

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE OF LAW

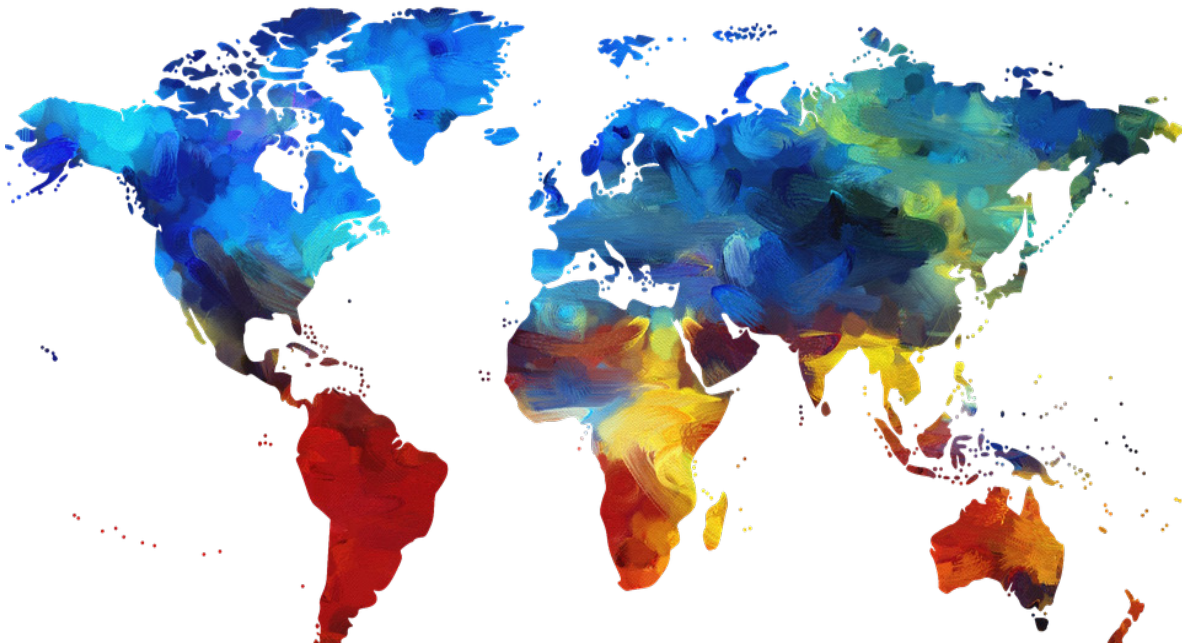


**Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law
Annual Report 2018-2019**

2018-2019 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 almost 30 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, conferences, research and publications. All Center programming promotes the value of service, thereby grounding the Center as a core resource for the NGO community and a bridge between academia and civil society.



+75 partners / \$1,947,212 in new grants & gifts / 23 legal interventions

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH TEACHING, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SERVICE

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Message from Dean Camille A. Nelson

I am honored to present the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law's 2018-2019 Annual Report. The work you will read about in this Report highlights the incredible ways the Center's committed faculty, staff, and extensive network of students and alumni have come together to address the many challenges and obstacles to human rights over the past year. As the Center reflects and looks to the university's vision and mission to keep its work focused and effective, it has—through it all—maintained its standing as a leader in the international human rights field.



The Center's activities represent best practices for long-term, sustainable work that make lasting impact in people's lives in the U.S. and around the world. The Center's experiences over the past year working on issues related to access to justice, anti-torture, disability rights, business, and education have been some of the most rewarding for our law school community. Through its access to justice and disability programs, the Center worked boldly and strategically to transform legal and policy standards and norms, while making its locally driven approaches to human rights available to marginalized and other vulnerable populations around the world. Through its anti-torture, business, and education programs, the Center increased the number of its strategic partnerships with national governments, United Nations agencies, and other civil society organizations, while ensuring that the voices of local beneficiaries were heard in community, national, and international discussions. Through all these endeavors, the Center prioritized the creation of invaluable research and learning opportunities for our students to advance their lawyering skills and support its tireless engagement in key and cutting-edge areas of law.

The Center's success is the university's success. With the ongoing support of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, I believe the Center is ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead in 2019-2020. As an educator and activist, I look forward sharing these accomplishments with you as we continue to work towards realizing our shared vision of a world in which human rights and the rule of law are respected, protected, and defended. Together, we are a powerful force for change.

Camille A. Nelson
Dean and Professor of Law

Message from Faculty Director Macarena Sáez

It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law. This year, we worked with students and partners to implement new ideas in different areas of human rights, using advocacy, litigation, and scholarship to improve the conditions of individuals and communities locally and internationally. It remains our mission to cultivate the next generation of human rights attorneys committed to equality, justice, and the rule of law who are able to think critically and understand that human rights violations occur in every corner of the world, including our own.

This year, we launched the Project on Transgender Incarcerated Survivors, which seeks to support transgender and gender nonconforming individuals in custody in the United States. Regionally, we contributed to the strengthening and promotion of a transparent and inclusive, Inter-American Human Rights System. We expanded our global reach, working locally and with other key programs at AUWCL to launch a groundbreaking initiative to combat sexual and gender-based violence in Syria. We collaborated with the University of Pretoria to examine the responsibility of central banks to consider human rights standards in their decision-making processes. We have done all this while continuing to create unique student opportunities through our work on anti-torture, access to justice, disability rights, and business. Our Student Advisory Board welcomed a cohort of enthusiastic first year law students who bring new ideas and energy to the Center, and our *Human Rights Brief* grew to its largest staff ever of students writing and editing relevant and timely pieces.

We have been able to accomplish this, and much more, thanks to the work of our faculty and staff, the energy and commitment of our great students, and the enduring professional relationships we have fostered with partners around the world. Our work is possible thanks to donors and organizations who believe in us and who know that we deliver results. It is this great combination that makes our Center's accomplishments possible, and it is my honor to be part of this incredible community.

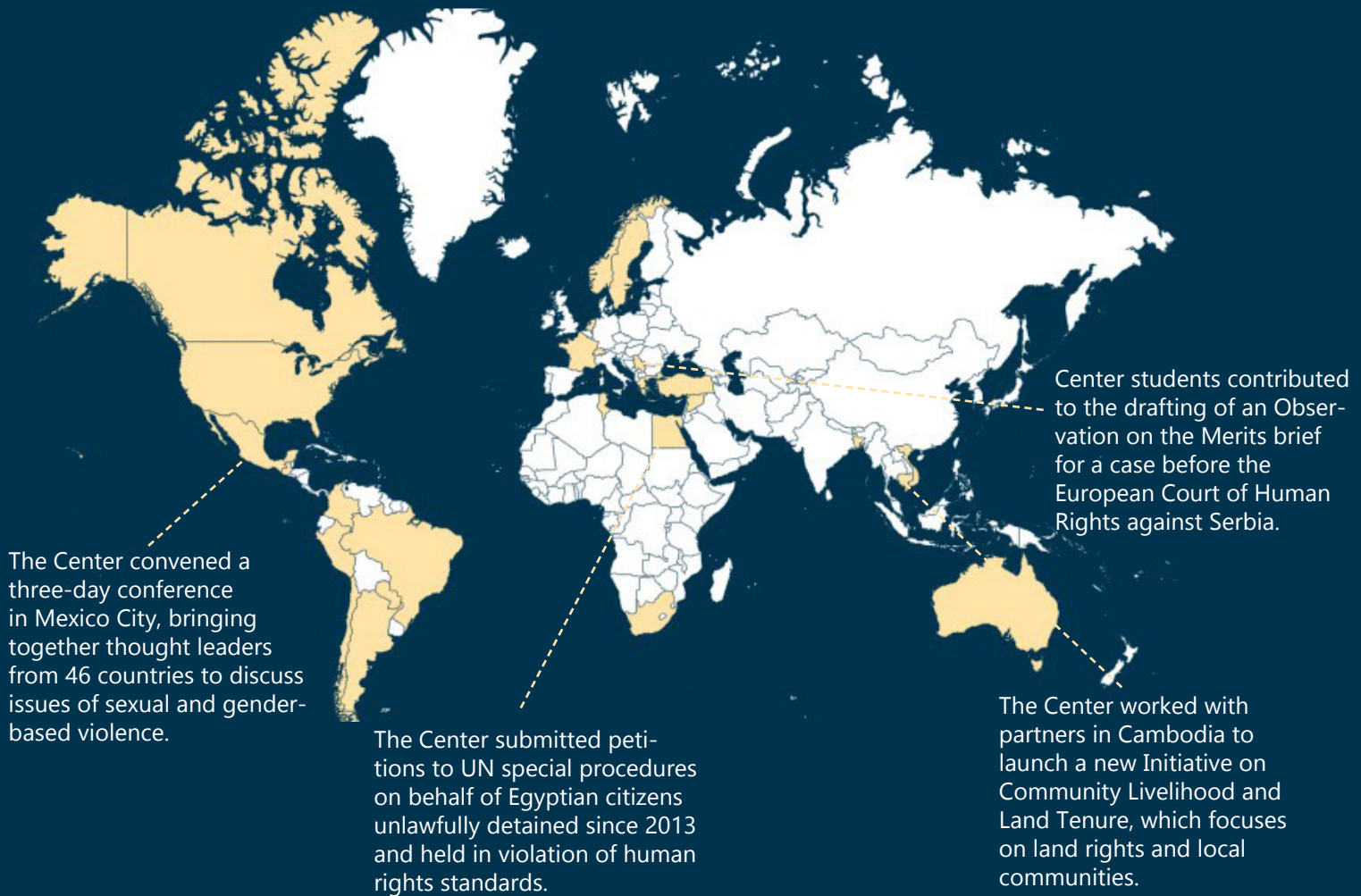
Macarena Sáez
Faculty Director, Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law



The Center's student team wins top negotiation prize at the Day in Crisis Moot Court Competition in Paris, organized by the Université Paris Nanterre



Where We've Achieved Impact: *The Highlights*



The Center convened a three-day conference in Mexico City, bringing together thought leaders from 46 countries to discuss issues of sexual and gender-based violence.

The Center submitted petitions to UN special procedures on behalf of Egyptian citizens unlawfully detained since 2013 and held in violation of human rights standards.

Center students contributed to the drafting of an Observation on the Merits brief for a case before the European Court of Human Rights against Serbia.

The Center worked with partners in Cambodia to launch a new Initiative on Community Livelihood and Land Tenure, which focuses on land rights and local communities.

Where We've Worked

Argentina • Australia • Bangladesh •
Brazil • Cambodia • Canada •
Chile • Colombia • Egypt •
France • Greece • Guatemala •
Maldives • Mexico • Nauru •
Netherlands • Norway • Paraguay •
Peru • Serbia • South Africa •
Sweden • Switzerland • Syria •
Tunisia • Turkey •
United States • Vietnam

Join Our Community



[/WCLCenterForHumanRights](#)

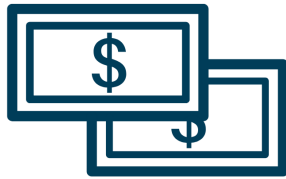


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THE CENTER BY THE NUMBERS



\$1,947,212

in new grants, gifts, and individual donations for AY 2018-2019

23 Legal Interventions

including petitions, shadow reports, amicus briefs, urgent actions, etc.



27 students enrolled in

2 specialized seminars



19 Research Assistants

supported by Center projects and programs

In 2018-2019, the *Human Rights Brief* had

45

senior staff writers and editors, and junior staff members.

5 first-year law students selected to join the

16th Student Advisory Board

+75



collaborative partners and organizations

Across our social media platforms, the Center has **6,577** Facebook followers,

2,410 Twitter followers, and **1,376** Listserv subscribers

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, including:

- Blum-Kovler Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Institute of International Education
- Little Mendelson P.C.
- Marine Corps University
- Ms. Kelsey Lee Offield
- OAK Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Uber Technologies, Inc.
- United States Government

ACCESS TO JUSTICE



OVERVIEW

The Center's Access to Justice Program aims to enhance and promote access to justice around the world through strengthening human rights frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels, while working with local partners to empower marginalized individuals and communities to assert their basic human rights. The Program's initiatives support diverse organizations, activists, academics, and students worldwide.

IMPACT LITIGATION PROJECT

The Center's Impact Litigation Project (ILP) 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 lasting impact on public policy and legislation. In addition to documenting human rights violations, this project 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.

During AY 2018-2019, the Project worked with approximately 20 J.D. and LL.M. students, Humphrey Fellows, and visiting scholars on a variety of human rights issues.

- Students supported litigation efforts related to Australia's offshore detention facilities for asylum and refugee seekers in Nauru by completing a mapping project analyzing the best fora to bring claims and strongest pathways for advocacy.
- Students provided legal support to several non-profit organizations operating in the Middle East and North Africa that are being targeted under U.S. material support

laws for delivering humanitarian aid.

- Students analyzed Opinions adopted by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to track and assess the impact of Opinions on the release of arbitrarily detained individuals and related trends.
- The ILP, in partnership with the Center's Anti-Torture Initiative, submitted petitions to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Health, advocating for the immediate release of two Egyptian nationals and calling for Egyptian authorities to take immediate and effective measures to end violations to their human rights.
- ILP students drafted and submitted an Observation on the Merits brief for a case before the European Court of Human Rights Against Serbia.

INITIATIVE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ELECTION MONITORING

The Initiative on Transparency and Election Monitoring seeks to strengthen the standards, transparency, and engagement of civil society in the election of judges and commissioners in the Inter-American Human Rights System. The Initiative advances efforts to improve the nomination and elections process of commissioners and judges, and strengthens the ability of these institutions to promote and protect peoples' rights by supporting Independent Panels for the Election of Inter-American Human Rights Commissioners and Judges.

Since 2015, as part of an ongoing effort to increase the transparency and visibility of the nomination and elections process for regional human rights commissioners and judges, the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF),

Expert panelists Judith Schönsteiner, Catalina Botero, and Carlos Ayala (l to r) present findings from their final report in Washington, D.C.



and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) have convened an independent panel of experts to evaluate the qualifications of candidates to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

In 2018, the Center joined this Initiative by serving as the Secretariat to the Independent Panel—a role that the Center reprised in 2019. The Secretariat ensures the independence of the Panel, by working with its members to gather information about the nomination and selection processes, interview the candidates, and issue a final report with its findings. The Independent Panel of Experts was comprised of the following distinguished professionals and scholars: Marieclaire Acosta (Mexico), Carlos Ayala (Venezuela), Catalina Botero (Colombia), Juan E. Mendez (United States), and Judith Schönsteiner (Chile).

- The Panel of Experts issued its final report assessing the nomination and selection processes and the qualifications of candidates to the IACHR on June. 27, 2019.

- In early June, the Center presented the report at a private diplomatic briefing with representatives to the OAS.
- The Center also held a public panel discussion in Washington, D.C. where Panel members presented their findings and methodologies to over 75 attendees.

PROJECT ON CENTRAL BANKS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Center's Project on Central Banks and Human Rights seeks to stimulate debate and research about the human rights responsibilities of central banks. Implemented in partnership with the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights under the leadership of Professor Danny Bradlow, the Project organized a convening of experts to discuss how the human rights responsibilities of central banks relate to their monetary, lender of last resort, regulatory, and financial stability functions. The Project is planning to organize a one-day expert workshop next year where invitees from various fields related to bank-

ing, finance, and social and economic rights will explore, in more detail, this groundbreaking new area of study.

PROJECT FOR TRANSGENDER INCARCERATED SURVIVORS

The Project for Transgender Incarcerated Survivors (PTIS) is the only direct services program in the nation aimed at addressing increased vulnerability to sexual assault and the specialized medical needs of transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) individuals in custody. The Project for Transgender Incarcerated Survivors empowers incarcerated transgender individuals by filing grievances against long-standing institutions; monitoring and tracking grievance processes; reporting and prosecuting cases of sexual assault committed during institutionalization; and providing personal support to clients during the grievance process. Currently, PTIS is the only project nationwide that takes direct self-referrals from TGNC incarcerated individuals located in any state across the U.S.

- Since October, the Project has worked with over 60 individuals in prisons in 16 states. Staff have sent advocacy letters to prisons on behalf of individuals and have begun working with local community organizations and attorneys to ensure that the people the Project works with are getting the assistance they need.
- The Project has also conducted five trainings, including one for the Washington Bar Association, and another for the DC LGBT Bar Association. In addition to these trainings, the Project's manager, Equal Justice Works Fellow Whit Washington (J.D. '17), was named to the inaugural cohort of 40 Under 40: Queer Women of Washington, D.C. by the Washington Blade.

SYRIAN INITIATIVE TO COMBAT SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Syrian Initiative to Combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (Initiative) is a collaborative project of Syrian civil society organizations and American University, which aims to reduce stigmatization around SGBV, provide psychosocial support to survivors and their communities, strengthen engagement and collaboration among civil society organizations, improve the quality of pre-existing SGBV documentation, and enhance justice and accountability efforts within Syria and in neighboring countries. Launched in October 2018 and directed by Deyaa Alrwishdi (LL.M. '17), the Initiative involves key law school faculty and staff from the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, the Program on International and Comparative Legal Studies, and the War Crimes Research Office. Objectives of the Initiative include:

- Targeted awareness raising campaigns and training a team of local advocates on new advocacy and rhetorical techniques to promote understanding of SGBV issues in their respective communities.
- Development of guidelines and complementary in-person and online trainings addressing a variety of legal disciplines, including best documentation practices and strategic engagement with UN and other international justice mechanisms.
- A manual to support the psychosocial well-being of service providers assisting SGBV survivors.
- Creation of a space in which SGBV service providers can work collaboratively to address SGBV issues at national and international levels.

Center program coordinator and doctoral candidate in anthropology Anastasia Fagan participates in an interview with Syria TV in Turkey to discuss her research with the Syrian Initiative to Combat Sexual and Gender-based Violence





ANTI-TORTURE

OVERVIEW

The Center's Anti-Torture Program works to combat and prevent torture and ill-treatment by engaging civil society and academia in discussions 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 ill-treatment.

ANTI-TORTURE INITIATIVE

The Anti-Torture Initiative (ATI) engages in strategic research and advocacy, and supports targeted training and litigation efforts, to fight and prevent torture worldwide. The ATI supports the development of norms, promoting the implementation of reforms and best practices in different jurisdictions, including providing expert testimony and amicus curiae briefs in the U.S., Canada, U.K., and the Inter-American Human Rights System. It also engages in strategic advocacy around thematic issues not traditionally encompassed by the torture and ill-treatment framework, such as abuses in healthcare settings or the treatment of women, LGBTI persons, and gender non-conforming individuals and children.

The ATI was originally 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 2011, the ATI has implemented activities in dozens of countries—Brazil, Ghana, and Tunisia, among others—working on key issues, including the development of a universal protocol on non-coercive interviewing and attendant legal safeguards; gender perspectives on torture; implementation of the Istanbul Protocol; and solitary confinement.

- In addition to its work updating the Istanbul Protocol, the ATI continued to develop the Universal Protocol for Investigative Interviewing and Associated Safeguards, in collaboration with its institutional partners: the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. The coordination group held a series of meetings in Tunisia, Switzerland, and Norway with the Steering Committee and Drafting Group to further the drafting of the Protocol's text.
- The ATI organized a high-level side event at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York that featured the participation of the UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Chair of the UN Committee against Torture, and the Chair of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.
- The ATI and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute co-sponsored training activities in Brazil, Mexico, and Paraguay to increase the capacity of key civil society and governmental actors to effectively use and implement the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- In collaboration with AUWCL's International Human Rights Law Clinic and the AUWCL Student Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, the ATI organized a symposium on solitary confinement in the United States. The half-day event included presentations by representatives from human rights organizations, prisoners' rights groups, and former corrections officials, as well as Clinic students.

Dr. Jens Modvig (c), Committee Chairperson of the UN CAT, with KPAT students at Palais Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland



KOVLER PROJECT AGAINST TORTURE

Currently in its 16th year, the Kovler Project Against Torture (KPAT) is a unique experiential learning opportunity where students are responsible for providing strategic advice to the United Nations Committee against Torture (UN CAT) on whether countries are in compliance with the extensive obligations outlined in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Established in 2003 by Professor and Dean Emeritus Claudio Grossman (former member and chair of the UN CAT), the practicum's overarching educational goal is to provide students with the opportunity to assist an important supervisory organ of the UN in its goal of implementing the prohibition of torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment. Kovler students attend the first week of the Committee Against Torture sessions in Geneva, Switzerland each November.

This year:

- Ten Kovler Student Scholars provided legal support to the Committee against Torture, including Committee Chairperson and AUWCL guest lecturer Dr. Jens Modvig, and Committee against Torture Member and Co-Director of WCL's Academy of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Professor Diego Rodriguez-Pinzon.
- Students provided research on potential areas of non-compliance with the Convention against Torture in anticipation of States' appearances before the Committee at the 65th Session, including the Netherlands, Maldives, Viet Nam, Canada, Peru, and Guatemala.
- The Kovler Project Against Torture's annual alumni dinner, held in Geneva, brought together program alumni living and working in Geneva, as well as Project friends, including UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and former President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, and others.

ATI assistant project director Vanessa Drummond (r) leads side-event on the Universal Protocol for Investigative Interviewing and Associated Safeguards at the UN General Assembly in New York



A photograph of a person in a wheelchair on a paved path. The person is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. They are positioned on a paved surface made of reddish-brown bricks. In the background, there are concrete steps leading up a slight incline. The scene is outdoors, with trees and a building visible in the distance. The entire image has a reddish-brown color overlay.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

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 inclusive 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 and international organizations, the Center works to increase implementation and adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

This summer, Professor Macarena Sáez reconnected with several Disability & Human Rights Fellowship alumni who are currently based in Geneva, Switzerland including Facundo Chavez Penillas (LL.M. '13), Juan Sebastian Jaime Pardo (LL.M.'17), and Juan Ignacio Perez Bello (LL.M. '13). These alumni, among others, have gone on to participate in and spearhead initiatives, projects, and organizations that are working to make communities more equal and inclusive, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Sexual Rights Initiative, and the International Disability Alliance.

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 seventh year, brings attorneys from various parts of the world to AUWCL to engage in a spe-

cialized course of study focused on disability and human rights. The program provides disability rights advocates with the necessary expertise to develop new legislation, jurisprudence, impact litigation, and scholarship. The Center has hosted 18 fellows from seven countries, many of whom now work in high-profile positions in national governments and inter-governmental organizations.

The Center welcomed this year's Fellow, Peruvian attorney and disability rights advocate, Renato Constantino. Mr. Constantino previously worked as an attorney at the Disability Rights Legal Clinic at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. In this position, he conducted strategic litigation regarding accessibility and social security. He served as a legal adviser for the Mesa de Discapacidad y Derechos at the Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, one of the largest coalitions of disability rights organizations. He also led the development of the Civil Society Report on Peru for the UN CRPD Committee.

During his time at AUWCL, Mr. Constantino was a student in the Center's Seminar on Strategic Litigation and International Human Rights. Through this class, he worked closely with expert faculty and other students to submit a report to the Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities analyzing the draft text of The Hague Adult Protection Convention in light of the CRPD. In the spring, he submitted a report to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights analyzing the recommendations on disability issues found in the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Council of Human Rights. Upon graduating with an LL.M. degree at the end of his fellowship year, Mr. Constantino returned to Peru where he will continue to advocate for inclusive education, accessibility, and legal capacity reform for people with disabilities.

The background image shows a landscape where a forest has been cleared. In the foreground, there is a large pile of cut logs and debris, including a prominent log with a thick, curved bark. The ground is covered in a layer of dry leaves and twigs. In the background, a dense forest of tall, thin trees stands against a clear sky. The overall scene suggests a conflict between natural resources and industrial or agricultural development.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

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, international finance regulation, and responsible conduct of private security service providers.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE SECURITY SECTOR IN RISK ENVIRONMENTS PROJECT

The Accountability for the Security Sector in Risk Environments Project (ASSURE) seeks to foster respect for human rights by private security companies operating around the world through strategic engagement with industry leaders and key stakeholders in government, civil society, and academia. ASSURE's objectives are to contribute to the development of industry standards; to raise awareness about industry standards and best practices; to improve companies' ability to adhere to standards and uphold human rights in their operations; and to conduct and disseminate policy and business relevant research on the private security industry.

The Center is an active member of the International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA), a Geneva-based multi-stakeholder initiative dedicated to ensuring private security providers respect human rights and humanitarian law. As a founding member of the ICoCA's civil society pillar, the Center participates in association activities and efforts to expand pillar membership.

NETWORKED EXPERTISE IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The project connects thought leaders and practitioners in the fields of natural and social sciences, business, human rights, and law to create a network to foster the gathering, sharing, and use of information necessary to facilitate the corporate responsibility to respect human rights. The goal of the project is to make multinational business a force for positive development and human rights protection worldwide through promotion of corporate Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIA). This includes generating and promoting consensus on HRIA methodological standardization and good practices; sharing information on HRIA via a web-based portal; fostering a multidisciplinary network of experts on HRIA; and sharing knowledge and educate experts in related disciplines, areas of practice, and fields of impact assessment on HRIA.

Last fall, the Project held a series of focus group webinars with legal practitioners, impact assessment experts and consultants, academics and governments, civil society, and corporate representatives to identify challenges and opportunities for incorporating human rights considerations into environmental, social and health impact assessments or enterprise risk management processes.

Last spring, Dr. Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt, pro bono director of the Human Rights and Business Program, participated in the International Association for Impact Assessment annual conference and the Danish Institute for Human Rights HRIA practitioner workshop. She also co-authored the forthcoming chapter, "The Need for a Multi-disciplinary Team: Learning and Collaboration Across Fields of Impact Assessment," in the Research Handbook on Human Rights Impact Assessment.



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

OVERVIEW

The Center's Human Rights Education Program is dedicated to promoting widespread understanding of human rights through teaching, service, and learning beyond the standard law school curriculum. Our on-campus activities support student learning of human rights issues, including a host of community service activities, expert panel discussions, specialized seminars, and workshops. Our off-campus programming and community engagement activities focus on initiatives with an array of partners in the DC metro area, across the US, and in countries around the world.

HIGHLIGHTS ON CAMPUS

This past year, the Center hosted a variety of events addressing pressing human rights issues, including panel discussions, workshops, seminars, and expert convenings. Highlights include:

- *Syrian Property Restitution and Law 10*: This roundtable discussion brought together leaders from Syrian civil society and legal experts from AUWCL to discuss the implications of recent property law developments in Syria with respect to refugee rights, women's rights, international humanitarian law, and transitional justice. Participants also examined policy solutions that would lay the groundwork for a just and equitable property restitution program.
- *Hasta La Raíz: A Documentary Film Screening*: This film screening and panel discussion focused on the denationalization of Dominicans of Haitian descent. Following the screening, the film's director joined AUWCL experts to discuss issues of statelessness, human rights, race and nationality.

- *Human Rights Networking Event*: The Center hosted its fourth annual human rights networking event featuring professionals from leading NGOs and agencies across Washington, D.C. Students interested in exploring careers in human rights connected with AUWCL alumni and met with legal professionals who are currently working, or have worked, in the human rights field.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Last fall, the Center convened a three-day conference in Mexico City to discuss innovative approaches to eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, "Global Transformation towards Gender Equality and Agenda 2030," which included the participation of 46 scholars, activists, and government officers from 25 different countries around the world. The conference was a joint endeavor of the Center, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Sweden), the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria Law School (South Africa), and the Network of Latin American Scholars on Gender, Sexuality and the Law ALAS.

The conference was funded by the partner institutions and through a grant from the Ford Foundation. In addition, several institutions agreed to include their names in our materials as supporters of the initiative, including the International Association of Women Judges, the Institute of African Women in Law, the University of Los Andes Law School in Colombia, the University Adolfo Ibanez Law School in Chile, and the Mexican Society of Public Health. The conference featured a keynote speakers' conversation between the Swedish Ambassador to Mexico and representatives of UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



Participants from the Center's conference on "Global Transformation Towards Gender Equality and Agenda 2030"

LATIN AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON JUSTICE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

The Center has been supporting the work of the Latin American Network of Scholars on Gender, Sexuality, and the Law (ALAS Network) for the past ten years. Since 2004, with over 60 law professors to date, the ALAS Network has been working towards mainstreaming the role of gender and sexuality in law schools across Latin America. Among this year's accomplishments:

- ALAS Network members piloted a groundbreaking 30-hour course examining various legal debates regarding the definition and regulation of sexuality.
- ALAS members, including Center Faculty

Director Macarena Sáez, participated in the 5th Latin American Judicial Congress on Reproductive Rights, hosted in Colombia. The regional meeting—organized in collaboration with Planned Parenthood Global and the Peruvian organization Promsex, with additional help from the Judicial Branch of Colombia's National Gender Commission—sought to promote methodologies and legal arguments to strengthen legal reasoning and gender perspectives in judicial decisions.

- The Network offered a course on prejudice, intersectionality, and autonomy in Peru and Chile. A virtual course was also carried out with the objective of promoting the teaching of law with a focus on gender and sexuality.

HOW WE ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS



HOW WE'VE ENGAGED OUR STUDENTS

The Center is dedicated to the education and empowerment of its student body in the areas 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 a fellowship opportunity with the Center.

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Center welcomed its sixteenth Student Advisory Board (SAB) in February 2019. The SAB is a group of highly qualified, creative students committed to human rights advocacy. The SAB provides students interested in and committed to human rights the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of Center programming, and to learn tangible skills beyond the classroom for effective advocacy and activism. This year, the Center welcomed Yara Calcano (JD '21), Corrin Chow (JD '21), Elena Gartner (JD '21), Stephanie Hermann (JD '21), and Kate Morrow (JD '21). The Student Advisory Board is an student-led opportunity specifically geared towards 1L students.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

The Center involves student researchers in all aspects of its programming. Each program area prioritizes the creation of unique opportunities for skills-building and intellectual rigor for its students at all stages of their legal education. This year, the Center offered 19 research opportunities across a variety of focus areas within the human rights field.

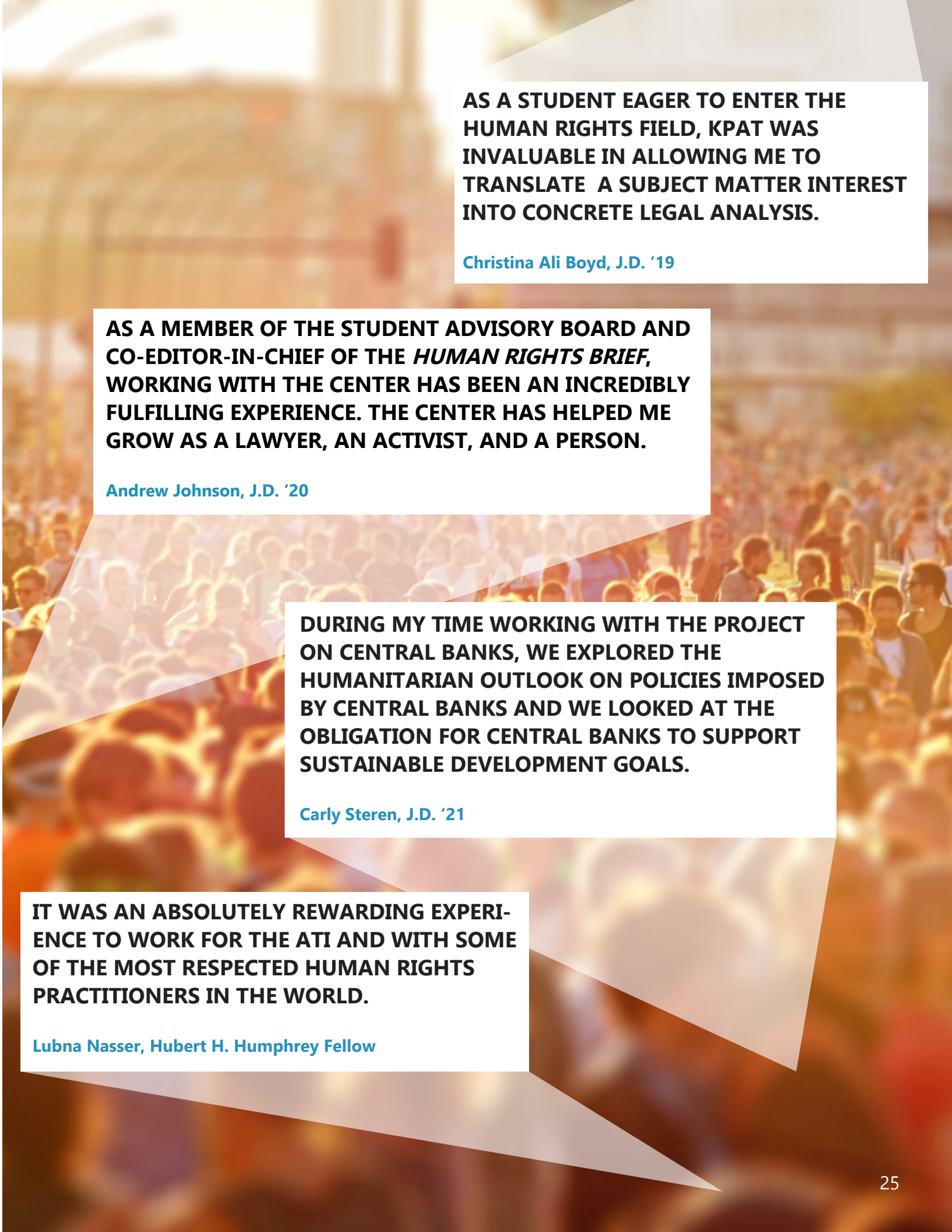
THE *HUMAN RIGHTS BRIEF*

A student-run publication of the Center, the Brief provides concise legal analysis of cutting-edge human rights issues. This past year, the Brief boasted the largest staff in its history, including 23 senior staffers and 22 junior staffers. The *Human Rights Brief* continues to experience great success, contributing articles, editing pieces, representing the Center at human rights events around D.C., and working with practitioners around the world to further human rights scholarship.

This year, AUWCL students and practitioners published over 68 new articles in the Brief. The Brief also organized a "Symposium on the Legal Effects of Environmental Destruction on Human Rights and Global Migration." The Symposium, co-hosted by AUWCL's Sustainable Development Law and Policy Brief, featured experts from over 10 renowned human rights organizations and had over 100 attendees.

"DAY IN CRISIS" MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Center's moot court team—Christine Vlastic (JD '19), Ali Boyd (JD '19), Noura Abahsain (JD '19), Emma Marion (JD '19), and Andrew Johnson (JD '20)—took home first prize for best negotiations at the International Day of Crisis moot court competition in Paris. AUWCL is the first and only American team to be invited to participate in the competition, organized by the Universite de Paris Nanterre in collaboration with the international law firm of Simmons & Simmons. The team was coached by Katherine Holcombe, Assistant Director of the Impact Litigation Project and the Kovler Project Against Torture.



AS A STUDENT EAGER TO ENTER THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, KPAT WAS INVALUABLE IN ALLOWING ME TO TRANSLATE A SUBJECT MATTER INTEREST INTO CONCRETE LEGAL ANALYSIS.

Christina Ali Boyd, J.D. '19

AS A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD AND CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE *HUMAN RIGHTS BRIEF*, WORKING WITH THE CENTER HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLY FULFILLING EXPERIENCE. THE CENTER HAS HELPED ME GROW AS A LAWYER, AN ACTIVIST, AND A PERSON.

Andrew Johnson, J.D. '20

DURING MY TIME WORKING WITH THE PROJECT ON CENTRAL BANKS, WE EXPLORED THE HUMANITARIAN OUTLOOK ON POLICIES IMPOSED BY CENTRAL BANKS AND WE LOOKED AT THE OBLIGATION FOR CENTRAL BANKS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Carly Steren, J.D. '21

IT WAS AN ABSOLUTELY REWARDING EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR THE ATI AND WITH SOME OF THE MOST RESPECTED HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTITIONERS IN THE WORLD.

Lubna Nasser, Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 2018-JULY 2019

FALL 2018

Human Rights Welcome Lunch for incoming students

Roundtable on Syria Property Restitution and Law 10

Lunchtime Learning: Human Rights 101

Welcome Breakfast for Humphrey's Fellows

Progress on the Development of the Universal Protocol on Investigative Interviewing and Associated Safeguards (New York)

A Conversation about Human Rights, the Environment, Agriculture and Food Security

Human Rights Coffee Hour: Law Enforcement through a Human Rights Lens

Symposium on the Legal Effects of Environmental Destruction on Human Rights and Global Migration

Conference on Global Transformation towards Gender Equality and Agenda 2030: A Conversation about Innovative Approaches to Break the Cycle of Violence Against Women (Mexico City)

Hasta La Raiz: A Human Rights Documentary Film Screening

Colombia's Groundbreaking Transitional Justice: A Conversation with the Hon. Judge Julieta Lemaitre

Lunchtime Learning: International Humanitarian Law 101

Human Rights Internships: Students Tell All

WINTER 2018

SPRING 2019

Roundtable on Digital Security for Human Rights

Information Session on the Project for Transgender Incarcerated Survivors

Symposium on Strategies to Combat U.S. Solitary Confinement: Litigation, Legislation, and Regulation



Presentation by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet

The Center, in partnership with the International Law Student Association and the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, welcomed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Chile Michelle Bachelet. Ms. Bachelet's presentation, "Challenges to the Protection of Human Rights in the 21st Century and the Role of the United Nations," drew more than 250 attendees.

Workshop on Central Banks and Human Rights

Day in Crisis Moot Court Competition in (Paris)

Celebrating Connections: Human Rights Networking Event

Reception honoring Prof. Herman Schwartz, faculty co-director of the Center

Conversation with former ICJ Judge Prof. Thomas Buergenthal

Diplomatic Briefing on the Report of the Independent Panel for the Evaluation of Candidates to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights

Public Launch of the Final Report of the Independent Panel for the Evaluation of Candidates to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights

SUMMER 2019

Center Highlights...

FACULTY CO-DIRECTORS



Robert Goldman
Professor of Law and
Louis C. James Scholar

Professor Robert Goldman was elected president of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). The ICJ consists of 60 judges and lawyers from all parts of the world committed to defending the rule of law and human rights. He presided over the ICJ's 18th World Congress, which featured panel discussions on upholding & strengthening the Rule of Law nationally and internationally. Professor Goldman received the Order of San Carlos from the President of Colombia, Ivan Duque. The Order of San Carlos is a state order granted by Colombia to honor citizens, including foreign civilians, who have made outstanding contributions to the nation of Colombia, especially in the field of international relations. Professor Goldman recently met with President Duque to submit a report written by the ICJ on Colombia's transitional justice tribunal, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.



Claudio Grossman
Professor of Law and
Dean Emeritus

Professor Claudio Grossman continued his work with KPAT, published a book and article on reparations and rehabilitation, and was awarded the Marshall T. Meyer Award, Ayuda's 2019 Impact Award, and an honorary doctorate by the University of Valparaiso. He was elected Chair of the Drafting Committee of the UN ILC, served as a judge in the Nelson Mandela Human Rights Moot Court competition, and spoke at various events, including the 70th Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (as its former President), ASIL's Annual Conference, and at Southwestern Law School for the 25th anniversary of the AMIA case, in which he served as the OAS observer. Professor Grossman is currently representing Fernando Albán, who allegedly "committed suicide" while detained by police in Venezuela, in a case at the IACHR.



David Hunter
Professor of Law

Professor David Hunter was awarded the "Outstanding Service to the University Community in a Tenure-Line Appointment" by American University. He contributed to an historic U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Jam v. International Finance Corporation*. He was quoted by NPR saying that the *Jam* lawsuit highlights the problem of how financial organizations handle environmental and human rights complaints related to their development projects. Professor Hunter also hosted, "Accountability at 25: Reflections on IFI Independent Accountability Mechanisms," a symposium to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Bank Inspection Panel. More than 180 IAM representatives, international development professionals, environmental and human rights practitioners and other stakeholders participated in the symposium.



Juan E. Méndez
Professor of Human Rights Law in Residence

Professor Juan E. Méndez was selected to serve on a panel of experts to evaluate candidates to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with other human rights experts from the Americas. He submitted an amicus brief to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in a case regarding the issue of the right to a speedy trial in criminal prosecutions. He submitted another amicus brief in support of a case jointly with Disability Rights International before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on the issue of non-refoulement. Professor Méndez released three publications with the Review of the Universidad Iberoamericana, the Notre Dame Journal of International and Comparative Law, and the Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos at Universidad Nacional de San Martín.



Diane Orentlicher
Professor of International Law

Professor Diane Orentlicher spoke about her book, *Some Kind of Justice: The ICTY's Impact in Bosnia and Serbia* in Belgrade, Sarajevo, Zagreb, Washington, and other cities, and testified at a briefing convened by the Congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe on "Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing: Toward a Unified Future." Professor Orentlicher was interviewed by media in Spain, Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia on developments relating to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. She also offered remarks on "Human Rights and Labor: Managing Supply Chains" at the Annual Symposium of the American University Law Review. Her remarks on "Building Victim-Led Coalitions to Press for Justice Following Mass Atrocity" were published in the Proceedings of the American Society of International Law.



Herman Schwartz
Professor of Law

This year, the Center celebrated the achievements of faculty co-director, Professor Herman Schwartz. Professor Schwartz retired in May after decades spent on the frontiers of civil rights and civil liberties and working with emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, including several former Soviet Union nations. He will be celebrated next year by his colleagues and friends with a day-long symposium honoring his contributions to advancing human rights and justice in the U.S. and around the world. Earlier this year, Professor Schwartz published an Op-Ed in "The Nation" discussing the harmful effects of the Trump Administration's EPA policies. He also served as a guest blogger on Balkin.com discussing Florida's lifetime ban on voting by felony offenders even after they have completed their sentences.



Anita Sinha
Associate Professor of Law & Director of International Human Rights Law Clinic

Professor Anita Sinha published an article in the 50th Volume of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review entitled, "Defining Detention: The Intervention of the European Court of Human Rights in the Detention of Involuntary Migrants." In addition, she served on the Planning Committee for the 2019 International Human Rights Clinical Conference, which convened human rights clinicians from across the country at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Under her direction, students from AUWCL's International Human Rights Law Clinic won asylum for a client detained at an immigration detention facility for almost four months. Professor Sinha also oversaw the development and release of the Clinic's groundbreaking report, "Legal Persecution: Vietnam's Use of Law as a Weapon against Civil Society" with Freedom Now.

Center Highlights...

OUR TEAM



Macarena Sáez
Faculty Director, Fellow in
Int'l Legal Studies



Melissa del Aguila
Associate Director



Anastassia Fagan
Program Coordinator

Professor Macarena Sáez was selected to join an international panel of experts convened by civil society organizations from the Americas to carry out an independent evaluation of nominees to the Supreme Court of Mexico. She was the Louvain Global College of Law Fellow at the Université Catholique du Louvain, teaching in the areas of Comparative Family Law and LGBT rights. She also released publications in the North Carolina Journal of International Law VOL 54; in Religion & Gender VOL 8(1), in the Chilean Bar Association Journal, and contributed a chapter to *Reconceptualizaciones Jurídicas: EL Matrimonio y la Violencia de Género*.

Associate director Melissa del Aguila joined over forty leaders from university human rights centers from across the U.S. to share experiences about how academic centers can promote social justice inclusion. She continued her involvement in the Human Rights Education Research Group, a collaborative research initiative dedicated to catalyzing interdisciplinary and multinetwork research around emerging issues in human rights education.

Program coordinator Anastassia Fagan, a doctoral candidate in AU's department of anthropology, was the recipient of the Adel Ait-Ghezala Graduate Research Fellowship, the Doctoral Student Research Award, and the College of Arts & Sciences Research Grant to support her doctoral dissertation on land rights in Asia. Ms. Fagan was interviewed by Syria TV related to research conducted on behalf of the Syrian Initiative to Combat SGBV.



Vanessa Drummond

Asst. Project Director,
Anti-Torture Initiative

This year, ATI assistant project director Vanessa Drummond facilitated a session in the second meeting of the steering committee for the Protocol on Investigative Interviewing and Associated Safeguards. As a founding member of the Coordination Group developing the Universal Protocol for Investigative Interviewing and Associated Safeguards, Ms. Drummond also represented the ATI during two critical workshops of the Drafting Group in Geneva and Oslo.



Katherine Holcombe

Assistant Director,
Kovler & Impact Litigation

Kate Holcombe, assistant director of the Kovler Project Against Torture and the Impact Litigation Project, served as the coach for the first and only American team to be invited to participate in the International Day of Crisis Moot Court competition in Paris. She also coached the winning team of AUWCL students at the Clara Barton International Humanitarian Law Competition at the American Red Cross, sponsored by the War Crimes Research Office.



Whit Washington

Equal Justice Works Fellow,
Project for Transgender Incarcerated Survivors

Whit Washington joined the Center this year as an Equal Justice Works Fellow, managing the Project for Incarcerated Transgender Survivors. Mx. Washington worked with advocates to address the needs of incarcerated transgender and gender non-conforming survivors of sexual assault in custody. This year, Mx. Washington was named a 40 Under 40: Queer Women of Washington, D.C. and was interviewed for NPR on prisoners' rights issues.



Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt

Program Director *pro bono*,
Human Rights in Business

An expert in business and human rights, Dr. DeWinter-Schmitt completed her final year as the director (pro bono) of the Center's Human Rights in Business Program. Dr. DeWinter-Schmitt will be sorely missed. This year, DeWinter-Schmitt, co-authored an article in the Business and Human Rights Journal entitled "Certifying Private Security Companies: Effectively Ensuring the Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights?"



Our Faculty in Action...



Our Team

Macarena Sáez
Faculty Director

Melissa del Aguila
Associate Director

Anastassia Fagan
Program Coordinator

Tyler Nickerson
Program Assistant

Vanessa Drummond
Assistant Project Director
Anti-Torture Initiative

Katherine Holcombe
Assistant Director, Impact Litigation &
Kovler Project Against Torture

Whit Washington
Equal Justice Works Fellow, Project for
Transgender Incarcerated Survivors

Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt
Program Director (*pro bono*)
Human Rights in Business Program

Faculty Co-Directors

Robert Goldman
Professor of Law and Louis C. James Scholar

Claudio Grossman
Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus
R. Geraldson Scholar for International
and Humanitarian Law

Anita Sinha
Associate Professor of Law and Director of
the International Human Rights Law Clinic

Juan E. Méndez
Professor of Human Rights Law in
Residence

Diane Orentlicher
Professor of International Law

Herman Schwartz
Professor of Law

David Hunter
Professor of Law

To learn more about our work, and to support our efforts to promote human rights through teaching, scholarship, and service, visit our website at www.WCLCenterforHR.org.



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