



2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

American University Washington College of Law established the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law as part of its long-standing commitment to international human rights and the rule of law. For over 25 years, the Center has worked with students, faculty, and the international legal community to provide support for human rights initiatives in the U.S. and around the world through teaching, scholarship, and service.

The Center engages in exciting innovations in human rights education and advocacy by way of training, complementary education, outreach, workshops and conferences, and research and publications. All Center programming promotes the value of service, thereby grounding the Center as a core resource to the NGO community and a bridge between academia and civil society.



\$893,015 in new grants & gifts / +72 partners / 3 publications

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Message from Dean Camille A. Nelson

As I reflect on my first year as Dean of American University Washington College of Law, I am grateful to be part of a community known for its longstanding commitment to protecting and promoting the rule of law and human rights. Under the inspired leadership of its faculty co-directors and dedicated program staff, the Center engages in exciting innovations in human rights advocacy. The Center's numerous and dynamic collaborations with our expert faculty, main campus colleagues, and civil society partners is a testament to its mission of building bridges between academia and civil society.

I am particularly struck by the meaningful contributions that our students have made over the years. Hailing from diverse backgrounds, they bring the work of the Center to life through their creativity and passion. They extend and deepen our reach through human rights internships, fieldwork and applied research in foreign countries, and analysis of complex legal issues through the student-run *Human Rights Brief*.



More importantly, they ground us with their questions and deeply felt commitment. Having both enriched our work and been influenced by it, these students will be affecting change long after the Center celebrates its next big anniversary. In addition to highlighting the Center's many accomplishments over the past year, we hope that this report also provides some glimpse into the future. As you can see from the following pages, we have accumulated an incredible wealth of experiences and learned from people who study human rights or work tirelessly on the ground to advance them. We plan to use this accumulated knowledge, the rich academic resources at AUWCL, and our extensive network of alumni and NGO partners working in the field, to think about how we shape the global conversation around human rights. As we consider emerging challenges and opportunities for the promotion of human rights, we look forward to sharing our journey with you as we cultivate the next generation of lawyers, scholars, and advocates to advance the human rights of all people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Nelson'.

Camille A. Nelson
Dean and Professor of Law

Message from the Faculty Director, Macarena Sáez

This past academic year has been busy for the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law. We have worked with students, scholars, and civil society on many different issues and in many different parts of the world. From the first day that students begin at AUWCL, we strive to ensure that they see our community as a space committed to human rights in its broadest sense. We hope that from that day, the Center will be part of their academic and professional lives.

Over the past year, our grant operations and gifts grew and allowed us to continue our unique and much-needed work on anti-torture. We continued our efforts in land dispute resolution, and expanded our scope of work on gender, sexuality and human rights. We increased opportunities for critical thinking and produced publications geared towards civil society. We prepared students to draft amicus briefs for different foreign courts, to support attorneys at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and to analyze the jurisprudence of U.N. treaty bodies. We collaborated with the law school's Immigrant Justice Clinic and AU's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies to educate immigrant families about their rights, and we convened leaders from the most important civil society organizations in the U.S. to discuss the impact of the Trump administration on human rights.



Unfortunately, human rights violations are not decreasing. We live in a time in which millions of refugees are seeking shelter around the world, and societies are seeing broad shifts in methods of war and armed conflict. The livelihoods of local communities are threatened, and in most of the world, prison conditions amount to torture or to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. It is every law school's obligation to ensure that each generation of attorneys understands its responsibility, and is ready to practice law with a human rights perspective, even in private practice. This report shows a vibrant community dedicated to strengthening the rule of law and human rights standards at home and abroad. This is the commitment of the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Macarena Sáez".

Macarena Sáez
Director, Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law

Center leads human rights site visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for AUWCL students, including students participating in the Humbert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program.



Where We've Achieved Impact

The Center's Anti-Torture Initiative co-sponsored a series of trainings and workshops in Brazil to promote best practices in the investigation, documentation, and prevention of torture.

The Center partnered with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria on a project to strengthen human rights standards in the financial sector.

The Center's Land Use Impact Assessment Project continues its work to develop innovative dispute resolution mechanisms in Cambodia and Vietnam.

The Center's Kovler Project Against Torture sent 10 law students to Geneva to observe the UN CAT's 59th session.

Social Media Engagement



4,329

Likes

3,670

Posts



1,848

Followers

1,813

Tweets

Where We've Been

Argentina • Austria • Brazil • Burma • Cambodia • Chile • China • Colombia • Costa Rica • Denmark • Ghana • Guatemala • Indonesia • Israel • Kyrgyzstan • Mexico • Morocco • Nicaragua • Panama • Peru • Puerto Rico • South Africa • Switzerland • United Kingdom • United States • Vietnam

ANTI-TORTURE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Center's Anti-Torture Program works to combat and prevent torture and other ill-treatment by engaging civil society and academia in discussion about how to increase compliance with international law and by teaching the current legal framework against torture to future lawyers, policymakers, and judges. The program focuses on two main initiatives, the **Anti-Torture Initiative** and the **Kovler Project Against Torture**, which employ diverse methodologies and programming to promote best practices, public dialogue, and education about torture and other ill-treatment.

ANTI-TORTURE INITIATIVE

The Anti-Torture Initiative (ATI) was created to expand the reach and practical implementation of the work of the former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (SRT), Professor Juan E. Méndez. Since its creation in 2011, the ATI has conducted follow-up activities in Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, and Brazil, among other countries. It has undertaken strategic and diverse follow-up initiatives in key thematic areas, including the development of a Universal Protocol on investigative interviewing and attendant procedural safeguards; the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol; children deprived of liberty; gender perspectives on torture; and solitary confinement, among



Together with local NGO partners, ATI staff convened a strategy meeting on the development of universal standards for investigative interviewing and attendant legal safeguards in Switzerland.

others. Since the end of Professor Méndez' tenure as SRT in October 2016, the ATI continues to carry out programs and engage in anti-torture advocacy on a diverse array of issues with local partners worldwide.

ATI HIGHLIGHTS

Last fall, the ATI continued its work on the implementation and strengthening of the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, otherwise known as the Istanbul Protocol. Over the past year, the ATI organized and co-hosted a series of events on the Istanbul Protocol, in collaboration with the International

Bar Association Human Rights Initiative in Mexico and in three cities across Brazil.

The ATI also worked on the development of a Universal Protocol Investigative Interviewing and Attendant Legal Safeguards -- an authoritative set of guidelines intended to provide guidance on how interviews by law enforcement are to be conducted in a variety of investigative contexts, while strictly adhering to standards of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and giving practical effect to the detailed and sophisticated framework against torture and other ill-treatment during questioning by law enforcement. During the summer of 2016, the ATI held an expert consultation on this topic, which led to the ATI's development of the final thematic report submitted by Professor Juan Méndez to the United Nations General Assembly.

In March 2017, the ATI published an edited volume entitled *Protecting Children Against Torture in Detention: Global Solutions for a Global Problem*. The volume brings together contributions by more than thirty international children's rights experts. Each article of the volume provides novel insights into timely topics at the intersection of children's rights and the international human rights law prohibitions of torture and other ill-treatment.

The ATI also continued its efforts to further the interpretation and implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules. In February 2017, ATI Assistant Project Director Andra Nicolescu attended a UN expert group meeting designed to review the draft guidance material on the Nelson Mandela Rules in Vienna. An intensive two days of review produced a draft checklist for prison administrators, which has been translated into dozens of languages, and will be used by prison administrators around the world.



Professor Juan Méndez with current and former ATI research assistants:
top l-r Vanessa Drummond Alvarez J.D. '17, Maria Corina Muskus Toro LL.M. '16, Maria Victoria Gama LL.M. '15; *bottom l-r* Vidya Dindiya J.D. '18, Claudia Bingham LL.M. '17, Sofia Schrager Lazcano LL.M. '17, Maria Noel Leoni LL.M. '12

KOVLER PROJECT AGAINST TORTURE

Kovler Project Against Torture students work under Project faculty guidance to assist the UN Committee against Torture (UN CAT). The Project provides a practice-oriented “deep dive” on the torture prohibition under international law, cultivates valuable professional skills, and includes a specialized practicum, simulation, and week at the UN CAT session in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 100 students and a dozen faculty have participated thus far. Alumni build remarkable, principled careers in government, civil society, private practice, local and multinational organizations, academia, and founding or running NGOs. Established in 2004, and renamed the Kovler Project Against Torture in 2016 in recognition of the Blum-Kovler Foundation’s generous support, the Project also values the recent support from Ms. Kelsey Lee Offield.

KPAT HIGHLIGHTS

Over this last year, the Project provided the UN CAT’s chairperson and country rapporteurs with research and information on human rights and compliance records regarding obligations under the Convention for its 58th-61st sessions. Project students traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, with the Project’s Associate Director Jennifer de Laurentiis and AUWCL Professor Brenda Smith, for the Committee’s 59th session. Students

observed the Committee’s dialogue with stakeholders, including State party delegations, identified germane developments and issues, met in strategy and briefing sessions, and conducted follow-up research. The Project also organized tailored networking opportunities and site visits for students with alumni and others.

This spring, the Kovler Project Against Torture conducted a survey of all KPAT/UN CAT Project alumni (2004-2016). Highlights include:

- 100% indicated that they would recommend the Project to other students
- 100% indicated that the Project contributed to their knowledge of and skills in 5 key areas including international human rights law; monitoring and strengthening compliance with treaties; and advocating more effectively through skills, strategies, etc., before an international body
- 94% indicated that their Project experiences helped them to be better prepared for their present job
- three-fourths indicated that their Project experiences helped them secure internships, externships, clerkships, and other professional experiences, including jobs

For me, the UN CAT (KPAT) Project was a remarkable experience that provided a concrete way to study international law. The UN CAT (KPAT) Project allowed me to study a single treaty, evaluate its case law, and observe and participate in the oversight process that facilitates adherence to the Convention. Traveling to Geneva, Switzerland, to observe and contribute to one of the three sessions held by the Committee each year, was the most exciting and rewarding part of the class.

-- Chase Dunn J.D. '18

“When I applied to law school, I picked WCL because of the Kovler Project. I wanted an opportunity to work with UN CAT, which countless organizations rely on to improve human rights for people around the globe.”

Lydia A. Boyer, 2L, 2017 Kovler Student Scholar Against Torture

“I’ve wanted to participate in the Kovler Project ever since I was applying to law school. The opportunity is one of a kind, and I am looking forward to getting a close-up view of how international law really works.”

Victoria Ernst, 2L, 2017 Kovler Student Scholar Against Torture

“The fight against torture is a struggle which requires all the knowledge and skills we can gather. It requires us to work closely together across professions in many sectors, with the legal and medical professions playing a key role. The Kovler Project Against Torture is making a vital contribution to this fight by equipping talented students of law with the knowledge and skills needed to make strong contributions to the fight against torture.”

UN Committee against Torture Chairperson Jens Modvig, MD, PhD
Director of Health Department, CMO
Dignity-Danish Institute Against Torture



2016 Project students with Associate Director Jennifer de Laurentiis, A UWCL Professor Brenda Smith, and UN CAT Chairperson Jens Modvig at the Committee against Torture's 59th session in Geneva



2016 Project students and A UWCL Professor Brenda Smith with Matthew D'Orsi, A UWCL alumnus and Dispute Settlement Lawyer based in the WTO's Legal Affairs Division in Geneva



While on sabbatical during AY 2016-2017, Project co-founder, Professor and Dean Emeritus Claudio Grossman represented the Center at the opening ceremony of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in Costa Rica

AUWCL student Wilson Melbostad (J.D. '17) visits community project site in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia as part of his Summer Human Rights Law Fellowship.





DISABILITY RIGHTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Center's Disability and Human Rights Program seeks to advance the human rights of persons with disabilities, and help overcome the effects of exclusionary practices, so that persons with disabilities achieve a state of full and effective participation and inclusion in society. Since 2007, the Center has worked across disciplines to bring together the disability rights, development assistance, and human rights communities to examine the important and emerging intersections of disability rights and human rights. Through conferences, scholarship, specialized fellowships, and collaboration with leading nongovernmental organizations, the Center works to increase implementation and adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

DISABILITY & HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In 2012, the Center launched its Disability & Human Rights Fellowship Program, sponsored by the Open Society Foundations' (OSF) Disability Rights Scholarship Program. The program, which just concluded its fifth year, brings attorneys from various parts of the world to AUWCL to engage in a specialized course of study focused on disability and

human rights. The program aims to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, and help overcome the effect of exclusionary practices, so that persons with disabilities achieve a state of full and effective participation and inclusion in society. The program provides disability rights advocates with the necessary expertise to develop new legislation, jurisprudence, impact litigation, and scholarship. The Center has hosted 15 fellows from six countries, many of whom have gone on to work in high-profile positions in national governments and inter-governmental organizations.

This past year, the Center welcomed the fifth cohort of Fellows: Facundo Capurro Robles is a graduate of the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina, and has spent the last ten years working in human rights through the Center for Legal and Social Studies and the Argentine Public Defender's Office. Juan Sebastian Jaime Pardo is a graduate of the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia, where he worked as a Clinical Lecturer and Senior Staff Attorney in the Gender and Disability Rights Legal Clinics; he is currently a Legal Fellow with Women Enabled International.

This past year, the Fellows supplemented their traditional coursework on disability law with project-based experiential learning through Professor Macarena Sáez' "Strategic Litigation in International Human Rights Seminar." The Fellows analyzed international litigation as a tool for advancing disability rights as human rights, conducting research on the rights of persons with disabilities in Latin America for attorneys at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. They drafted a document presenting different arguments for aligning the Inter-American Convention Against the Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Fellows also drafted the introduction for legislation aimed at protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in Colombia. After reviewing a draft bill designed to eliminate guardianship in Colombia and move towards a model of

supported decision making, the Fellows drafted an introduction to the bill in coordination with the Colombian Ministry of Justice and local disability rights advocates.

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARRIVE AT THE *BRIEF*...

Last spring, the *Human Rights Brief*, a student-run publication of the Center, unveiled a new thematic focus area dedicated to exploring disability rights as human rights. Professor Bob Dinerstein, director of the Disability Rights Law Clinic at AUWCL, worked closely with the Co-Editors-in-Chief to develop a strategy for expanding the Brief's reach to the disability rights community and to help ensure that content published uses inclusive and appropriate language when communicating about disability. Professor Dinerstein contributed an article titled "Disability Rights Arrives" to launch this endeavor.



2016-2017 Disability & Human Rights Fellows:
Juan Sebastian Jaime Pardo LL.M. '17 (left) and
Facundo Capurro Robles LL.M. '17 (right)

"I am extremely pleased to note the decision by the Human Rights Brief Co-Editors-in-Chief to add Disability Rights to the existing areas of concentration for the publication. This addition reflects the growing importance of disability rights as human rights, an importance that is reflected in the ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) but both precedes and extends beyond that enactment. This is thus a propitious time to begin a sustained focus on disability rights within a human rights context."

-- Robert Dinerstein
Professor of Law

Associate Dean for Experiential Education
Director, Disability Rights Law Clinic
American University Washington College of Law



HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Center's Human Rights in Business Program (HRIBP) aims to foster responsible business conduct and promote human rights and justice for people adversely affected by business activity around the world. The program uses the neutral platform of the university to engage stakeholders to find rights-based solutions to the impacts of business activities around the world. Core initiatives focus on a variety of issue areas, including human rights impact assessment, land use and community-driven operational grievance mechanisms, international finance regulation, and accountability for the security sector in risk environments.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In January, the HRIBP worked with leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia to convene an expert panel to discuss the release of the U.S. National Action Plan on responsible business conduct. In June, the HRIBP co-sponsored, with the IBA and ABA, an event to discuss U.S. trade associations efforts to promote human rights, sustainability, and corporate social responsibility.

ASSURE PROJECT

A core activity of this program is the Accountability for the Security Sector in Risk Environments (ASSURE) project. ASSURE seeks to foster respect for human rights by private security companies operating around the world. The Center is a founding member of the civil society pillar of the International Code of Conduct Association, a Geneva-based multi-stakeholder initiative dedicated to ensuring private security providers uphold human rights and humanitarian law standards in their operations.

HRIBP Director Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt recently published a chapter, "Transnational Business Governance through Standards and Codes of Conduct" in the Routledge Handbook of Private Security Studies, and has a chapter on "International Soft Law Initiatives" appearing this fall in an edited volume published by Springer entitled *International Law and Human Rights Violations by Private Security and Military Companies*. In April, she spoke at the annual meeting of the Montreux Document Forum in Geneva. The Forum assists States with the implementation of international legal obligations and good practices regarding the use of private military and security companies during armed conflict.

LAND USE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROJECT

The Center's Land Use Impact Assessment (LUIA) Project has convened a team of local partners to create a pilot tool to facilitate multi-stakeholder (community, government, and business) resolution of land-related disputes in Vietnam and Cambodia, rooted in inclusive community empowerment and engagement.

The centerpiece of this approach is the participatory Land Use Impact Assessment tool, which integrates existing laws, human rights norms and evidence-based approaches. The LUIA tool incorporates the best practices of those who have been able to achieve results in this extremely difficult operating space, and empowers them with a desperately needed alternative mechanism to reduce long-standing land disputes. The tool and its documentation processes have been designed to be stakeholder-led, enabling deep engagement among diverse groups throughout a process of buy-in, engagement and documentation.



Building off of momentum and relationships established through sustained and strategic stakeholder engagement over the past year, the LUIA team continues to advance its goal of creating an innovative approach to multi-stakeholder documentation and evidence-based dispute resolution through the LUIA process. Throughout this past year, LUIA project staff traveled to the region to meet with local partners, lead trainings, represent the Center at meetings with local community stakeholders, and to conduct field research.

In August 2016, former *Student Advisory Board* member and *Human Rights Brief* staffer Wilson Melbostad (J.D. '17) completed a fellowship with a public interest law firm in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, undertaken as part of the Center's Summer Human Rights Law Fellowship. Wilson had the opportunity to contribute to the LUIA Project under the supervision of local attorneys and in coordination with Center Faculty Co-Director Professor David Hunter. In addition to gaining practical experience working with foreign attorneys and providing essential legal research and writing support, the Fellowship enabled Wilson to engage in human rights field work.

Approximately 93% of the world's natural rubber is produced in Southeast Asia where global rubber production increased to 12.4 million tons in 2016 from 300,000 tons in 1961. In Cambodia and Vietnam, rubber companies and their subsidiaries are tapping the countries' vastly forested lands, carrying out forced evictions and land grabs without compensation, and destruction of indigenous communities.



Local Cambodian partner accompanies Center project staff on a site visit to affected spirit forest land in Mondulkiri Province

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AT AUWCL...

This past year, the Center hosted over 30 events, including panel discussions, workshops, seminars, expert convenings, and more, addressing issues such as the human rights implications of recent Executive Orders on Immigration, movement lawyering and its impacts on social justice, and international standards for juvenile pretrial detention.

Human Rights Reading Group: The monthly series is a pilot initiative of the Center, held in partnership with the Pence Law Library. Throughout the year, students confronted the dilemmas and issues that arise in connection with human rights, focusing on how acknowledgement of such critiques can help advocates better navigate the field with creativity and critical reflection.

Human Rights Skills Series: The Center's *Student Advisory Board* organized a series of workshops designed to introduce students

to the professional skills relevant to careers in human rights. Led by experienced practitioners in the field, the seminars allowed participants to develop sector-specific skills and competencies prioritized by today's employers.

AT AU...

AU Student Forum on Immigration: Together with AUWCL's Immigrant Justice Clinic, the Latino/a Alumni Association of AUWCL, and the AU Latino Alumni Alliance, the Center convened a teach-in on immigration law and the content and legal ramifications of President Trump's Executive Order on Immigration. AU students from all six colleges attended the forum, which also explored how participants can connect with local organizations working to protect immigrant communities in the D.C. metropolitan area.

The Human Rights Film Series, first organized in 2000 and co-sponsored with the

 <p>Celebrating Connections: A Human Rights Networking Event</p> <p>Wednesday, April 12 5:30pm-7:00pm Claudio Grossman Hall</p> <p>Refreshments & light snacks will be provided</p> <p>Join the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law for a networking event featuring human rights professionals from leading NGOs and agencies across Washington DC. WCL students interested in exploring careers in human rights will have the opportunity to speak with WCL alumni and an array of legal professionals who are currently working, or have worked, in the human rights field. This event is being planned in close coordination with the Center's Student Advisory Board.</p> <p>Featured employers will include, among others: ABA Center for Human Rights AFLA Not1 Center for Transgender Equality AAS Kids in Need of Defense Not1 Immigration Law Center The World Bank iW Corporate Accountability Roundtable CAIR Coalition</p>	 <p>Sex, Crimes and Sins: A Dialogue on Sexuality, Law and Religion in Latin America</p> <p>June 12 12:30pm-2:00pm Warren NT01</p> <p>*Refreshments will be provided*</p> <p>Join the Academy on Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies and the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law for the launch of <i>Sex, Crimes and Sins: A Dialogue on Sexuality, Law and Religion in Latin America</i>. This edited Spanish language volume brings together insights of academics and advocates, many of whom are currently at the forefront of impact litigation across Latin America concerned with the rights of LGBT people and women's reproductive rights. This book offers timely clarity about how the law and particular rights with respect to gender and sexual identity are currently being interpreted, contested, and sometimes transformed, by social justice and religious parties to such conflicts.</p> <p>Amelites include: Rob Ables, Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, AU Rebecca Cook, Professor of Law Emerita, University of Toronto Monika Raa, Independent Consultant Macarena Saez, Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, WCL</p>	 <p>HUMAN RIGHTS 101</p> <p>Thursday, September 22nd 12:00-1:30pm Warren, N101</p> <p>Refreshments will be provided!</p> <p>What are human rights? How do I become part of the human rights community at the WCL?</p> <p>The Center's Student Advisory Board is organizing the third annual Human Rights 101 – an intensive "crash course" in human rights including an introductory lecture featuring Professor Macarena Saez and the opportunity to learn more about human rights opportunities at WCL from current Student Advisory Board members.</p>	 <p>The U.S. National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct: Initial Reflections on the Way Here and the Road Ahead</p> <p>Thursday, January 12 9:00am-12:00pm Claudio Grossman Hall</p> <p>American University Washington College of Law 4300 Nebraska Ave., NW Breakfast/Registration 8:30am-9:00am</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public For more info, visit: https://www.wcl.american.edu/tech/register</p> <p>The U.S. government released its first National Action Plan (NAP) to promote responsible business conduct domestically and overseas. With a new administration taking office, now is a crucial time to take stock of the NAP and the U.S. government's plans to fulfill its obligations to ensure that economic actors respect the human rights of individuals and communities affected by business activities.</p> <p>This multi-stakeholder discussion will bring together speakers who will offer their insights and expertise on a number of questions regarding the NAP development process, its outcomes, and next steps to implement the plan.</p>	 <p>Welcome Reception for Incoming Students</p> <p>Wednesday, August 17th 2:30pm-4:00pm Capital Atrium</p> <p>Refreshments will be served!</p> <p>Join the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law for a Welcome Reception for incoming students! Meet faculty, staff, and fellow students interested and involved in human rights and humanitarian law at WCL. Participating programs and offices include: Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law The Human Rights Brief Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Women and the Law Program International Legal Studies War Crimes Research Office International Human Rights Law Clinic Office of Public Interest and many more...</p>
<p>FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: www.WCLCenterforHR.org</p> <p>AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMANITARIAN LAW 4300 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20035 Tel: 202-274-4180 Email: humrhw@wcl.american.edu</p>	<p>FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: www.WCLCenterforHR.org</p> <p>AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMANITARIAN LAW 4300 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20035 Tel: 202-274-4180 Email: humrhw@wcl.american.edu</p>	<p>FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: www.WCLCenterforHR.org</p> <p>CONTACT: Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law 4300 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20035 Tel: 202-274-4180 humrhw@wcl.american.edu www.WCLCenterforHR.org</p>	<p>FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: www.WCLCenterforHR.org</p> <p>CONTACT: Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law 4300 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20035 Tel: 202-274-4180 Email: humrhw@wcl.american.edu</p>	<p>FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: www.WCLCenterforHR.org</p> <p>CONTACT: Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law 4300 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20035 Tel: 202-274-4180 Email: humrhw@wcl.american.edu</p>

American University Center for Media and Social Impact (CMSI), showcases the power of film to educate and advocate about human rights. The 2016 Series featured “Fly by Night,” “Stand With Congo,” “Enemies of the People,” and films from the Center for Media and Social Impact’s Community Voice Project, an initiative designed to empower and document the voices of the people and communities of Washington, D.C.

...AND AROUND THE WORLD

Community Engagement with Thurgood

Marshall Academy: This past spring, Center staff and members from the *Student Advisory Board* served as judges for Thurgood Marshall Academy’s annual moot court competition. The local high school students researched and wrote sections of an appellate brief, and presented oral arguments on the legality of a drug testing policy. Center staff and students observed the presentations and provided feedback, as well as perspectives about working in human rights and international law. Center staff also served as guest lecturers for an upper-level honors class, leading interactive lessons on contemporary human rights issues, such as the rights of migrants.

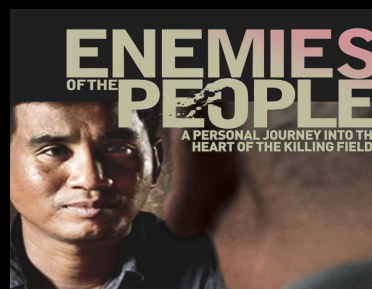
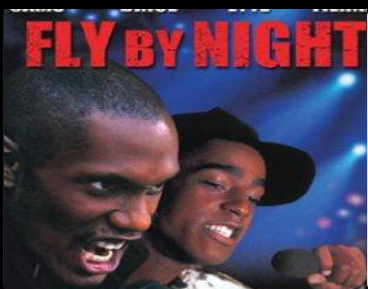
Congressional Human Rights Summer Se-

ries: The Center, in cooperation with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, hosted a series of briefings on selected

human rights topics for Congressional staff and summer interns on Capitol Hill. Featured speakers included Professors Macarena Sáez, Robert Goldman, and Diane Orentlicher.

Latin American Initiative on Justice, Gender, and Sexuality: Last spring, the Center received funding from the Ford Foundation to continue its work through the Latin American Initiative on Justice, Gender, and Sexuality. The project seeks to: (1) expand and strengthen the work of the Latin American Scholars Network (ALAS Network) in the areas of reproductive rights, and gender issues related to transitional justice; (2) increase the knowledge of sexual and reproductive rights as human rights, and of gender and sexual violence among law professors and activists; and (3) mainstream the role of gender and sexuality in issues of transitional justice in Latin America.

In 2016, the ALAS Network grew its membership by 64% and introduced a new focus on transitional justice. The Network continued to serve civil society, governments, and academia as a resource for teaching materials and workshops related to reproductive rights, sexuality, and gender, and produced new educational videos and resources available to everyone with an internet connection, including a course on the contemporary reproductive rights in Chile.



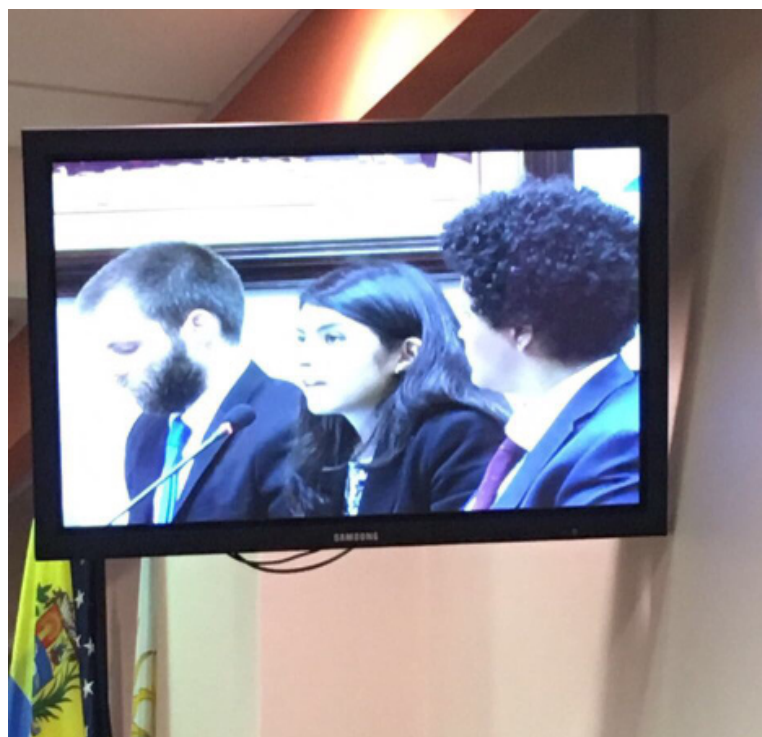
IMPACT LITIGATION

OVERVIEW

The Center's Impact Litigation Program aims to promote and strengthen the rule of law and democracy around the world. Through the Seminar on Strategic Litigation in International Human Rights, AUWCL students have the opportunity to collaborate on supervised cases with the potential to achieve broad and resounding impact on public policy and legislation. In addition to documenting human rights violations, this initiative seeks to promote government accountability, expand public education and awareness, and provide a foundation for future litigation that helps defend and safeguard human rights around the world.

IMPACT LITIGATION PROJECT

The Impact Litigation Project (ILP) is an experiential education initiative that promotes and strengthens the rule of law and democracy around the world. During AY 2016-2017, the Project worked with approximately 30 J.D. and LL.M students on a variety of human rights issues. On May 16, the ILP participated in a special public hearing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San Jose, Costa Rica. Three AUWCL students, Facundo Capurro Robles, Natalia Gomez Peña, and Whitney Washington



ILP students Facundo Capurro (LL.M. '17), Natalia Gomez Peña (LL.M. '17), Whitney Washington (J.D. '17), participating in a special public hearing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

presented arguments on international law requirements regarding a potential statute on change of legal name according to gender identity. Costa Rica had requested an Advisory Opinion from the Court on the protections under the American Convention on Human Rights --

specifically articles 11(2), 18 and 24 in relation to article 1 -- for state recognition of a change in name based on a person's preferred gender identity. Several AUWCL students worked on the ILP's legal brief.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

During the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters, students worked on the following projects:

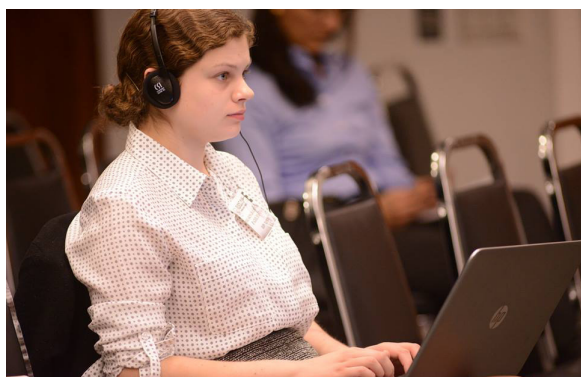
- Amicus Brief against the death penalty, submitted before the Constitutional Court of Guatemala;
- Amicus Brief on gender stereotypes and profiling of sex workers in Colombia, submitted before a Court of Appeals in Colombia;
- Legal Opinion on Inter-American Human Rights standards on gender identity applicable to the regulation of change of legal name in birth certificates and identity cards submitted before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
- Oral arguments before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights during a hearing on the Advisory Opinion on Inter-American Human Rights standards on gender identity applicable to the regulation of change of legal name in birth certificates and identity cards;
- Amicus Brief on international human rights standards applicable to the regulation of abortion, submitted before the Constitutional Court of Chile;
- Legal Brief on alternatives to pretrial detention submitted to the Inter-American
- Drafting of an introduction for a bill on Disability Rights in Colombia;
- FOIA request to different U.S. government offices on the treatment of undocumented migrant children in detention who reach the age of 18 while in detention;
- Draft of a report for the United Nations on the public health and labor problem of chronic kidney disease in workers of the sugarcane industry in Nicaragua;
- Litigation support to legal counsels on a case of LGBTI rights in a country in the Caribbean;
- Analysis of the jurisprudence of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions;
- Legal analysis of options for legalization of sex work in Latin America;
- Research for the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights on the rights of people with disabilities in Latin America;
- Litigation support for a case on due process before the Inter-American system of Human Rights against Panama;

"The opportunity to testify at the Inter-American Court was one that I could never have imagined I would have, ever, let alone while still in law school. It was a truly invigorating experience; it reminded me why I went to law school, and why I will continue doing the work I am doing."

-- Whitney Washington, J.D. '17

HOW WE'VE ENGAGED OUR STUDENTS

The Center is dedicated to the continuing education and empowerment of its student body in the area of human rights and humanitarian law. We offer many exciting ways for students to get involved, starting from year one. In addition to research opportunities with several of the Center's core initiatives, students can join the Center's Student Advisory Board, publish articles in the *Human Rights Brief*, or apply for one of the Center's several fellowship opportunities.



37

Human Rights Brief Staffers



14

Research Assistants



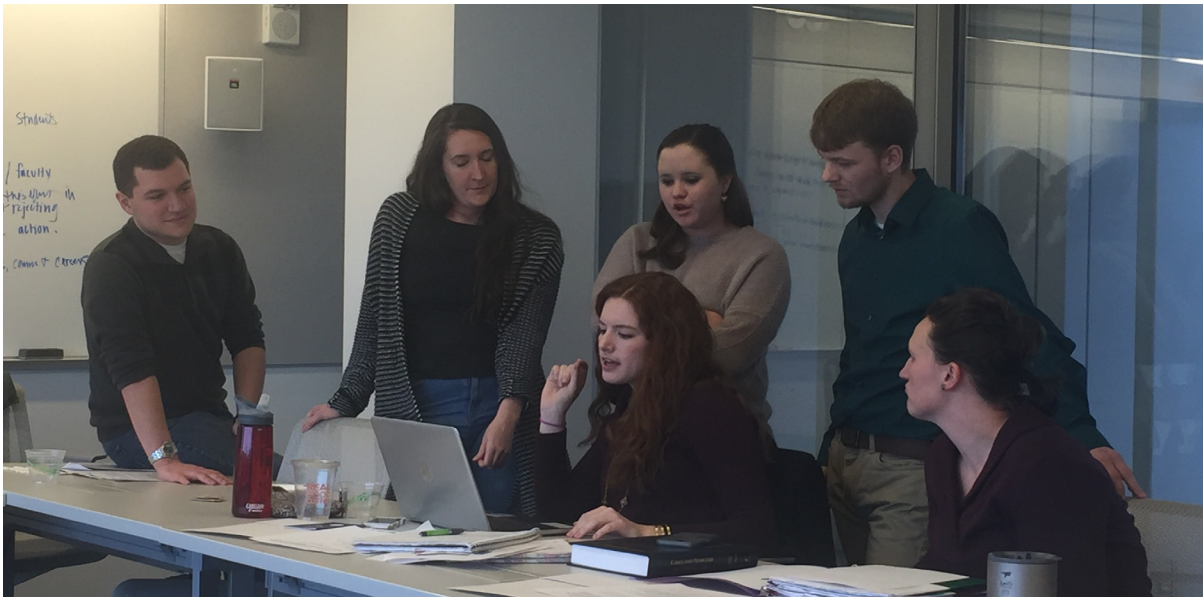
5

Sponsored Fellowships



6

Student Advisory Board Members



2016-2017 Student Advisory Board (from l to r Billy Vazquez J.D. '19, Chelsea Lalancette J.D. '19, Ali Boyd J.D. '19, Todd Hull J.D. '19, Audrey Mulholland J.D. '19, Alice Browning J.D. '19)

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Center welcomed its fourteenth Student Advisory Board (SAB) in February 2017. The SAB is a group of creative students who are committed to human rights advocacy. The SAB provides students with the opportunity to participate in the planning of Center programming, and to learn tangible skills for effective advocacy.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS BRIEF

A student-run publication of the Center, the *Brief* provides concise legal analysis of cutting edge human rights issues. This past year, the Brief included 17 senior staffers and 20 junior staffers who recently unveiled a new section dedicated to exploring disability rights as human rights.

INTERN FROM SCIENCE PO

This year, the Center partnered with Science Po in Paris, France to launch an internship program for Science Po undergraduates at AUWCL. This year, the Center hosted *Francisca Corona Ravest* who conducted a comparative analysis of the role of human rights centers and programs in law schools around the world.

SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS

The Disability & Human Rights Fellows Program, sponsored by the Open Society Foundations (OSF), brings attorneys from various parts of the world to AUWCL to engage in a specialized course of study focused on disability and human rights. *2016-2017 Fellows: Facundo Capurro Robles, Juan Sebastian Jaime Pardo*

The Herman Schwartz Israel Human Rights Law Fellowship, jointly sponsored by the New Israel Fund, offers Israeli lawyers (both Palestinian and Jewish) a two-year academic and professional experience, through LL.M. study at AUWCL and a one-year-paid placement in a human rights NGO in Israel. *2016-2017 Fellows: Yasmin Mansour, Shimri Segal*

The Summer Human Rights Law Fellowship offers students the opportunity to conduct in-country fieldwork, and enhance research and writing skills, through one of the Center's many grant-funded initiatives. This year's fellow was placed in a public interest law firm in Cambodia where he supported the LUIA Project. *2016 Fellow: Wilson Melbostad*

Professor Macarena Sáez joins Impact Litigation Project students Natalia Gomez Pena, Whitney Washington, and Facundo Capurro after their presentation before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

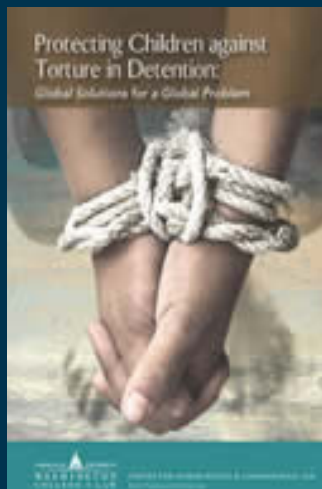


2016-2017 PUBLICATIONS

The Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law produces reports, policy papers, scholarly articles, books, and other publications, including the student-run online resource the *Human Rights Brief*, which policymakers, advocates, international aid organizations, legal practitioners, and others use to help inform decisions on issues of international human rights and humanitarian law.

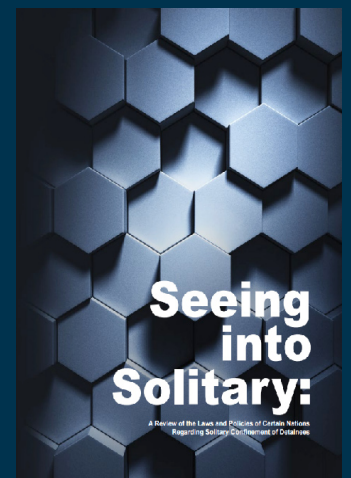
Protecting Children against Torture in Detention: Global Solutions for a Global Problem

This edited volume brings together contributions by more than 30 international children's rights experts. The diverse perspectives offered by our authors, paired with the former Special Rapporteur on Torture's report, provide innovative solutions to an all-too-common reality faced by children deprived of liberty around the world.



Seeing into Solitary: A Review of the Laws and Policies of Certain Nations Regarding Solitary Confinement Detainees

The study is the first comprehensive study of solitary confinement laws, policies, regulations, and practices in a number of jurisdictions around the world and constitutes a groundbreaking contribution in the field, and one that constitutes an important resource to authorities and authorities working to curb the overuse of solitary confinement in their jurisdictions.



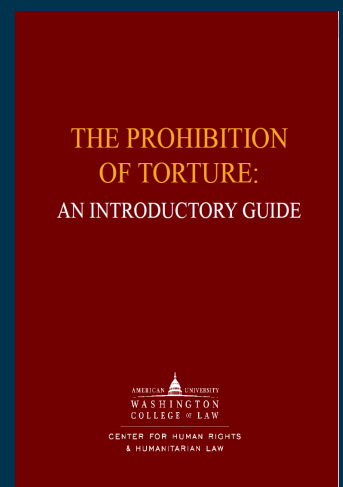
The Human Rights Brief

A student-run publication of the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, the Brief reports on developments in international human rights and humanitarian law and provides concise legal analysis of cutting edge human rights issues.



The Prohibition of Torture: AUWCL's Contributions to a Global Struggle

This publication introduces the international legal framework against torture and the key roles that initiatives at American University Washington College of Law play in its development and enforcement.



THE CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

72 collaborative partners • **3** new publications • **26** countries • **37** Human Rights Brief staffers • **14** Research Assistants • **6** Student Advisory Board members • **5** sponsored fellows • **36** students enrolled in **3** seminars • **7** interns & volunteers • **+30** events • **4** foundation grants and **9** gifts totaling **\$893,015** • **1,848** Twitter followers • **4,329** likes on Facebook • **1,579** newsletter subscribers

2016-2017 GRANTS & GIFTS

\$638,902
in new
grants

\$254,113
in gifts &
individual
donations

The Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law extends its deepest gratitude to the individual donors and institutional funders who have supported our work over the past year. Your generosity and commitment make it possible for the Center to advance its mission and vision, to promote human rights through teaching, scholarship, and service.



Our Team

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