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Prologue

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PROLOGUE

ACADEMY ADVISORY BOARD CO-CHAIRS:
ROBERT K. GOLDMAN* & CLAUDIO GROSSMAN**

We are pleased to write this prologue for the special issue of the *American University International Law Review* featuring the winning papers from the 2017 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 "Emerging Challenges in the Relationship between International Humanitarian Law 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. We commend all of the participating scholars for the caliber of their research and commitment to studying these vital issues.

In 2017, there were two awards for best paper. The 2017 Award for the best paper in English was presented to Raphael Lorenzo Aguilin Pangalangan of the Philippines for his paper titled

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“Dominic Ongwen and The Rotten Social Background: The Criminal Culpability of Child Soldiers Turned War Criminals.” Mr. Aguilung Pangalangan is currently completing his LL.M. in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford, where he is projected to graduate in 2019. At the University of the Philippines, he earned his JD in 2016 and his BA in Philosophy in 2012. He served as a trial monitor in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, and he currently works as an assistant editor at the Council for American Students in International Negotiations in New York.

The 2017 Award for the best paper in Spanish was presented to Luciano Pezzano for his paper titled *“La Agresión Como Punto de Contacto Entre el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario.”* Mr. Pezzano is an Argentinian lawyer with more than 10 years of experience. He earned his first law degree from the Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales Sede San Francisco in 2007, and his MA in International Relations from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in 2015. He is currently completing his Doctorate in Law and Social Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba.

Honorable mentions for papers in English were awarded to Samantha Bradley of Australia for her paper titled *“What If Goliath Killed David? The Coalition to Counter ISIS and the Status and Responsibility of ISIS’ Child Soldiers”* and to Ogunnaike Oluseyi Taiwo of Nigeria for his paper titled *“Two Are Better Than One: Coordinating the Rules of IHL and IHRL Applicable to Anti-Boko Haram Operation Unto a Remedial Justice.”* An honorable mention for a paper in Spanish was awarded to Sergio Alejandro Rea Granados of Mexico for his paper titled *“El Desafío de Interpretar el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario.”* 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 2017 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: Diane Marie Amann, Jean-Marie Henckaerts, Larissa van den Herik, Christie Edwards, Fausto Pocar, Alejandro Valencia Villa, Felipe Gomez Isa,

Elizabeth Salmón Gárate, Consuelo Ramón Chornet and Sylvain Vité.

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, the Kovler Project Against Torture, 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.