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## LL.M. Program Provides Both Knowledge and Experience

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Chiapas, continued from previous page

ously allocated properties into Indian communal lands.

According to Professor Wilson, the manipulation of the concept of the ejido to advance political interests has been "an effective way to control and contain indigenous Indians in marginalized spots of land." He described the way in which small groups of Indians eke out subsistence existences on barren hillsides.

The Mexican government has responded to the demands put forth by the EZLN and negotiations are continuing, but the delegation's report concludes that if the negotiations do not address the historical human rights demands of the indigenous peoples of Chiapas, the fighting will likely resume.

Professor Wilson expects the report to be completed by the end of April. Copies of the report can be obtained from Minor Sinclair at Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean, 1470 Irvine Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010; tel: (202) 332-0292. ☉

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## Schwartz Advocates for Minority Rights before UN

Professor Herman Schwartz was a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights held last June in Vienna Austria. Delegations from the 180 UN members attended the conference, the first in 25 years to focus exclusively on human rights. The following article is excerpted from his statement on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, delivered to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Chairman,

The issues before us are as old as recorded history and as fresh as this morning's news . . . Human beings seem unable to accept someone else's right to be different . . . The emergence of nationalism and pseudo-scientific racism in the last two centuries have introduced their own horrors: the murder of millions of Jews, Poles, Gypsies and others by

Hitler; Iraq's continued suppression of the rights of the Kurds; ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia—the list seems endless . . .

Efforts to protect national minorities were made when the world map was redrawn after World War I. Concern for racial, religious, national and other minorities was the subject of one of the first actions of this Commission in 1947, when the Subcommission on Minority Rights was created. And in 1992 the General Assembly adopted an ambitious Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. . .

[Recent] revolutionary transformations raised new hopes that democracy, development, and respect for human rights, goals acknowledged at the Vienna World Conference as "interdependent and mutually reinforcing," can be achieved. In many countries, however, these goals risk being dashed by the spread of hatred and resentment among the different national ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities in those countries . . .

Our delegation's statement last week  
Schwartz, continued on page 8

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## LL.M. Program Provides Both Knowledge and Experience

by Juli Gammon

Washington College of Law acting dean Claudio Grossman characterizes the goal of international law as striving to achieve "a world open for participation and cooperation for the benefit of all." Through its Master of Laws (LL.M.) program, the Washington College of Law (WCL) at The American University helps students further that goal while providing them with a solid foundation in international law.

In Fall 1993, 156 student from 51 countries, many with special interests in the field of international human rights, entered WCL's LL.M. program. These students are pursuing their specializations under the guidance of professors with significant academic and professional backgrounds. WCL's faculty serve on fact-finding missions, sit on the boards of nongovernmental human rights organizations and actively litigate international human rights cases. Professor Grossman, for example, was recently elected to serve on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of

American States (OAS).

Like the faculty, students at WCL are also active with various international human rights-oriented organizations and operations located in the Washington, D.C., area. Many current students work with the OAS, lobby the U.S. government, serve with numerous nongovernmental organizations, and intern with law firms practicing in the area of human rights. Recently, several LL.M. students spent two weeks in Miami, Florida, volunteering legal services to Haitian refugees seeking asylum in the United States. The project, arranged by WCL professors and Church World Service, gave the students firsthand experience with refugee issues and U.S. asylum procedures. Such experiences, as well as other networking opportunities, help many students find permanent jobs following graduation both in the United States and in their home countries.

Students at WCL who wish to combine practical experience with their human rights interests can also participate in WCL's Human Rights Clinic. This

clinical education provides students with the experience of representing clients in U.S. immigration, deportation, and other proceedings.

WCL's Washington, D.C. location offers students a unique setting in which to explore their academic interests and professional goals. Research facilities available to students include the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the United Nations Depository and numerous private libraries. Students also can observe sessions of the U.S. Supreme Court as well as proceedings of the city, state, and federal governments.

The LL.M. program provides students from around the globe with the opportunity to gain both academic and practical experience in the field of human rights. The law school's goal is to impart to the students a greater understanding, as well as due regard, for the subject. In so doing, WCL is able to expand the scope of awareness and to extend the respect for the application of international human rights both in the United States and abroad. ☉