on International Human Rights Law*, a Member of the Editorial Board, *Oxford Reports on International Law in Domestic Courts*, Oxford University Press and Amsterdam Center for International Law.

**Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón** is Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. His is the Correspondent for the Americas for BUTTERWORTHS HUMAN RIGHTS CASES, multi-volume series, London, U.K., 1996 to date. He also reports on the news of the Inter-American Human Rights System for NETHERLANDS QUARTERLY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2001 to date. He published “The Inter-American Human Rights and Transitional Processes,” in TRANSITIONAL JURISPRUDENCE — THE ECHR AND OTHER REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACHES TO TRANSITION, Cambridge University Press, 2011. He also published “Selected Examples of the Contemporary Practice of the Inter-American System in Confronting Grave Violations of Human Rights: United States and Colombia,” in MAKING PEOPLES HEARD: ESSAYS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONOUR OF GUDMUNDUR ALFREDSSON, Leiden, Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2011. Additionally, in 2011, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón submitted an amicus brief to the Constitutional Court of Colombia regarding freedom of expression (joined other institutions and individuals), Washington, DC and Bogota, Colombia, 2011.

In 2012, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón taught, “The Inter-American System of Human Rights” at the University of Essex, School of Law, Colchester, U.K. He was the keynote speaker at “Temas Contemporáneos del Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (Contemporary Topics of the

Inter-American Human Rights System)” held at the Instituto de la Judicatura Federal and Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación in Mexico City.

On March 27, 2012, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón was interviewed by *Univision* about the Supreme Court’s hearings on the constitutionality of the health care reform. On March 29, 2012, he was interviewed by *CNN Spanish* about the Supreme Court’s hearings on the constitutionality of the health care reform.

**Susana SáCouto** is the Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence at WCL. In December 2011, Professor SáCouto presented at a panel on Transitional Justice at the National Defense University’s 7th Annual International Lessons Learned Conference. Her presentation was entitled “Political Impact and Lessons Learned from the Practice and Jurisprudence of the ICC.” In February 2012, she delivered opening remarks and presented on a panel entitled “Prosecuting Gender Crimes at the International Level” at WCL’s Founders’ Day Event, *Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings: National and International Strategies*. Professor SáCouto recently published *Victim Participation at the International Criminal Court and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia: A Feminist Project*, in 18 MICH. J. OF GENDER & L. 297-359 (2012).

**Macarena Saez** is an International Legal Studies Program Fellow at WCL. She recently published a paper, *Same-Sex Marriage*, in *General Reports of the XVIIIth Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law* (Karen B. Brown & David V. Snyder, 2012).