

2014

Prologue

Claudio Grossman

American University Washington College of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/auilr>



Part of the [International Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Grossman, Claudio. "Prologue." *American University International Law Review* 29 no. 4 (2014): 755-758.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington College of Law Journals & Law Reviews at Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in *American University International Law Review* by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. For more information, please contact fbrown@wcl.american.edu.

PROLOGUE

CLAUDIO GROSSMAN*

I am pleased to write this prologue for the special issue of the *American University International Law Review* featuring the winning papers from the 2013 Human Rights Essay Award, sponsored by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the Washington College of Law.

Since 2003, the Academy has presented the annual Human Rights Essay Award to support and recognize scholarly research concerning international human rights law. Year after year, lawyers from around the world with extensive experience and knowledge of international human rights law submit works of extraordinary rigor and insight. Selected from a highly competitive pool of submissions, awards are given for the best article in English and the best article in Spanish. Recipients of the award receive a full scholarship, including tuition, travel, and living expenses, to study at the annual Program of Advanced Studies in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

This year's submissions addressed the topic "The Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Peoples and International Human Rights Law." The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law received a tremendous number of submissions from authors representing countries all over the world. I commend all of the participating scholars for their caliber of research and commitment to studying these vital issues.

The 2013 Award for the best paper in English was presented to Damian González-Salzberg for his paper titled "*The Accepted Transsexual and the Absent Transgender: A Queer Reading of the Regulation of Sex/Gender by the European Court Of Human Rights.*" Mr. González-Salzberg is an Argentinian national living in the UK where he is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of Reading's School

* Dean, American University Washington College of Law, and Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law.

of Law. In Argentina, he graduated Cum Laude from the University of Buenos Aires' School of Law after which he participated in the university's Law Teaching Program for two more years. Professionally, he has served as a Legal Advisor and Team Leader with the National Institute against Discrimination, Racism and Xenophobia in the Argentine Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Before heading to Europe for his studies, Mr. González-Salzberg was also active in the Association for Civil Rights for several years, in many different positions. He has received two Master's degrees. The first in Public Administration and Public Policy from the University of York in 2009 and then in International Relations from the Barcelona Institute for International Studies. He has authored several peer-reviewed articles, mostly on the Inter-American Human Rights system as well as co-authored a book chapter called "The State and the crimes committed by the last dictatorship." More recently, he served as Project Coordinator of the CIDOB Report on EU Visa Policy.

The 2013 Award for the best paper in Spanish was presented to Amaury Reyes-Torres for his paper titled "*El Principio De Igualdad y No Discriminación Como Límite Al Margen De Apreciación En El Reconocimiento Del Matrimonio Entre Personas Del Mismo Sexo.*" Mr. Reyes-Torres began working for the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Tribunal in 2012 as a Law Clerk. He is also a lecturer for the courses on Constitutional Law and International Humanitarian Law at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Santo Domingo. Mr. Reyes-Torres received his J.D. from the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre & Maestra where he also obtained his M.A. in Economic Regulations Law. Aside from his teaching activities, Mr. Reyes-Torres is also the current president for COLADIC's (Consejo Latinoamericano de Estudiosos de Derecho Internacional y Comparado) Dominican Republic chapter, where he advocates for the Human Rights and International Criminal Law fields. Mr. Reyes-Torres has published different articles on the COLADIC's web page, a few examples of these publications are: "Immunities and Privileges of Fundamental Rights: Implications of McDonald v. Chicago in the Dominican Constitutionalism" and "Same-Sex Marriage in the Scope of Constitutional Law and Human Rights" in collaboration with J.D. Joey Núñez-Aybar.

Honorable mentions for papers in English were awarded to Kerstin

Braun of Australia for her paper *Do Ask, Do Tell: Where Is The Protection Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination In International Human Rights Law?* and to Nadia Melehi of The Netherlands for her paper *The Right to Family Life Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation: the European and Inter-American Perspectives*. Honorable mentions for papers in Spanish were awarded to Susana Sanz Caballero of Spain for her paper *El Tribunal Europeo de Derechos Humanos y su Respuesta al Reto de la Transexualidad: Historia de un Cambio de Criterio* and Lucas Ramón Mendos of Argentina for his paper *Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes LGTBI Como Sujetos De Derecho Frente Al Hostigamiento Escolar*. The law school community congratulates all of these scholars for their exceptional articles and appreciates the contributions of all the participants in the Academy's 2014 Human Rights Essay Award Competition.

I would also like to thank my fellow members of the Honor Jury: Evelyne Paradis, Alli Jernow, Brian Moulton, Susana Sacoto, Graeme Reid, Frans Viljoen, Harry Roque, Jessica Stern, Claudia Martin, Macarena Saez, Victor Madrigal, Fabian Salvioli, Juan Marco Vaggione, Humberto Sierra, Anthony Varona, and Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón.

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law established the Human Rights Essay Award as part of its broader mission to help address the need for specialized legal training in the practice and theory of international human rights. The Academy, which evolved from the law school's core commitment to promoting human rights and humanitarian law, has emerged as a premier forum for advanced training and analysis concerning the most salient topics in these critical legal fields. Participants acquire valuable knowledge and skills through the examination of issues shaping the world within a context that emphasizes the practical roles and contributions of human rights rules and mechanisms. Such engagement strengthens the professional community that can, in turn, help to better address the pressing needs of people around the world.

The Academy's Program of Advanced Studies in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is held each summer in Washington, D.C., at the American University Washington College of Law. The Program's faculty includes the most distinguished scholars and

practitioners of human rights and humanitarian law. Courses address a diverse range of key topics including, *inter alia*, impunity and justice, implementation of human rights in domestic law, women and international human rights law, regional approaches to human rights law (Africa, America, and Asia), the rights of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and the United Nations human rights system.

Additionally, numerous activities further enrich the participants' experience in the Program, including panels and discussions on key topics and site visits to important institutions such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Organization of American States.

The Academy's activities are an important component of the law school's numerous initiatives reflecting its longstanding commitment to strengthening the rule of law and human rights around the world. Other elements include extensive course offerings and externship opportunities, a variety of student-run publications, and law school programs including, *inter alia*, the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, War Crimes Research Office, United Nations Committee against Torture Project, Clinical Programs, Office of Public Interest, Summer Law Program in the Hague, Impact Litigation Project, and the annual trilingual Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

All of these initiatives reaffirm our community's commitment to helping protect and promote human dignity through the rule of law. The law school will continue to foster and support this core value in future generations of lawyers and to collaborate with institutions, programs, and countries around the world. In this spirit, I would also like to express our deep appreciation to the *American University International Law Review* for its dedication and contributions to publishing vital international law scholarship, including this special issue each year, which sets forth papers in both English and Spanish concerning key topics in international human rights law.