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## Center News/Faculty and Staff Updates

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## CENTER NEWS/FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

### CENTER NEWS

#### HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES

Throughout the month of October, the Center, in conjunction with the American University Center for Social Media, sponsored the 5th Annual Human Rights Film Series. This year the series brought four cutting-edge films on human rights related issues to WCL. Notable experts spoke following the screenings to lead discussions about the underlying issues addressed in the films.

The centerpiece event of the series was the screening of the film *Deadline* followed by a special panel on "Prisoner Rights and the Use of Film in Advocacy Campaigns." The film explores the complexities of capital punishment in the United States, including testimonials from victims' families, condemned men found innocent, and former Illinois Governor George H. Ryan as he contemplated the decisions leading to his commutation of the sentences of all prisoners on death row and his declaration of a moratorium on the death penalty. Speakers on the panel following the film were Catherine Beane, Indigent Defense Counsel, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Chester Hart, Associate Director, A-men!: the Anacostia Men's Employment Network; Robin M. Maher, Director, American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project; and Angela Tucker, Outreach Director, Big Mouth Productions. WCL Professor Rick Wilson moderated.

Other films and speakers in the series were: *Afghanistan Unveiled*, with guest speaker Andrea Harrison, Policy Coordinator for Women's Edge; *Control Room*, with guest speaker Nadia Bilbassy-Charters from Al-Arabiyya News Channel; and *Discovering Dominga*, with guest speaker Cruz Ramirez, a native Mayan Indian whose brother was disappeared during the Guatemalan civil war.

The series was presented in cooperation with AU's Office of the University

Chaplain, the Office of International Affairs, the School of International Service's International Peace & Conflict Resolution Program, and the Media That Matters Film Festival.

#### GENDER AND LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA PROJECT

As part of WCL's ongoing Gender and Legal Education in India Project, a follow-up meeting of the Gender and Law Association in India (GALA) was held in Bangalore, India at the National Law School in December 2004. WCL helped to establish GALA, a network of academics, activists, and practitioners from throughout India committed to mainstreaming gender and women's rights into legal education and law reform. WCL has actively worked with GALA members since June 2003.

While in Bangalore, GALA members shared experiences and perspectives on teaching gender in their law courses. A number of members made presentations, including Prof. Ved Kumari (Mainstreaming Gender in Family Law Courses), Dr. Kamala Sankaran (Gender and Constitutional Law), Dr. Amita Dhanda (Using Examinations as a Site for Gender) and Dr. Anjali Dave (Women's Issues: Policies and Programs).

In addition to developing a plan of action for the next twelve months of the network, GALA members collaboratively developed a framework for a model law school course in Feminist Jurisprudence which GALA members will be piloting in six partner institutions in the coming months. GALA also created proposals for panels on gender and legal education for the upcoming annual meeting of the Indian Association of Women's Studies, to be held in Goa, India, in May 2005.

WCL Professors Brenda Smith and Muneer Ahmad, Hadar Harris, Executive Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and April Fehling, Program Coordinator of the

Women and International Law Program, traveled to India for the meeting. During their visit they also met with and presented lectures to students and faculty at the National Law School and the University of Delhi Law Faculty.

The Gender and Legal Education in India Project is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and is a joint project of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the Women and International Law Program, with the active involvement of Professor Ann Shalleck. For more information about GALA and its activities, see [www.genderandlawassociation.org](http://www.genderandlawassociation.org).

#### ELECTION DIGESTION

Following the U.S. Presidential Election, the Center held a panel discussion to analyze the results, entitled, "Election Digestion." Professor Jamin Raskin, Professor Steven Wermiel, and 1L Rebecca Geller discussed the legal and practical issues which affected the 2004 elections. Ms. Geller had organized WCL's participation in the Election Protection Coalition, a nonpartisan initiative in which trained observers were deployed to monitor polling stations and ensure that all individuals were able to exercise their right to vote. WCL had the largest delegation of any law school in the country, with over 250 students, faculty, and staff participating on Election Day.

#### USING INTERNATIONAL LAW & INSTITUTIONS TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Anne Perrault from the Center for International and Comparative Environmental Law (CIEL) spoke about how dangerous environmental conditions impact the health and well-being of children around the world. The event coincided with the release of a joint publication of CIEL and Physicians for Social Responsibility about how international law and

institutions can be used to protect children's health. The event was jointly sponsored by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, WCL's Program on International & Comparative Environmental Law, the Environmental Law Society, the Health and Human Rights Initiative, the Health Law Society, and the International Legal Studies Program.

#### ADVOCATING FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN CAMBODIA

Veasna Chea, a human rights and environmental attorney who brought some of the first public interest environmental law claims ever in Cambodia, spoke about her efforts to use the law to advocate for indigenous people and the environment in that country. The Center co-hosted, together with WCL's Environmental Law Society, Program on International and Comparative Environmental Law, and the International Legal Studies Program.

#### CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY & THE ALIEN TORT CLAIMS ACT: A PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORIC CASE OF *DOE V. UNOCAL CORP.*

Katie Redford of EarthRights International gave an update on the ongoing precedent-setting lawsuit pending in U.S. Federal Court against Unocal Corp, an oil and gas company, for human rights abuses that took place during the construction of a gas pipeline in Burma. The suit was filed under the Alien Torts Claims Act, which allows certain victims of human rights abuses to sue in U.S. courts. Plaintiffs in the case allege a variety of egregious abuses at the hands of Burmese army units that were securing the pipeline route, including forced relocation, forced labor, rape, torture, and murder. The defendants and the Bush Administration have argued that the case will impermissibly hold private corporations accountable for conduct by foreign governments. In addition to the Center's sponsorship, the event was hosted by WCL's Program on International & Comparative Environmental Law, the Environmental Law Society, and the First Year Integrated Curriculum Program.

#### ONGOING CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Center continued with its monthly "Munching on Human Rights" Speaker Series, an introductory program designed to educate and engage students on basic issues of international human rights and humanitarian law, and the weekly Action for Human Rights Coffee Hours, which provide a forum for students, faculty, and staff interested in human rights issues to meet, make announcements, and share fair trade coffee and bagels before class.

#### FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

**Robert K. Goldman**, Professor of Law at Washington College of Law (WCL) and Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Center), submitted a report at the end of December 2004 to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, identifying key human rights issues and concerns post-September 11th. The report, which Professor Goldman authored in his capacity as the UN Human Rights Commission's Independent Expert on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, has been posted on the High Commissioner for Human Rights' web page. He will also be traveling to Geneva in April to discuss the report with members of the UN Human Rights Commission. On March 9th, Professor Goldman will be a principal speaker on the panel on Freedom, Security and Civil Liberties at the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, organized by the Club de Madrid and the Spanish government in Madrid, Spain. He will also speak at two other events related to the Summit.

**Claudio Grossman**, Dean of WCL and Co-Director of the Center, was honored in January by the Supreme Court of Peru for his contributions to both academics and human rights, and participated in meetings of the United Nations Committee Against Torture in Geneva, Switzerland from November 15-26 in his capacity as member and Vice Chairman of the Committee. Dean Grossman selected six WCL students and his Special Assistant to join him in Geneva. On November 10th, Dean Grossman received an Extraordi-

nary Leadership Award from the Second National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference at George Washington University Law School. He was also reappointed to the Executive Board of the Human Rights Section of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), continued his membership on the Nominating Committee for AALS, joined the Advisory Council of the Hispanic Bar Association of D.C. in October, accepted an invitation to join the Advisory Board of the Latino and Latin American Institute of the American Jewish Committee, and traveled to Utah to co-chair the AALS Deans' Conference, to the United Kingdom to participate in the Wilton Park Conference, and to Lyon to participate as a member of the Commission of Control of Interpol Files at an Interpol conference. In October, along with several WCL students and alumni, Dean Grossman participated in a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Commission) concerning their pending human rights case against Cuba. Dean Grossman was invited by the Ritsumeikan Law School in Kyoto, Japan, to conclude a new partnership between the schools. While visiting Japan in December, Dean Grossman presented a paper on "Global Challenges and International Law" at the Conference on Trafficking and Human Security, sponsored by the University of Ritsumeikan. He also gave a presentation on the AMIA case before the Jewish Federation of Washington, and presented his report on the AMIA case to the Commission in his capacity as the Commission's appointed Observer. Dean Grossman was interviewed by the newspaper Hoy in New York on the Iraqi elections, by CNN Spanish, Voice of America, La Segunda, and BBC regarding the U.S. presidential election, and by Chile's TV Channel 11 regarding international law and education. Dean Grossman published a prologue for "Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos," compiled by Claudia Martin, Diego Rodriguez-Pinzón, and José A. Guevara B., and wrote a prologue for AU's "International Law Review" special issue, which published the winning papers of the 2004 Human Rights Award of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

**Hadar Harris**, Executive Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Center), traveled twice to Botswana to work with the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Treaty Implementation in drafting their upcoming periodic report to the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). While in Botswana, she conducted extensive training with key stakeholders and senior members of government on state party reporting and treaty implementation. In addition, Ms. Harris traveled to India to help facilitate the December meeting of the Gender and Law Association of India, a project in which the Center has been actively involved since June 2003. Over the past months, Ms. Harris has also been interviewed a number of times regarding the genocide in Sudan, including appearances on the nationally syndicated Kojo Nnamdi radio show and the Radio Line network. She was also the keynote speaker at a regional Model United Nations Conference at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

**Anne Heindel**, Assistant Director of the War Crimes Research Office, spoke in November on justice options in Darfur, Sudan, as part of a panel at the University of the District of Columbia Law School and in January on "The International Criminal Court: What's the Fuss About?" at a Table Talk Lunch held at American University's Kay Spiritual Life Center.

**Claudia Martín**, Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Academy), lectured in November on Inter-American Human Rights Law to students, law professors, and human rights activists at ITESO University in Guadalajara, Mexico, and spoke on a panel coordinated by the Human Rights Program of Universidad Iberoamericana that debated the case of *Martin del Campo Dood v. Mexico*, recently decided by the Inter-American Court on Human Rights. She also lectured at the Specialization Program on Access to Justice, sponsored by Universidad Iberoamericana, Asociación de Universidades Confiadas a la Compañía de Jesús en América Latina (AUS-JAL), and the Inter-American Institute of

Human Rights. On November 30th, Professor Martín served as a panelist for "Incorporating Human Rights Values in Educational Institutions in Countries of the Middle East," a conference sponsored by the "Protection Project" at John Hopkins University. Professor Martín also recently released the book "Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos" ("International Law of Human Rights") with co-authors José A. Guevara B. and WCL Professorial Lecturer in Residence, Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón. The book, which will be used as a human rights textbook in several law schools throughout Mexico, was published by Distribuciones Fontamara in Mexico, in collaboration with the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Academy. In conjunction with the *American University International Law Review*, the Academy also recently released the publication "Articles and Essays Analyzing Criminal Responsibility of Individuals in International Law," a publication that includes the best articles and essays of the 'Human Rights Award' writing competition, an event the Academy hosts annually at WCL.

**Diane Orentlicher**, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, participated in an experts workshop in Geneva, Switzerland, convened by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on November 18-19, 2004, to facilitate an exchange of views between experts drawn from various regions and Professor Orentlicher in connection with her mandate as the United Nations Independent Expert to update the Set of Principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity (Principles). That same month, Professor Orentlicher participated in an expert meeting in Geneva, convened by the Government of Switzerland, on transitional justice and the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations. In early 2005, Professor Orentlicher submitted the updated Principles, along with her report explaining her revisions, to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The report and updated Principles will be published by the United Nations in late February 2005. Professor Orentlicher will make an oral

presentation relating to the updated Principles during the 2005 session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. In January 2005, Professor Orentlicher published an article entitled "Whose Justice? Reconciling Universal Jurisdiction with Democratic Principles" in the *Georgetown Law Journal*. Professor Orentlicher was interviewed on "NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams" about the delay in granting Saddam Hussein access to defense counsel, and quoted by David Tobenkin ("ICC Faces Hostile U.S. Government As It Takes on First Two Cases," *The Washington Diplomat*, Oct. 2004), Beatriz Pavon ("Combating Impunity: Transitional Justice in the Aftermath of Mass Atrocity," *UN Chronicle*, Sept.-Nov. 2004), and in *Newsday* ("Mexico Genocide Case: Court to hear push to charge ex-president," Oct. 14, 2004).

**Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón**, Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy, was a discussant on collaborative teaching methods and joint research activities at "Human Rights Legal Education Partnerships in the International Consortium on Legal Education Annual Conference: Improving Legal Education for Tomorrow's Lawyers," held at WCL on October 14th. From December 8-10, he visited Istanbul, Turkey, with Professors Christine Farley, Jeffrey Lubbers, and Richard Wilson, where he made a presentation at Istanbul Bilgi University and attended the conference "Setting up an Ombudsman Institution," organized by the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the Greek Ombudsman, in cooperation with Istanbul Bilgi University. Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón was also recently invited to be a member of the Editorial Board of the *Revista Iberoamericana de Derechos Humanos* ("Ibero-American Human Rights Law Journal"), which is the first publication of its kind in Mexico and is hosted, with the support of the European Union, by the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón also contributes as a Correspondent for the Americas to the British publication "Butterworths Human Rights Cases," a multi-volume series that reports on recent human rights cases around the world, and to the "Netherlands Quarterly

Timorese lawyers. Due to SCU efforts, the Special Panel has issued a number of indictments against top Indonesian military officials and has completed many successful prosecutions of local war criminals. Mr. Lynch noted, however, that the Timorese government is limited in its power to try top military officials due to its restricted powers of forcible extradition against Indonesia. The Indonesian government has rejected allegations of the involvement of Indonesian security forces in the violence in Timor-Leste and has so far refused to transfer suspects to Timor-Leste for trial. The majority of individuals indicted by the SCU remain at large in Indonesia.

On December 21, 2004, the Indonesian and Timor-Leste governments reached an agreement on a joint "Truth and Friendship Commission," to look into the violence surrounding the 1999 Timor-Leste move for independence. Mr. Lynch believes that the "Truth and Friendship Commission," will be interesting to monitor, as it does not offer any justice component and therefore cannot bring indicted individuals to account before a tribunal.

Recently, Mr. Lynch accepted a position with the United Nations Development Program in Sudan. Not only does Mr. Lynch's new position take him to a new continent, but also to a new focus.

Mr. Lynch will act as a Rule of Law Officer in the southern town of Abyei, Sudan, helping to rebuild the legal infrastructure.

Mr. Lynch attributes the many opportunities he has been afforded to his time at WCL. WCL and the *Human Rights Brief* are proud of Mr. Lynch's efforts in the human rights arena and wish him success in his new venture. HRB

*Natalie Palomino, a J.D. candidate at the Washington College of Law, covers the Alumni Profile for the Human Rights Brief.*

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CENTER NEWS/FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES continued from page 44

of Human Rights" by reporting periodically on the Inter-American Human Rights System.

**Susana SáCouto**, Director of the War Crimes Research Office and adjunct professor at WCL, participated in a Colloquium on the Challenges of International Criminal Justice convened by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania in November 2004. Earlier in November 2004, she delivered a lecture on the "Differences between Human Rights, Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law" at WCL's "Munching on Human Rights" series. In February 2005, she participated as a member of the Honor Jury responsible for selecting the English speaking winner of the 2005 Human Rights Award competition sponsored by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. She also delivered a presentation at the Humphrey Fellows Speaker Series on the development of accountability mechanisms for serious international crimes, with a focus on the special tribunal created to bring to justice surviving Khmer Rouge leaders in Cambodia.

**Herman Schwartz**, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, filed an ethics complaint on December 16th with the Center for Constitutional Rights against Deputy Attorney General James Comey for prejudicial comments he made about suspected enemy combatant Jose Padilla, who had no means of response, either in person or through counsel. This complaint has now been withdrawn and a similar petition has been filed with the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility. Professor Schwartz was also quoted in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in November regarding Republican Senator Arlen Specter's then disputed efforts to become Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Richard Wilson**, Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Center, appeared as counsel of record and author of the amicus curiae brief for the European Union, the Council of Europe, and 48 other countries in *Roper v. Simmons*, which was before the United States Supreme Court in October 2004. Professor Wilson argued that the execution of children under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged crimes violates the virtually unanimous international ban on such practice. Professor Wilson is also serving as co-counsel in federal habeas corpus proceed-

ings for the case of *Khadr et al. v. Bush et al.* (on-going since 2004 in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia), where Omar Khadr, a Canadian national, has been detained as an enemy combatant in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since he was 15 years old. In November, Professor Wilson was interviewed by Radio Nizkor Web and *American Lawyer Media* about the on-going trials of Guantanamo detainees. On February 5th, he was the closing speaker at a meeting of Human Rights Law Clinics held at New York University (NYU) Law School, and in November he served as a workshop speaker at NYU's Brennan Center for Justice on the topic of "Felony Disenfranchisement: International Law Claims in U.S. Federal Litigation." Professor Wilson also traveled to Mexico City in November as a workshop facilitator for "The Pedagogy of Clinical Legal Education: Practical Exercises," a conference sponsored by the Open Society's Justice Initiative. In October 2004, he was a panel moderator for "The Death Penalty and Innocence," held at American University's Human Rights Film Festival, and spoke on "Clinical Legal Education: Its Prospects in Your School" at the First Meeting of the International Consortium of Law Schools, an event hosted by WCL. HRB