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CENTER NEWS AND FACULTY UPDATES

CENTER NEWS

CENTER PLANS UNIVERSITY-WIDE CONFERENCE ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: APRIL 28-29, 2011

On April 28-29, 2011, the Washington College of Law, in coordination with the University President, Provost, and all five other American University schools, will be hosting an influential conference analyzing and evaluating the first two years of the Obama Administration's policies and actions in the field of human rights. The Center is spearheading the cross-campus collaboration and working with a multi-disciplinary faculty committee to organize the conference and its speaker panels. The two-day conference will have four major plenary sessions and twenty break-out workshops and panels. The first day will take place at WCL, and the second day will be at American University's main campus. Live web broadcasting, cutting-edge technology, and social media tools will be integrated into the conference. A variety of high level government officials from the Obama Administration have been invited, along with NGO representatives, conservative commentators, and others from across the spectrum. Open Society Foundation President **Aryeh Neier**, American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director **Anthony Romero**, and Retired General **Antonio Teguiba** have confirmed their participation in the conference, among others. More details are available at www.obama-aandhumanrights.org.

CENTER'S PROGRAM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOR LAUNCHES THE RIGHTS WORK INITIATIVE AND RELEASES REPORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HIV/AIDS AND THE SEX SECTOR

The Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, directed by **Ann Jordan**, launched a new initiative to create a forum for transparency and critical analysis in the field of anti-trafficking work. **The Rights Work Initiative** is a collaborative project created by the Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor and the KOK, a network of German

anti-trafficking organizations. The Rights Work Initiative is dedicated to encouraging respectful, open exchanges of innovative and rights-based information and critical commentary that does not rely upon or repeat conventional myths and stereotypes. The Rights Work Initiative can be found at www.rightswork.org.

The Program and Human Trafficking and Forced Labor also released a report in December 2010 entitled *Human Trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and the Sex Sector: Human Rights for All*. The report presents compelling evidence that the most effective approaches to combating HIV/AIDS and trafficking into the sex sector are those that engage sex workers as partners and advocates. In contrast, ideologically driven anti-prostitution approaches to the sex sector endanger women and their families; increase the vulnerability of sex workers to violence, trafficking and HIV infection; prevent health care workers from reaching sex workers; and distract from effective anti-trafficking measures. The paper also examines the erroneous and detrimental conflation of human trafficking and voluntary adult sex work, which ultimately results in policies that waste resources that could otherwise be used to locate and assist trafficked persons and minors. This report was produced and released as part of the Rights Work Initiative and can be found on the website.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION DRAWS MORE THAN 45 SUBMISSIONS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

January 31 marked the deadline for the first International Humanitarian Law Student Writing Competition, organized by the Center in collaboration with the American Society of International Law's Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict (ASIL). The Center received 45 submissions from all over the world, and two distinguished panels of international humanitarian law (IHL) experts, both academics and practitioners, are in the process of reviewing the papers. The competition will culminate in a conference at the Washington College of Law on March 23,

2011, entitled *International Humanitarian Law: Emerging Issues in the Law of Armed Conflict*. The conference will focus on the intersection of IHL and international human rights law, during which the winners of the Writing Competition will present their papers to a panel of IHL experts. In its inaugural year, the competition sought academic papers from current law students from across the globe on a topic of IHL and is part of a multi-pronged initiative to expand and support the teaching and study of IHL among both students and professors, in which the Center and ASIL have been involved since 2007.

CENTER HOSTS RAPID RESPONSE PANEL ON HUMAN RIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR EGYPT

In the midst of the popular revolution in Egypt in February, the Center hosted a panel discussion entitled *From Crisis to Opportunity: Human Rights in Egypt and Beyond* that addressed the human rights implications of the tumultuous events taking place in Egypt and elsewhere in the MENA region. Panelists included: **Joe Stork**, Deputy Director, Middle East and North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch (patched in by phone from Cairo); **Jack DuVall**, President, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict; and **T. Kumar**, Director, International Advocacy, Amnesty International USA. Center Executive Director **Hadar Harris** moderated the discussion. This event was part of an ongoing series of Rapid Response Events organized by the Center to provide a platform for discussion of time-sensitive events around the world that have an impact on human rights. The event was webcast live and can be watched on the Center's website at www.wclcenterforhr.org.

CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HADAR HARRIS CONDUCTS TRAINING IN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY REPORTING FOR LAO PDR'S GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS

Center Executive Director **Hadar Harris** traveled to Lao PDR in November at the invitation of the United Nations

Development Program and the government of Lao PDR to conduct a five-day training in human rights treaty reporting for more than 35 government and civil society leaders. The training, the first of its kind in Laos, discussed not only treaty reporting but best practices for better implementation of human rights treaty obligations across government ministries and with civil society. The training took place in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

CENTER FACULTY CO-DIRECTORS DISCUSS THEIR PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

In February, the Center hosted an opportunity for students to learn from the Center's faculty co-directors about their approach to and work in the field of human rights and humanitarian law. The Center's co-directors are a group of some of the most noted human rights practitioners in the world. The co-directors spoke about their first experiences in human rights, successes and challenges in their careers, and gave words of wisdom for students interested in human rights. Dean **Claudio Grossman** (Chair, UN Committee Against Torture; past President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights); Prof. **Robert Goldman** (First UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and Terrorism, Member of the International Commission of Jurists' Eminent Jurists Panel on Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights); Prof. **Juan Méndez** (UN Special Rapporteur on Torture; President Emeritus, International Center on Transitional Justice; former Special Adviser to UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide); Prof. **Herman Schwartz** (internationally known expert on Constitutional reform and drafting); Prof. **Rick Wilson** (Defends Guantanamo detainees; drafted Supreme Court Amicus Brief helping to overturn US use of death penalty against minors; Board chair of Human Rights USA). More information about the Center's faculty co-directors as well as a webcast of the panel can be found on the Center's website at www.wclcenter-forhr.org.

DISTINGUISHED PANEL ADDRESSES ISSUES FOR A TWO-STATE SUDAN

The Center, in collaboration with the *Human Rights Brief* and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, hosted a panel discus-

sion entitled *After the Vote: Challenges and Opportunities for a Two-State Sudan* to address the looming division of Sudan into two states after the referendum vote in January 2011. **Rebecca Hamilton**, Special Correspondent on Sudan for *The Washington Post*, was joined by **WCL Prof. Juan Méndez** and Suliman Baldo, Africa Director for the International Center for Transitional Justice, in this important talk. **Matt Simpson** of the Public International Law & Policy Group moderated the discussion. Ms. Hamilton also discussed her experiences on the ground in Sudan conducting research, which has been published in her book *Fighting for Darfur: Public Action and the Struggle to Stop Genocide*. A webcast of the discussion is available at www.wclcenterforhr.org.

CENTER HOSTS TALK ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH AUTHOR ANNE GALLAGHER

The Center, in collaboration with the WCL Women and the Law Program, held a discussion in February with Anne Gallagher, author of *The International Law of Human Trafficking*. **Ann Jordan**, Program Director of the Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, and WCL **Prof. Janie Chuang** joined Ms. Gallagher in the discussion. The panelists discussed emerging laws on human trafficking as well as other issues within the field. Ms. Gallagher has served as Special Advisor on Human Trafficking to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and is a foremost authority in the field of human trafficking.

FACULTY UPDATES

Claudio Grossman is the Dean of American University Washington College of Law and a Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. He is also the Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law.

Dean Grossman helped organize and provided opening remarks for the Fourteenth Annual Hispanic Law Conference, held at the law school in early March 2011 on the *The Role of the Latino Legal Community in Addressing Latino Issues*. Earlier in 2011, Dean Grossman introduced the American University International Law Review Symposium entitled *International Law Bares Its Teeth: How States and*

International Organizations Enforce Customary Norms and Treaty Obligations. He also participated as a panelist in United Nations Committee against Torture (UN CAT) Project Panel Presentation, discussing this unique experiential learning opportunity. In addition, Dean Grossman traveled to Madrid, Spain, where he spoke at the law school's partner institution, Universidad Pontificia de Comillas (ICADE) on *Libertad de Expresión en el Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos*. In Lyon, France, Dean Grossman participated as a member in the session of the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files.

In January 2011, Dean Grossman participated in numerous events of the 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) in San Francisco, including as a speaker on *Core Values in Challenging Times – Transnational Perspectives*, discussing the universality of AALS' core values in a transnational setting, and the judicial review process across various legal and national systems. The proceedings of that panel will be published in the Pennsylvania State University International Law Review. Also, in San Francisco, Dean Grossman participated in meetings and programs of the International Association of Law Schools (IALS), collaborating with educators from around the world to discuss vitally important topics related to legal education. Programs included the IALS Board Meeting and the *Joint Luncheon of Sections on Africa, International Law, International Human Rights, International Legal Exchange, Graduate Programs for Non-US Lawyers & North American Cooperation*. Additionally, Dean Grossman participated as a panelist in a discussion regarding the official launch of the Poznan Statement on reforms to the United Nations Treaty Body System, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations, and held in New York. At the law school's annual celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dean Grossman spoke about the universality of Dr. King's values and their impact on society.

In December 2010, Dean Grossman participated via webcast in the panel discussion, *Moving Towards a World Without Torture*, as part of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) Conference in Copenhagen,

Denmark, on the occasion of the ICRT's twenty-fifth anniversary of conducting rehabilitation work. He was featured in an article in *American Today* entitled *Dean Grossman: Human Rights for All An Achievable Goal*, published in observance Human Rights Day, focusing on his legal career advocating for human rights, his role as Chair of the United Nations Committee against Torture, and the numerous human rights initiatives of the law school. He was also interviewed by El Mercurio (Chile) about the legal case concerning the assassination of the Argentine senator Jaime Guzmán titled *Caso Guzmán: UDI contrata a emblemático abogado de DD.HH. y coordina con Gobierno nueva ofensiva*. Dean Grossman was additionally interviewed by El Mercurio (Chile) regarding freedom of expression in Venezuela on *La diversidad en Venezuela tiene que ver hoy con que el canal Globovisión continúe al aire*. In Hallandale Beach, Florida, Dean Grossman participated in a panel discussion on *Israel's Legitimacy under International Assault: Lawfare and International Forums*, as part of the Annual Strategic Forum of the American Jewish Committee's Latino & Latin American Institute.

Dean Grossman's recent publications include *The Role of a Law School Dean: Balancing a Variety of Roles and Interests. The American University Washington College of Law Experience*, 29 PENN. ST. INT'L L. REV. 113, 113-119 (2010).

Robert Goldman is a Louis C. James Scholar, Co-Director of the Center, faculty director for the War Crimes Research Office, and a Professor of Law at WCL. In 2010 he was re-elected to the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists. He will be attending a forthcoming meeting of the Executive committee this coming March in Geneva, Switzerland.

Hadar Harris is the executive director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In February, she participated in a two-day consultation at the Pan American Health Organization as a member of the Technical Advisory Group on Cultural Diversity. She continues to participate in the Inter-Agency Working Group task force of the Human Rights at Home Campaign, working to expand the mechanisms in the US government for better domestic implementation of inter-

national human rights treaty norms in the US. In January, she led a workshop for over forty scientists at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Coalition annual meeting entitled, *Working with UN Human Rights Mechanisms: Lessons for the Joint Initiative*. In addition, in February, on the day before Mubarak's resignation, she moderated a widely web-cast rapid-response panel convened by the Center entitled *From Crisis to Opportunity: Human Rights in Egypt and Beyond*. In honor of International Human Rights Day, she was interviewed on camera by Voice of America. In addition to moderating and convening a variety of other panels and workshops, she is currently teaching an upper level seminar: Gender, Cultural Difference and International Human Rights to 18 WCL JD and LLM students from 13 different countries.

Juan E. Méndez is Visiting Professor of Law at WCL, and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. His three-year term started on November 1, 2010, and he has been interviewed in this capacity by multiple media outlets including Le Monde, Reuters, UN Radio, and Australian Radio. The American Society of International Law awarded him the Goler T. Butcher Medal for his contribution to the development and realization of international human rights law for 2010. In the fall of 2010 he spoke at a seminar on the Prevention of Torture organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and delivered a lecture on Transitional Justice, Peace and Prevention at the University of Baltimore Law School. He also delivered lectures at the annual Marek Nowicki Lectures on Transitional Justice, Peace, and Prevention in Budapest, Hungary, and on Recent Trends in Transitional Justice in Warsaw, Poland. The Open Society Institute and the Helsinki Foundation organize the lectures annually for Human Rights. In December 2010, Prof. Méndez discussed the WikiLeaks disclosures on Democracy Now, and in January 2011 he was appointed to serve on the Steering Committee of a research project on Post Conflict Justice and Local Ownership by the Grotius Center of the University of Leiden. Prof. Méndez has recently been on Al Jazeera, German TV, and BBC Radio and on February 22 he

spoke at a conference of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists.

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón is Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. He is also an Ad Hoc Judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case *Salvador Chiriboga v. Ecuador*. Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón's most recent publication, in collaboration with Claudia Martin, is titled *The Inter-American Human Rights System: Selected Examples of its Supervisory Work*. Additionally, Prof. Rodríguez-Pinzón was interviewed on CNN on January 4, 2011, as a guest expert on "En Directo." He participated in a one-on-one studio discussion about the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, and current legislative initiatives in several states that seek to limit recognition of US citizenship by birth to children born in the US from undocumented parents.

Susana SáCouto, Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence at WCL, moderated a panel in February 2011 entitled "From Investigations to Sentencing: State Cooperation with the ICC in Enforcing International Criminal Law," at a symposium organized by the American University International Law Review on the enforcement of international law. Later that month, she delivered a presentation on the International Criminal Court and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia to students of AU's Washington Semester Program in International Law and Organizations. In late February, she traveled to The Hague for discussions with colleagues at the T.M.C. Asser Institute and senior members of international criminal tribunals. In early March, she delivered a presentation on "Victim Participation at the International Criminal Court and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia" at the second Biennial War Crimes Conference entitled *Justice – Whose Justice? Punishment, Mediation or Reconciliation?* hosted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the School of Advanced Studies at the University of London.

Herman Schwartz is Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center. Professor Schwartz continues to work with the U.S./Israel Civil Liberties Law Program. His academic focus remains on

issues of civil rights and civil liberties as they have played out in courts across the globe, especially in the young democracies of Eastern Europe. He has served as an adviser to numerous Central and Eastern European nations on constitutional and human rights reform. Professor Schwartz is a member of the Board of the Open Society Institute Justice Initiative. He is currently working on a book on how American political institutions are responding to the challenges currently facing the United States. In January 2011, Prof. Schwartz wrote an article featured in *Politico*, titled *The Gerrymandering Orgy Begins*, and in March *Politico* featured a second piece, *Egypt Constitution Needs Rights*.

Rick Wilson is Professor of Law and founding Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at WCL. During the 2009-2010 school year he took a sabbatical leave from WCL to spend a semester in the Netherlands as Visiting Professor of Law and Scholar in Residence at the University of Utrecht's School of Human Rights Research. There, Professor Wilson researched, wrote, traveled, and helped the law faculty start a clinic in International Justice, with much of its work focused on the institutions based in The Hague. He returned to Washington, DC, to complete his sabbatical working as a Tillar House Fellow at ASIL. During his fellowship, Mr. Wilson focused on researching and writing a book, tentatively entitled *The Origins and Global Reach of Clinical Legal Education: A Pedagogy of Law Practice for Justice*. He also published a chapter in a related book, *Beyond Legal Imperialism: U.S. Clinical Legal Education and the New Law and Development*, which appeared in an edited

collection called *The Global Clinical Movement: Educating Lawyers for Social Justice* (Frank Bloch ed., 2010). In 2010, Mr. Wilson received the Public Interest/Public Service Scholarship Program Faculty Award for public service advocacy, given by students in that program—both past and present—to a faculty member each year.

In November 2010, Prof. Wilson served as a panelist on *Complexity across Borders: Teaching Advocacy on Human Rights* at the Seventh International Clinical Conference, in Lake Arrowhead, California, as well as a panelist on *International Clinical Law: Theory and Critique* at the Conference on Re-Imaging International Clinical Law at the University of Maryland School of Law Annual Symposium in Baltimore. In February 2011, Prof. Wilson participated in a small group-mapping project on super-max prisons, titled *Ending Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment by U.S. Officials*, convened by the Midwest Coalition for Human Rights in Chicago. He further spoke on the WCL panel titled *What Does it Mean to 'Do' Human Rights Work?* in January 2011.

David Baluarte is the Practitioner-in-Residence for the International Human Rights Law Clinic at Washington College of Law. A founding member of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights of Peace Brigades International, Prof. Baluarte has also been working on human rights implementation in the field by helping human rights defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico in their efforts to implement the orders of the Inter-American Court. He recently co-authored a study of implemen-

tation of the decisions of regional and international human rights bodies, published by the Open Society Justice Initiative titled *From Judgment to Justice: Implementing International and Regional Human Rights Decisions*. Prof. Baluarte also co-authored an article summarizing the findings of this study, published in the most recent *Interights Bulletin*. Additionally, Prof. Baluarte recently presented a plan for continued research and advocacy on the implementation of Inter-American Court decisions at the annual conference of the Association of American Law Schools in a panel titled *New Voices in Human Rights*. Prof. Baluarte is currently planning to visit Mexico with other Lawyers Committee members to assess implementation levels for Inter-American Court orders, and to investigate certain human rights violations. Prof. Baluarte recently returned from a meeting of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in Istanbul, Turkey, where he was invited to help devise a study to map the stateless population in the United States. Prof. Baluarte is in the process of working with students at WCL to design and implement this study, with the hope of publishing a report with UNHCR in the fall to commemorate the anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Claudia Martin is a professional lecturer in residence at Washington College of Law and is the Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights. Professor Martin's most recent publication in collaboration with Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón is titled *The Inter-American Human Rights System: Selected Examples of its Supervisory Work*. **HRB**