

2016

Prologue

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Recommended Citation

Goldman, Robert K. and Grossman, Claudio (2016) "Prologue," *American University International Law Review*: Vol. 32 : Iss. 4 , Article 1.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/auilr/vol32/iss4/1>

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PROLOGUE

ACADEMY ADVISORY BOARD CO-CHAIRS:
ROBERT K. GOLDMAN¹ & CLAUDIO GROSSMAN²

We are pleased to write this prologue for the special issue of the *American University International Law Review* featuring the winning papers from the 2016 Human Rights Essay Award, sponsored by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of American University 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 and honorable mentions are granted to the best articles. Recipients of the award receive a full scholarship, including tuition, travel, and living expenses, to study at the annual Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

This year's submissions addressed the topic "Extractive Industries and Human Rights." The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law received a tremendous number of submissions from authors representing countries all over the world. We commend all of the participating scholars for the caliber of their research and commitment to studying these vital issues.

In 2016, there were two awards for best paper. The 2016 Award for the best paper in English was presented to Lauren Manning for her paper titled "*Mining for Compromise in Pastoral Greenland: Promise, Progress, and Problems in International Laws' Response to*

1. Professor of Law and Louis C. James Scholar, American University Washington College of Law.

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

Indigenous People". Ms. Manning is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law. Ms. Manning's research is focused on the nexus of Human Rights and Agriculture. She earned her BA at the University of California, Santa Cruz, her JD at Pacific McGeorge School of Law, where she also went back to teach as an Adjunct Professor in the spring of 2015, and then earned her LL.M. at the University of Arkansas.

The 2016 Award for the best paper in Spanish was presented to Tatiana Gos for her paper titled "*La 'Responsabilidad de Respetar' los Derechos Humanos y el Establecimiento del Deber de Debida Diligencia como una Obligación Legal para las Industrias Extractivas: Desafíos y Oportunidades en las Américas.*" Ms. Gos is an Argentinian lawyer and specialist in Human Rights, currently based in Panama. She has had eight years of experience working on projects involving strategic litigation at various levels and sectors. She earned her first law degree from the Universidad de Buenos Aires in 2008 and a Master's in International Human Rights Law at Oxford University in 2015. Prior to her consultancy work, she has also worked with the Public Defender General's Office of Argentina and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C.

Honorable mentions for papers in English were awarded to Oyeniyi Abe of Nigeria for his paper titled "*Untying the Gordian Knot: Re-Assessing the Impact of Business and Human Rights Principles on Extractive Resource Governance in the Global South*" and to Ogunnaike Oluseyi Taiwo also of Nigeria for his paper titled "*The Sovereign State Responsibility and the Human Rights Imperative of Zero-Gas Emission in Niger Delta: Re-Jigging the Imposed Legal Order for a Quick Climatic Redress*". Honorable mentions for papers in Spanish were awarded to Juan Ruiz Galán of Mexico for his paper titled "*Búsqueda de Consensos sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos Hacia un Instrumento Internacional Vinculante*" and Roberto Luis Bravo Figueroa also of Mexico for his paper titled "*La Responsabilidad Internacional de los Estados de Origen de las Industrias Extractivas: Aproximación a las Obligaciones Extraterritoriales del Derecho a la Consulta en el Marco del SIDH*". 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 2016 Human Rights Essay Award Competition.

We would also like to thank the members of the Honor Jury who joined AUWCL Faculty in evaluating the submissions: Julian Burger, Pacifique Manirakiza, Siobhan McInerney-Lankford, Peter Rosenblum, Katya Salazar, Astrid Puentes, Marcos Orellana and Aldo Caliarì.

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 on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is held each summer in Washington, D.C., at 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 systems of human rights law (Africa and Europe), 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, the annual trilingual Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition and the LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

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, we 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.