

## CENTER NEWS/FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

### CENTER NEWS

#### CENTER HOSTS PANEL DISCUSSION ON TORTURE AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF FERNANDO BOTERO'S ABU GHRAIB PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS

The Center, the WCL International Human Rights Clinic, and the American University's (AU) Kay Spiritual Life Center hosted a panel discussion about the widespread persistence of torture around the world in November 2007. **John Conroy**, author of *Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People* was the keynote speaker on a panel moderated by WCL Professor **Rick Wilson**. Other panelists included **Elizabeth Abi Mershed**, the Principal Human Rights Specialist for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and **Jumana Musa**, Amnesty International USA Advocacy Director for Human Rights and International Justice, who discussed modern dimensions of torture, its methods and its perpetrators, and their implications for both domestic and international rule of law. The event took place in the gallery at the Katzen Arts Center against the backdrop of the first U.S. exhibition of the complete series of Fernando Botero's "Abu Ghraib" paintings and drawings. The exhibit is a strongly personal statement documenting Fernando Botero's reaction to news accounts of the events that took place at Abu Ghraib prison in 2003 and 2004.

#### CENTER AND ICRC CO-HOST DISCUSSION ON IMPACT OF 2005 ICRC STUDY *CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW*

On November 8, 2007, the Center, in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), hosted a follow up discussion on the relevance and acceptance of the ICRC's 5,000-page *Customary International Humanitarian Law* study. The study identifies 161 rules of customary international humanitarian law that include legal protection for persons affected by armed conflict. The report had its North American launch at WCL

in 2005. **Jean-Marie Henckaerts**, co-author of the study, spoke, and discussants included **Ashley Deeks**, Visiting Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies and International Affairs, Council on Foreign Relations; and **Gary Solis**, Law of Armed Conflict Expert, Georgetown University Law Center. Discussants evaluated the acceptance of the study by the international legal community and how the compilation adds to the legal landscape.

#### EIGHTH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES

The Center, in conjunction with the AU Center for Social Media, the Center for Global Peace, the Kay Spiritual Life Center, and School of International Service sponsored the Eighth Annual Human Rights Film Series in October 2007. The film series explored ways in which film and media can be used to promote and protect human rights.

The first film in the series, *Encounter Point*, follows the unlikely journey of two Israelis and two Palestinians as they risk their lives and public standing to promote nonviolence in their communities. A true story about the everyday leaders who refuse to sit back as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates, the film was followed by a discussion with a guest speaker from the American University School for International Service who worked for an NGO in Israel for nearly ten years. *Devil's Miner*, the second screening, is about 14-year-old Basileo and his younger brother who work in the mines of Cerro Rico in Bolivia. **Monica Williams** from the Bolivian American Chamber of Commerce of the Washington Metropolitan Area led a discussion following the film. The third screening, *Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars*, is an inspiring story of survival and rebirth in the wake of the horrors of Sierra Leone's Civil War and a triumphant testament to the power of music. **Miatta Kanneh** of the Kenema District Association gave a moving presentation regarding the current state of Sierra Leone following the film. The final screening —

*Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* — took place in the newly built American University Museum in the Katzen Arts Center. *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* is a beyond-the-headlines look into the psychological and political contexts of the torture at Iraq's infamous prison. The screening was held in conjunction with the first full U.S. exhibition of Fernando Botero's startling paintings and drawings, *Botero: Abu Ghraib*. Following the film, Award-Winning Producer **Liz Garbus** shared her experiences and answered questions about the making of this provocative film to a standing room only audience of over 220 people.

#### EXPLORING HOMELESSNESS: ROOTS, REACTIONS, AND SOLUTIONS?: AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT (ELP)

Started by WCL students in 2003, the Center's Experiential Learning Projects (ELPs) take students from the classroom into the field to interact with the real people that live the issues we often discuss in the law school classroom. The goal of ELPs is to humanize the learning experience, develop participants' understanding of an issue, and infuse learning with transformative potential. ELPs enable the WCL community to meet with people working/living all sides of a local human rights issue and reflect on their visits and experiences. ELPs are organized by students, with the help of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and, while there is no specific outcome expected, many ELPs have led participants to create follow-up service projects and independent study projects.

The Center's Fall 2007 ELP took participants through the complex world of homelessness in the United States and particularly in the DC area. The Fall 2007 ELP kicked off with an informal dinner discussion with Professor **Peter Edelman** of Georgetown University Law Center that helped to frame the issues of homelessness and poverty law in the United States. The project consisted of site visits including visits to the **Calvary Women's Shelter**, the

**National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness.**

**UNIVERSITY OF PESHAWAR  
HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES CENTER  
DIRECTOR NADEEM AZAM GIVES  
LECTURE ON THE ROLE OF  
LAWYERS IN PROMOTING JUDICIAL  
INDEPENDENCE IN PAKISTAN**

Professor Nadeem Azam, Director of the Human Rights Studies Centre at the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, gave a well-attended public lecture on February 6 on *The Role of Lawyers in Promoting Judicial Independence in Pakistan*. The event took place during lunch and was co-sponsored by the Center and the WCL Program on Law and Government (S.J.D. program).

Professor Azam is currently in residence at WCL while he pursues his S.J.D. as part of the Center's multi-year collaboration with the University of Peshawar (Pakistan) to help build capacity in its groundbreaking human rights and gender studies programs. The project, which includes visits from University of Peshawar faculty to WCL and travel by WCL faculty to Pakistan, seeks to enhance the University of Peshawar's Human Rights Studies Center and provide support to strengthening the Gender Studies Department.

*Webcasts and podcasts of most Center events are available for free download on the Center's website at <http://WCLCenterforHR.org>.*

## **FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES**

**Claudio Grossman**, Dean of WCL, Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Vice Chair of the United Nations Committee against Torture (UN CAT), participated in the 38th Session of the UN CAT in Geneva, Switzerland in November. A group of WCL students accompanied him as part of WCL's UN CAT Project, which includes a specialized seminar and the experiential learning field component. While in Geneva, Dean Grossman also spoke at the World Organization Against Torture's (OMCT) Complaints Workshop, addressing "The Role of CAT

Individual Communications in the Inter-American Context." That same month, Dean Grossman also presented the 2007 Josephine Onoh Lecture at the University of Hull Law School, United Kingdom, on "The Future of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights." He was awarded the Simón Bolívar Award from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, Georgia, in recognition of his lifetime achievements in promoting human rights, where he presented the Simón Bolívar Democracy and Human Rights Lecture.

In December, Dean Grossman was the keynote speaker at the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition's Annual Event, where WCL's International Human Rights Law Clinic received the "Coalition Partner of the Year" Award. Additionally, he lectured on "The Role of the Victim and of the IACHR before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights," at the Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. He presented "La Causa de los Derechos Humanos: Un Tema Ambivalente para las Comunidades Judías" ("The Human Rights Cause: An Ambivalent Theme for Jewish Communities") at a working luncheon for Taller de Activismo Politico (Workshop on Political Activism) of the American Jewish Committee's Latino and Latin America Institute, in Hollywood, Florida. Dean Grossman also headed a WCL delegation that traveled to Lima, Peru, to consult with the Universidad del Pacifico on the development of a new law school.

In January, Dean Grossman attended, as a member, the 69th Session of the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files in Lyon, France. He also organized and moderated a panel on Service, and coordinated the day-long events for the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Committee on International Cooperation Program on "International Cooperation and the Role of U.S. Law Schools," at the AALS Annual Meeting in New York City. Further, he was a panelist on "Case Law, Problem, Lecture, Simulation and Other Techniques" for an AALS Annual Meeting panel on "Enriching the Law School Curriculum in an Increasingly Inter-Related World — Learning from Each Other." Dean Grossman also lectured on "Human Rights in the Americas" at the

Inter-American Defense College at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Annapolis, Maryland.

**Hadar Harris**, Executive Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, returned from maternity leave following the birth of her second son, Leo Sabir, in October — five days before his brother Adam's first birthday. Before going on leave, she facilitated a day-long expert roundtable exploring the teaching of International Humanitarian Law in U.S. law schools, co-sponsored by the International Committee for the Red Cross. In addition, she lectured on the foundations of international human rights law as part of the Center's *Munching on Human Rights* series. In December, Harris, who serves on the Training Committee of the U.S. Human Rights Network, helped to plan a national convening of American trainers for human rights held in Chicago.

**Robert Goldman**, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, attended a meeting of the Eminent Jurists Panel on Terrorism, Counter-terrorism and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. At the meeting, the panel mapped out its final report on the global impact of the fight against terrorism on human rights and humanitarian law, which will be made public in September 2008.

**Richard Wilson**, Professor of Law at WCL, Co-Director of the Center, and Director of the International Human Rights Clinic at WCL was co-recipient of the Southern Center for Human Rights 2007 Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award, to lawyers representing detainees at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba on November 1, 2007. He was also elected President, Board of Directors, World Organization for Human Rights, USA in December 2007. Professor Wilson published *A Long Strange Trip: Guantanamo and the Scarcity of International Law*, in *The Guantanamo Bar Speaks* (Mark Denbeaux ed.) (forthcoming), *Limiting the Revolution? Influences of the Inter-American Human Rights System on Criminal Procedure Reforms in Latin America*, in the *Southwestern Journal of Law and Trade in the Americas* (forthcoming), and *The Right to Universal, Equal and Non-Discriminatory Suffrage As a Norm of Customary International Law: Protecting the Prisoner's Right to Vote*, in *Democracy and Punishment:*

*International Perspectives on Criminal Disenfranchisement* (Eric Ewald & Brandon Rottinghaus, eds.) (forthcoming). He also spoke as a panelist at *Symposium: Abandoning the Inquisitor: Latin America's Criminal Procedure Revolution* at Southwestern University Law School in Los Angeles, California on January 25, 2008 and at *America Does Torture: Remember the Constitution? Congress Doesn't*, before the Torture Abolition and Survivors' Support Coalition at American University on December 4, 2007.

**Claudia Martin**, Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, published "Catching Up with the Past: Recent Decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Addressing Gross Human Rights Violations Perpetrated During the 1970s and 1980s," *7 Human Rights Law Review* 4 (2007); lectured on the prohibition of torture in Inter-American human rights case law at the "Complaint Workshop on Human Rights Mechanisms" organized by OMCT (World Organization against Torture) in Geneva, Switzerland (November 7, 2007); and lectured on *Inter-American Court on Human Rights: Competence, Admissibility and Jurisprudence* at the "Seminar on International Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights: Innovation and Strategies in International Litigation," organized by the Human Rights Program at Universidad Iberoamericana, in Mexico City, Mexico (December 6, 2007). She was

a member of the Honor Panel that judged the finals of the First Mexican Moot Court Competition on the Inter-American Human Rights System (December 7, 2007).

**Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón**, Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at WCL, worked with Dean Claudio Grossman, Professor Claudia Martin, and the *American University International Law Review* (AUILR) on a volume entitled, *Article and Essays Analyzing Reparations in International Human Rights*. This joint publication of the Academy and AUILR is a product of the Academy's *Human Rights Award Essay Competition* that took place in February 2007. The best competition papers were selected for publication in this volume, which is the only law review in the United States that includes articles in both English and Spanish. This publication brings WCL's native Spanish-speaking students into the AUILR team of editors. In November 2007, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón taught the course *The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* during the *Second Annual Human Rights Course* of the Institut de Développement et Droits Humains, in Florianopolis, Brazil. In December 2007, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón was invited to teach the course *Procedure and Case-law of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* within a section of *Strategies of International Litigation* at the Universidad Iberoamericana, in Mexico City, Mexico. In January 2008, he was appointed as a

Member of the Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Section of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS).

**Susana SáCouto**, Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and Adjunct Professor at WCL, lectured at George Mason University on "The Implementation of Human Rights Principles in the Creation and Operation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court" (November 20, 2007). She spoke at a launch event co-hosted by the WCRO and the Open Society Justice Initiative in New York, where she discussed key recommendations from the WCRO's *Report on Victim Participation Before the International Criminal Court (ICC)* (December 2007). The Report, a copy of which can be found on the WCRO website at <http://www.wcl.american.edu/warcrimes/>, is the first in the WCRO's *ICC Legal Analysis and Education Project*, which aims to provide in-depth analyses of critical legal issues raised by the ICC's early activities. She traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia and took part in a judicial training needs assessment mission along with representatives of The Hague Forum for Judicial Expertise (HFJE), a partner of the Hague Academic Coalition (January 2008). **HRB**