The Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law was established in 1990 to provide scholarship and support for human rights initiatives in the United States and around the world. Located at the American University Washington College of Law, the Center works with students, academics and practitioners to enhance the understanding and implementation of human rights and humanitarian law domestically, regionally and internationally.

The Center explores emerging intersections in the law and seeks to create new tools and strategies for the creative advancement of international norms. The Center has a variety of core projects including the Anti-Torture Initiative, the Program on Trafficking and Forced Labor, the Local Human Rights Lawyering Project, the Program on Human Rights in the United States and its Local Human Rights Lawyering Project, the Program on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities program, the Program on Human Rights Education and more. In addition to ongoing work with students, which includes skills development seminars, lunchtime learning sessions, and a robust program of more than 50 conferences and workshops per year, the Center runs grant-funded projects which seek to impact and shape the global conversation around a range of key human rights issues.

**The Anti-Torture Initiative**

**Center Launches New Anti-Torture Initiative to Support the Mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, WCL Prof. Juan Méndez**

The Center, together with Prof. Juan Méndez, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture (SRT) and a Visiting Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law, has been awarded a new grant from the Oak Foundation to support activities to advance the mandate of the SRT. The aptly named “Anti-Torture Initiative” will create replicable models for implementation of the work of the SRT through a coordinated approach to follow-up and impact on-the-ground, including conducting on-the-ground needs assessments and research. In addition, the project will work to expand the impact of the SRT’s research, reports, and recommendations through a coordinated outreach mechanism. Uruguayan human rights attorney Maria Leoni Zardo has joined the Center staff to coordinate the project. In addition, the Center welcomed Stephanie Selg in mid-April, who has come from Geneva to work directly with Prof. Mendez on his SRT mandate, supported by a grant from the government of Switzerland through the United Nations. Ms. Selg, a staff person from the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, will be housed at the Center while she carries out her work for the SRT mandate.

**Program on Human Rights in the U.S.**

**Attorneys from Maryland Legal Aid and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Participate in 4-day Training & Strategizing Workshop at WCL**

The Center’s Local Human Rights Lawyering Project, which seeks to integrate human rights strategies, legal arguments and methodologies into the daily work of local legal aid attorneys, held its first convening with the two project partners: Maryland Legal Aid Bureau (MDLAB) and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA). Senior leadership from both organization came to WCL to participate in a 4-day training and strategizing workshop, March 19-22, 2012. The Center brought together key staff from MDLAB and TRLA, along with Project staff from the Center, consultants and advisory board members, at the workshop which focused on goal setting, strategizing around the human rights framework, and substantive legal training. On Thursday March 22, a closing luncheon was held for the Project Partners with guest speaker Prince George’s County (Maryland) Circuit Court Judge Cathy Serrette (WCL ’91), who spoke encouragingly about the use of human rights arguments by U.S. legal aid attorneys in state courts.

**Over 100 Remote Locations Participate in Center Webinar on Human Rights Implications of the 2012 US Supreme Court Term**

On July 18, the Center hosted an online webinar to discuss the human rights implications of key decisions of the US Supreme Court’s 2012 term. Moderated by Local Human Rights Lawyering Project Director Lauren Bartlett, the webinar drew participants from over 100 remote locations. The discussion included presentations by Prof. Martha Davis, Northeastern University School of Law School discussing Miller v. Alabama (juvenile life without parole); and Prof. Anita Sindha of American University Washington College of Law discussing Arizona et al., v. United States (immigration).

**Center Helps Lead Trainings on ICCPR and Co-Sponsors Reception for U.N. Human Rights Committee Members at the Ford Foundation in New York City**

On March 15, 2012, the Center, along with the American Civil Liberties Union and the U.S. Human Rights Network, convened a training and reception for U.S. attorneys seeking to hold the U.S. accountable to its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The half-day training took place in New York City and provided 70 trainees with the opportunity to hear “war stories” from attorneys with experience advocating at the U.N., as well as the opportunity to go to the U.N. to observe a U.N. Human Rights Committee session first hand. Center Local Human Rights Lawyering Project Director Lauren Bartlett and Executive Director Hadar...
Harris presented at the training. WCL Alum Prof. Sarah Paoletti (’98) also presented at the training. That same evening, approximately 150 training participants and other human rights advocates attended a reception following a panel discussion by members of the U.N. Human Rights Committee which oversees implementation of the ICCPR at the Ford Foundation.

The following day Center Executive Director Hadar Harris spoke as a panelist at the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network’s Annual Human Rights CLE Conference, which was held at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, L.L.P. & Affiliates in New York City. This year, the CLE was entitled “The U.S. and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: 20 Years After Ratification.” Over 200 attorneys were in attendance.

Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor

Program Mid-Way Through Innovative Research on “What Works” in Anti-Trafficking

The Center’s Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, directed by Ann Jordan, is midway into a first-of-its-kind study to investigate the re/integration strategies of women who are living in Kathmandu Valley after having been trafficked into forced prostitution in India. The term ‘re/integration’ implies a process rather than an achieved result. The study involves qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with 30 women who escaped or were rescued and repatriated to Nepal from two to eight years ago, and then entered the care of one of two Nepal NGOs. The study will investigate women who, for various reasons, have not returned to their natal/family and community, and have sought to live independently in urban Nepal society (Kathmandu). This is a positive deviance study and the sample women have been purposively selected for their re/integration success. The Program is collaborating with a Nepalese research institute and an expert consultant in Nepal.

This pioneering research will collect valuable information on NGO service delivery and on successful self-initiated re/integration strategies, leading to recommendations to strengthen NGO practices to support the re/integration of returnees and to address the legal and social obstacles of discrimination and stigma that prevents many former victims from rebuilding their lives. The culminating report will be finalized by Fall 2012. For more information on the Center’s Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, visit: www.RightsWork.org.

Program on Human Rights

Teaching IHL Initiative Concludes Second Annual IHL Student Writing Competition with Conference and Expert Roundtable

On March 28, the Center hosted the culminating conference of the 2nd Annual International Humanitarian Law Writing Competition entitled, International Humanitarian Law: Emerging Issues in the Law of Armed Conflict. The conference was co-sponsored by the Center and the American Society of International Law’s Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict. The competition received 53 submissions from law students in 13 different countries, exceeding the 2011 benchmark. The winners of the competition, first place winner Marcos Kotlib of the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina and second place winner Sarah Brechwald of the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas, presented their papers in discussion with a high level panel of IHL experts. They included Lucy Brown, Senior Legal Adviser for the American Red Cross; Laura Olson of Blackletter Consulting (formerly of the International Committee of the Red Cross); and Lt. Col. Mike Cole of the British Army. The panel was moderated by Center Executive Director Hadar Harris.

WCL Prof. Diane Orentlicher, former Deputy for War Crimes Issues at the US Department of State, delivered the keynote address entitled, Reflections on the Obama Administration’s Policies on Atrocities Crimes. The conference concluded with an in-depth roundtable discussion with high-level experts on cyber warfare and IHL. Speakers included WCL Prof. Kenneth Anderson, Prof. Laurie Blank, Director of the International Humanitarian Law Clinic at Emory University; Cordula Droege, Legal Adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross; Paul Rosenzweig, Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute at George Washington University. The conversation was moderated by Col. Richard Jackson, Chairperson of the ASIL Lieber Society.

The 2012 Honor Jury for the Competition included Antoine Bouvier, Legal Advisor at the International
Committee of the Red Cross; David Cahen, Legal Advisor at the International Committee of the Red Cross Regional Delegation for North America; David Crane, Professor of Practice at Syracuse University College of Law; Claudio Grossman, Dean of American University Washington College of Law; Richard Jackson, Chairperson of the Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict at the American Society of International Law; Gabor Rona, International Legal Director at Human Rights First; and Marco Sasoli, Professor of Law at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

In addition, nearly twenty academics and practitioners served as judges for the first round of evaluating submissions for the competition. Judges include Laurie Blank, Director of the International Humanitarian Law Clinic at Emory University; Lucy Brown, Senior Advisor at the International Humanitarian Law & Policy at the American Red Cross; Caroline Davidson, Assistant Professor of Law at Williamette University; Ashley Deeks, Academic Fellow at Columbia University; Major John Dehn (Ret.), Assistant Professor at the U.S. Military Academy; Aaron Fellmeth, Professor of Law at Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor Law School; Kate Jastram, Senior Fellow at the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law, and Lecturer in Residence at the University of California Berkeley School of Law; Eric Jensen, Associate Professor of Law at Brigham Young University Law School; Jennifer Khurana, Manager of International Humanitarian Law Dissemination at the American Red Cross; Stefan Kirchner, Chair for Public Law at George-August University; Kurt Larson, Department of Justice; Claudia Martin, Professional Lecturer in Residence at WCL; Michael Meier, U.S. Department of State; Melanie O’Brien, Research Fellow at the Centre for Excellence in Policing and Security at Griffith University; Diego Rodriguez-Pizón, Professional Lecturer in Residence at WCL; Mike Surgalla, Department of Justice; Gentian Zyberi, an independent researcher; and Jamie Williamson, Associate Professor of Law at Northeastern School of Law.

RELEVANT AND TIMELY EVENTS

CENTER LAUNCHES NEW CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER LECTURE SERIES WITH TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Center, in collaboration with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the United States House of Representatives, held a series of three successful educational briefings on basic issues in human rights and humanitarian law for Congressional staff and interns over the summer. Attendance exceeded capacity for each session. Center Executive Director Hadar Harris spoke at the first session in June, providing an introduction to human rights law. WCL alum and former OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression Santiago Canton provided an introduction to regional and UN approaches to the issue of freedom of expression in July. WCL Prof. Steve Vladeck gave a timely and relevant talk about the basics of international humanitarian law at the final session in August.

CENTER ADDS HUMAN RIGHTS ANGLE TO TEACH-IN EXPLORING LEGAL ISSUES SURROUNDING THE TRAYVON MARTIN SHOOTING

On April 9, the Center joined co-sponsors BLSA, The Modern American, and the Program on Law and Government, in hosting The Trayvon Martin Tragedy: A Teach-In and Legal Discussion Forum. The program was held in the wake of the shooting in Florida of Trayvon Martin, a young unarmed African American man by a self-appointed neighborhood patrolman, and the delay in the Florida legal system in making an arrest. The program included a teach-in style legal analysis of the issues with simulated courtroom arguments, a provocative discussion of the case with high profile civil rights experts and activists, and a lively town hall discussion. Speakers during the teach-in included WCL Professors Angela Davis, Andrew Taslitz, Darren Hutchinson, Cynthia Jones, Amanda Frost, and Center Executive Director Hadar Harris. In addition, a high level luncheon panel included Benjamin Jealous, President and CEO of the NAACP, Laura Murphy, Director, ACLU Washington Legislative Office; Barbara Arnwine, Executive Director of the National Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights; Glenn Ivey, former State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County Maryland; and WCL Prof. Bill Yeomans, former Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the DOJ Civil Rights Division.

In addition to the attendees who filled the law school’s largest room to capacity, the event was joined by a robust online audience with over 90 remote locations participating in the discussion via live webcast. A number of law schools held concurrent screenings of the Teach-In and questions for the speakers were submitted via email from around the country. The recorded webcast for this event is available at: http://media.wcl.american.edu/Mediasite/SilverlightPlayer/Default.aspx?peid=76600204e05a4ddbb80185ede4451c071d.

CENTER CONvenes TIMELY DISCUSSION ON CRISIS IN SYRIA

On March 7, the Center hosted a special Controversial Conversations in Human Rights event, focusing on the human rights crisis in Syria and what should be done to end abuses there. The event began with a presentation on the current human rights situation in Syria and the international response by Scott Edwards, Managing Director for Tactical Response at Amnesty International USA. The audience of approximately 30 WCL students then engaged in a facilitated interactive conversation at round tables on the current human rights situation in Syria, the international response to-date, factors to take into consideration in determining policy recommendations, and what can be learned from this crisis going forward.

“US and Israeli National Security Law: What Can Each Learn From the Other?”

On March 27, Center Executive Director Hadar Harris spoke on a panel entitled, “US and Israeli National Security Law: What Can Each Learn From the Other?” The panel focused on targeted killings, administrative detention, and anticipatory self-defense. Other speakers included Amichai Cohen, Associate Dean and Professor of Law at Ono Academic College in Israel, Jennifer Daskal, Fellow, Center on National Security and the Law, Georgetown University Law Center and Laura Dickinson, Oswald...
Symister Colclough Research Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School. The panel was moderated by WCL professor Steve Vladeck.

**CENTER CO-Sponsors Inaugural Conference on Global Health, Gender and Human Rights**

On March 21 and 22, the Center co-sponsored the Inaugural Conference on Global Health, Gender and Human Rights with the WCL Program on Law and Government; Health Law and Policy Brief; Health Law and Justice Initiative; Women and the Law Program; the AU Center on Health, Risk and Society; and the AU Center for Latin American and Latino Studies along with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Guatemala. The conference brought together international experts in global health, gender, and human rights to produce policy recommendations on: disabilities/mental health; women/adolescent girls’ health; maternal mortality and morbidity; gender identities, expressions and sexual orientation; older persons; neglected diseases; access to medicines; and tobacco control and smoke free environments.

**CENTER STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD LAUNCHES THE UDHR PHOTO PROJECT**

The Envisioning Human Rights: UDHR Photo Project, an initiative of the Center Student Advisory Board, is a new quarterly competition which encourages members of the WCL community to submit photos which link to a specific theme taken from the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The Center, together with a special Guest Judge, will feature winning photos taken by WCL students, faculty, staff and alumni, representing their interpretation of specific articles of the UDHR. The first theme of the competition was Article I of the UDHR: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

In its first quarter, the competition received 12 submissions from JD students, LLM students and WCL faculty, featuring scenes from countries around the world, including Kenya, Thailand, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, among others. WCL Prof. Rick Wilson served as the first guest judge. The winning photo was taken by Carolina Rizza (WCL ’12) and is entitled, “Washed of Their identities: The Denationalization of Haitians of Dominican Descent”. The culmination of the UDHR Photo Project will be a photomontage in Spring 2013 displaying a visual interpretation of what human rights means to the WCL community.

Winner: Carolina Rizzo ‘12 Photo: Washed of Their Identities — The Denationalization of Dominicans of Haitian Descent

Webcasts and podcasts of recent Center events are available for download on the Center’s website, www.WCLCenterforHR.org.

**THE CENTER WELCOMES...**

**CENTER APPOINTS MELISSA DEL AGUILA AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Melissa del Aguila was appointed Assistant Director of the Center in April. Ms. del Aguila joined the Center last spring as a Program Coordinator. Prior to coming to WCL, she worked extensively with the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights on collaborative projects addressing the right to education. During law school, Ms. del Aguila also worked on issues relating to the education, non-discrimination and equal protection rights of Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples as part of the Cornell International Human Rights Clinic. In this capacity, she presented as a panelist at the Colombian National Congress in Bogotá and also assisted the RFK Center in developing observations and recommendations for the OAS Working Group charged with preparing a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. Ms. del Aguila co-authored an article based on these experiences titled, Catalysts for Change: A Proposed Framework for Human Rights Clinical Teaching and Advocacy, which was recently published in the Spring 2012 issue of the NYU Clinical Law Review.

Prior to law school, Ms. del Aguila served as a Princeton-in-Latin America Fellow at the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress in San José, Costa Rica where she worked on community-based projects focused on gender, political participation and human security. She has also held internship and research positions at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children, where she focused on issues relating to asylum law and human trafficking. Ms. del Aguila has an A.B. in Politics from Princeton University and a J.D. and LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Cornell Law School.

**FACULTY UPDATES**

Claudio Grossman is the Dean of American University College of Law (AUWCL) 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. Earlier this year, he was selected to receive the Lifetime Leadership Award from the Hispanic National Bar Foundation during the HNBF’s 2012 Annual Awards Dinner in July, and became a member of the Advisory Council for the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative. Dean Grossman’s recent publications include: “Challenges to Freedom of Expression within the Inter-American System: A Jurisprudential Analysis;” in Human Rights Quarterly, 2012; and four articles (“American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948),” “Disappearances,” “Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACCHR),” and “Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v Nicaragua Case”), in the print edition of the Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law, 2012 (all previously published in the Encyclopedia’s online...
In March, he co-organized the 15th Annual Hispanic Law Conference, cosponsored by WCL, the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Associations of the DC, MD and VA. Additionally, he was the keynote speaker on religious freedom and pluralism at the Special Meeting of the Mission of Latin American Muslim and Jewish Leaders to the US, Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, at the U.S. Holocaust Museum. Dean Grossman also introduced the 2012 Grotius Lecturer, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger, at the 14th Annual Grotius Lecture cosponsored by WCL and the American Society of International Law (ASIL) during ASIL’s 106th Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. He was a co-organizer and panelist, “The Inter-American System of Human Rights,” at the Inter-American System and Freedom of Expression Conference, sponsored by AUWCL, Stanford Law School, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Press Association, Washington, D.C. Also in March, Dean Grossman gave a speech, “Challenges Facing Legal Education in the 21st Century,” at a ceremony awarding him a Doctor Honoris Causa at the Universidad de San Martin de Porres, Peru. The following month, Dean Grossman participated in a Faculty Colloquium with Visiting Faculty from Poland and gave a presentation, “The Reform of Human Rights Treaty Bodies.” In his capacity as chair of the United Nations Committee against Torture (UN CAT), Dean Grossman participated in the Third Consultation with States on the Treaty Body Strengthening Process/Consultation for States Parties to International Human Rights Treaties, sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and served as a panelist on “Resourcing the Treaty Body System: Efficient and Effective Functioning of the Treaty Body System,” at the UN Headquarters, New York. He also gave remarks at a variety of law firms throughout Washington, DC, as part of the Dean’s Firm Visit Program. In May, Dean Grossman was unanimously re-elected for the third consecutive term as UN CAT chair and presided over the UN CAT’s 48th session where he also served as a country rapporteur for Syria, the Czech Republic and Albania. In June, Dean Grossman was a panelist on “The State of Legal Education Today,” sponsored by the Council for Court Excellence in Washington, D.C. He also participated in AUWCL’s Summer Law Program in Europe, where he taught international human rights law classes. Dean Grossman has been interviewed by numerous media outlets including Frecuencia Latina Canal 2, Voice of America, and CNN Español.

David Baluarte has been a Practitioner-in-Residence in the International Human Rights Law Clinic (IHRLC) at Washington College of Law for the past three years. This year, Professor Baluarte was appointed the inaugural Abrenz Fellow, a new appointment in the IHRLC in recognition of Professor Baluarte’s role in implementing a project of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to promote nationality rights of Haitians of Bahamian descent in The Bahamas. Professor Baluarte traveled to The Bahamas to coordinate the establishment of the Nationality Support Unit in the Legal Aid Clinic of Eugene Dupuch Law School in June. Soon thereafter, Professor Baluarte led a Human Rights Delegation to Oaxaca, Mexico, in his role as a founding member of the National Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (NLCHR) of Peace Brigades International USA. The goal of the delegation was to advocate for increased protection for Oaxacan human rights defenders living in extreme risk and assess the possibility of presenting the situation to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This recent activity in Mexico focused on the local implementation of human rights protections, a topic that is the subject of Professor Baluarte’s forthcoming publication in The American University International Law Review, 2012, entitled “Strategizing for Compliance: The Evolution of a Compliance Phase of Inter-American Court Litigation and the Strategic Imperative for Victims’ Representatives.”

Robert Goldman is Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In spring 2012, Professor Goldman was re-elected to a third term as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists. In May 2012, he was in Lima, Peru in his capacity as a former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights at the invitation of the Instituto de Defensa Legal & the Due Process of Law Foundation to enlist the support of the Peruvian government to oppose efforts to weaken the Commission and the region’s human rights system. While in Lima, he met with high ranking members of all three branches of government, spoke at a public forum on the Commission’s historic role in defending human rights in Peru during the Fujimori era and elsewhere, appeared on television and radio, and gave numerous interviews to the print media.

Claudia Martin, Co-Director of American University WCL Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Professorial Lecturer in Residence. On March 26, 2012, Professor Martin spoke at the panel “Relating to the Inter-American System (litigation versus settlement, domestic enforcement, domestic and international political constraints, etc.)” and on March 27, coordinated a panel regarding the study of comparative cases on the protection of freedom of expression in domestic and international courts, both events at the conference on the “Inter-American System and Freedom of Expression,” sponsored by the American University Washington College of Law, Stanford Law School and the Inter-American Press Association, Washington DC. On May 10, 2012, she coordinated and participated in the workshop “Counter-Terrorism, the Rule of Law, and Military Justice,” sponsored by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Nottingham University, UK and Málaga University, Spain. On May 30, 2012, Professor Martin spoke at the Inaugural panel of the “Preparatory Seminar on the Strengthening of the Inter-American Human Rights System,” organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington, DC. In May-June 2012, Professor Martin oversaw coordination of the 17th Inter-American Moot Court Competition, the 14th Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Human Month, organized under the auspices of the Academy on Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law, and Human Month, organized under the auspices of the Academy on Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
Challenges” and “The International Labor Organization Decent Work Agenda” at the Specialized Program of International Organizations, Law and Diplomacy, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Diane Orentlicher is Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In January 2012, Professor Orentlicher returned to teaching after two and one-half years’ service in the Department of State, where she worked on the prevention and response to mass atrocities. In February 2012, Professor Orentlicher moderated a keynote discussion between U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Melanie Verweer and Netherlands’ Ambassador to the United States, Renee Jones-Bos at a conference, “Addressing Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings,” co-sponsored by WCL’s War Crimes Research Office and Woman and International Law Program; was a discussant at a program of the American Society of International Law, “Lessons on War Crimes Accountability: Book Discussion of All the Missing Souls: A Personal History of the War Crimes Tribunals, by Professor David Scheffer”; chaired a panel on International Law and the Arab Spring at a conference at WCL, “The Impact of the Arab Spring Throughout the Middle East and Northern Africa” organized by the International Law Review; and participated in the “Expert Panel Discussion on Fighting Impunity” at a conference at WCL on “Forensic Evidence in the Fight Against Torture,” which WCL co-sponsored with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims.

In March 2012, Professor Orentlicher delivered the keynote address, “Reflections on the Obama Administration’s Policies on Atrocity Crimes,” at the conference, Emerging Issues in the Law of Armed Conflict, held at WCL. She was also a panelist at a screening of “I Came to Testify,” Public Broadcasting System’s “Women War and Peace” series held at the White House E.E.O.B. in March 2012. In April, Professor Orentlicher was a commentator on Professor Surya Subedi’s article, “The UN Human Rights Council and the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through the Mechanism of Special Rapporteurs” at a WCL faculty workshop. She was also a panelist on the subject “Juristic Contributions on Head of State Immunity, Amnesties and Child Recruitment,” at a conference on Assessing the Contributions and Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to Africa and Int’l Criminal Justice at the Univ. of Pittsburgh Law School. Also in April, Professor Orentlicher gave a presentation, “Atrocity, Human Rights and Prevention Issues,” at the Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC. In May, she was a presenter at a session on “Accountability and Atrocities: U.S. Policy on the International Criminal Court” of the Working Group on the Responsibility to Protect, which is co-sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust memorial Museum, the Brookings Institution and the United States Institute of Peace, and also gave a presentation at “Teaching Business and Human Rights: A Professional Workshop” at Columbia University in New York. In June, Professor Orentlicher co-chaired a session of a Planning Meeting of the Task Force on Law & Diplomacy, organized under the auspices of the Academic Diplomatique Internationale and the International Bar Association, in Paris, France.

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón is Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence and Co-Director of American University WCL Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In 2012, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón published, “The Inter-American System: Landmark Cases at the Inter-American Commission” in NETHERLANDS QUARTERLY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, Utrecht, The Netherlands, Interseinta. He gave lectures about the Inter-American Human Rights System at the University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain and the University of Essex, School of Law, Colchester, UK. He also gave a presentation, “Temas Contemporáneos del Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (Contemporary Topics of the Inter-American Human Rights System),” at the Instituto de la Judicatura Federal and Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación in Mexico City. In March 2012, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón was interviewed by Univision & CNN en Español about the Supreme Court hearings on constitutionality of health care reform.

Susana SáCouto is Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence and the Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and at WCL. In March, Professor SáCouto delivered a presentation on the International Criminal Court and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia at American University’s Washington Semester Program. That same month she presented on the topic of “Ensuring Effective and Efficient Representation of Victims at the International Criminal Court” at a symposium entitled Approaching its Teenage Years: Contemporary Challenges for the International Criminal Court, hosted by the New England School of Law in Boston, MA. In May, she presented on “The Adjudication Process and Reasoning in the Lubanga Judgment of the International Criminal Court” at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ghent in Belgium. In June, she presented an update of the findings of the WCRO’s report on “Ensuring the Effective and Efficient Representation of Victims at the International Criminal Court” at an event hosted by the Finnish Embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands. Professor SáCouto’s chapter entitled Gaps in Gender-Based Violence Jurisprudence of International and Hybrid Criminal Courts: Can Human Rights Law Help? is expected to be published this fall in STRENGTHENING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN AFRICA THROUGH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS (Ebenezer Durojaye & Charles Ngwena, eds., 2012).

Rick Wilson is Professor of Law, founding director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic, and co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In 2012, Professor Wilson published, “The Role of Practice in Legal Education” in GENERAL REPORT OF THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COMPARATIVE LAW, Karen B. Brown & David V. Snyder, eds. He also published, “Practical Training in Law in the Netherlands: Big Law Model or Clinical Model, and the Call of Public Interest” in UTRECHT LAW REVIEW.