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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 2018 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 "*Gender Violence and International Human Rights Law*." The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law received a significant 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 2018, there were two awards for best paper. The 2018 Award for the best paper in English was presented to Clare Brown, from Australia, for her paper titled, "*Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Security Forces: An International Crime*." The 2018 Award for the

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best paper in Spanish was presented to Olga Lucía Camacho Gutiérrez, from Colombia, for her paper titled, "*Intersexuales en estado de excepción: Violencias contra las corporeidades diversas.*"

Honorable mentions for papers in English were awarded to Aniekan Andikan Ikpinyang from Nigeria, for her paper titled, "*The Effectiveness of International Human Rights Law in Addressing Gender Violence*" and Maria Daniela Davalos Muirragui, from Ecuador, for her paper titled, "*Understanding Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women and Girls in Armed Conflict as a Consequence of Gender Inequality and Structural Discrimination,*" and honorable mentions for papers in Spanish were awarded to Dominique Martinson Tejada, from Chile, for her paper titled, "*El Caso de Jean Pierre Bemba ante la Corte Penal Internacional: Analisis crítico de la valoración jurídica de los hechos como tortura*" and Andrea Pietrafesa, from Argentina, for her paper titled, "*Violencia de Género, Internet y el Derecho a la Libertad de Expresión: Un Nuevo Desafío para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos.*" 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 2018 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: Margarette May Macaulay, Marcia V. J. Kran, Daniela Kraiem, Osai Ojigho, Dubravka Šimonovic, Teresa Fernández Paredes, Mariela Labozzetta, Monica Roa, Carlos Rivera, and Alejandra Negrete Morayta.

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.