

CENTER NEWS/FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

CENTER NEWS

60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the American Society of International Law (ASIL) presented a day-long conference to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on December 2, 2008. **Dean Harold Koh** of Yale Law School delivered the keynote address. Panels discussed the incorporation of the UDHR into the domestic realm, challenges to enforcement and implementation, and vital issues of the UDHR's next 60 years. Speakers included: WCL **Dean Claudio Grossman**, ASIL Executive Director **Elizabeth Andersen**; **Antti Korkeakivi** (Council of Europe); Professor **Dinah Shelton** (George Washington University Law School); WCL Professor **Herman Schwartz**; WCL Professor **Diane Orentlicher**; Professor **Joaquin González Ibañez** (Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio); WCL Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Co-Director **Claudia Martin**; Center for Human Rights Executive Director **Hadar Harris**; **Michael Camilleri** (CEJIL); **Marcos Orellana** (Center for International Environmental Law); **Rick Weiss** (Center for American Progress); **Maria Foscarinis** (National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty); **Sarah Mendelson** (Center for Strategic and International Studies). The well-attended conference included representatives from at least 49 organizations and 6 embassies. A webcast of the conference is available at <http://www.WCLCenterforHR.org>.

Roundtable with the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking

Ann Jordan, the Project Director for the Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, organized and facilitated a two-day roundtable in New York City with the new UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, **Joy Ezeilo**. The event, held December 9–10 at the Open Society Institute (OSI) in New York, was co-sponsored by the Global Fund for Women and OSI.

Ezeilo, a Nigerian women's right activist and law professor, met with 15 experts on human trafficking and sexual rights from Brazil, Cambodia, India, Poland, Romania, the United States, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan to discuss current issues related to human trafficking worldwide. The Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, established at WCL in September 2008, received a special grant from the Global Fund for Women to support the roundtable.

Discussion on Pakistan's Tribal Areas

On December 17, the Center hosted **Dr. Muhammed Jahanzeb Khan** of the University of Peshawar (Pakistan), currently a visiting Fulbright scholar at the University of California, Berkeley for a lunchtime discussion. Dr. Khan delivered a lecture "Pakistani Tribal Areas, Human Rights, and Gender Issues: A Psycho-Social Perspective in the Current Scenario" which focused on both historical and present-day issues affecting the region. This visit was part of the ongoing collaboration between the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the University of Peshawar, a project which is now entering its third successful year.

9th Annual Human Rights Film Series Addresses U.S. Issues

The 9th Annual Human Rights Film Series, held in October and November 2008 organized by the Center in conjunction with American University's Center for Social Media, took a thematic approach this year with an emphasis on human rights issues in the United States. Over the years, the series has been an effective forum for raising awareness of human rights abuses and providing students, staff, and members of the Washington DC community, a forum to discuss these issues with each other and with experts in the field. The five films featured this year were *Banished*, *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez*, *At the Death House Door*, *Cut Off*, and *When the Levees Broke*. These films addressed racism, US-Mexico border issues, the death penalty,

and the challenge of recovery efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

Post-screening speakers at WCL included **Kibibi Tyehimba**, Co-Chair of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, **Jenny Johnson**, Senior Associate at the Latin American Working Group, **Stephanie Brewer**, Legal Officer at Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Human Rights Center (PRODH) in Mexico City, and **Broderick Webb**, New Orleans community organizer and director of *Cut Off*.

Gulf Coast Recovery Week

The Center and WCL students hosted Gulf Coast Recovery Week, co-sponsored with Student Activists for Katrina/Rita Survivors (SAKS) between November 10–14 and featured lectures, film screenings, and other special events both at WCL and on the American University main campus. Though Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck over three years ago, the week's events highlighted the fact that recovery is far from over and that there are still many human rights problems that have not yet been resolved on the Gulf Coast including housing, education, healthcare, and environmental justice issues.

On November 12, the Center organized a lunchtime panel "Human Rights, Housing, and Education" with WCL 1L **Julia Saladino**, filmmaker **Broderick Webb**, and **Michele Roberts** of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights. The Center screened Webb's *Cut Off* that evening as part of the Human Rights Film Series. On November 12 and 13, WCL and AU welcomed the **KatrinaRitaVille Express**, a FEMA trailer that has traveled throughout the country to raise awareness of housing issues on the Gulf Coast. Parked on the AU Quad on November 13, many students and staff stopped in for a tour. Inside the trailer, **Derrick Evans**, founder of Turkey Creek Community Initiatives in Mississippi, talked to students and staff about the important issues such as public housing and the need for action to support those who have been displaced by the storm and still have not returned home. That night, *When the Levees Broke* was screened at American

University as part of the Film Series, followed by a post-screening discussion with the film's producer, **Sam Pollard**.

Workshop on "Effective Advocacy Beyond the Courtroom"

On February 6, the Center held a day-long interactive workshop on effective activism beyond litigation and the courtroom. The workshop was led by American University chaplain and human rights advocate **Joe Eldridge** and AU adjunct professor **Robert Tomasko** who focused on strategic thinking, message-shaping, and advocacy. **Jeremy Woodrum**, director and co-founder of the US Campaign for Burma, presented an afternoon case study focusing on his organization's far reaching efforts to promote human rights, accountability, and democracy in Burma. The workshop was part of the Center's well-received series, "The Nuts and Bolts of Human Rights Work."

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Claudio Grossman is WCL Dean and Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In December 2008, Dean Grossman participated as panelist in a conference co-sponsored by WCL and the American Society of International Law entitled "Realizing the Promise of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights: Examining the First 60 Years and Beyond." Dean Grossman spoke on the "Challenges to Promoting the UDHR: International Supervisions and Enforcement." Dean Grossman participated at the 60th anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, at the Office of the Attorney General, Bogotá, Colombia, where he presented on "The Evolution of the Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights within the Framework of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man."

In January 2009, Dean Grossman participated in the Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting where, as Chair of the AALS Committee on International Cooperation, he organized and moderated two panels for the session on "The Role of Law Schools in the Promotion of Human Rights and Legal Curricular Reform Abroad." In February, the Dean participated, as a member, at the 73rd session of the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files in Lyon, France. That

same month, he presented at the "Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice Lecture" in Windsor, Canada, where he delivered an address on "Challenges to the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights." The Dean also served as a panelist at the "International Conference on the Prevention of Torture and Other Ill-Treatment," cosponsored by WCL and the Association for the Prevention of Torture. Dean Grossman's presentation addressed the domestic incorporation of obligations under the UN Convention against Torture. Moreover, he traveled to Puerto Rico where he delivered a speech at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, entitled "The Future of the Inter-American System of Human Rights."

In addition, Dean Grossman recently published the following works: "The Inter-American System of Human Rights: Challenges for the Future," in the *Indiana Law Journal*; "Problems with the Traditional Case Law Method," published in the *Penn State International Law Review* as a part of the symposium on "Achieving Optimal Use of Diverse Legal Education Methodologies;" and "Los Derechos Humanos y Terrorismo: Lógicas Contradictorias," published at the *Universidad Iberoamericana*, Mexico, and used for a collaborative project between the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights, the Argentine Army and the Argentine Ministry of Defense. Dean Grossman also wrote an opinion piece for *La Tercera* newspaper in Chile entitled "Una semana en la Casa Blanca."

Dean Grossman also has three forthcoming publications: "The Inter-American System and its Evolution," to be published in a special issue of the *Inter-American and European Human Rights Journal/Revista Interamericana y Europea de Derechos Humanos*; and "The Normative Value of the Istanbul Protocol," a contribution to the IRCT's (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims) Torture Prevention Project's "Prevention through Documentation." The Dean also wrote the preface for an interview with Judge Antonio A. Cançado Trindade, to be published in *Human Rights Quarterly*.

Robert Goldman is Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. On February 27, 2009, Professor Goldman attended an event at the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC to discuss find-

ings of a report that he helped to prepare. Professor Goldman was a member of an eight-person panel that wrote, "Assessing Damage, Urging Action" a report by the International Commission of Jurists' (ICJ) Eminent Jurists Panel on Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Human Rights. The Eminent Jurists Panel is an independent body composed of eight judges and lawyers from around the world which the ICJ established. Professor Goldman has been involved with the project for the past three years.

Hadar Harris is the Executive Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at WCL. In December, she served as Rapporteur for the working group on International Treaty Ratification and Implementation at a two-day convening of human rights activists from around the United States sponsored by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute at the Roosevelt Estate in Hyde Park, New York. The "Bringing Human Rights Home" conference was meant to discuss agenda items for the new Obama Administration. In the spirit of the Roosevelts' commitment to human rights, participants sought to develop recommendations for the new Administration. In December, she also participated as a speaker on a national training call for the US Human Rights Network, outlining options for accountability and transition for human rights in the United States. In February, she was the keynote speaker to a group of visiting human rights attorneys from the Middle East and North Africa, speaking about the United States' approach to human rights in the world and at home. In March, she addressed a meeting of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative's country directors on Access to Justice and Human Rights.

Claudia Martin is Co-Director of the WCL Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Professorial Lecturer in Residence. On January 15, she lectured on the role and case law of international human rights supervisory bodies and tribunals for a delegation of faculty and graduate students from Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), Korea. In February, Professor Martin coordinated and served as a member of the jury selecting the winning articles in the Human Rights Essay Award sponsored by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. On March 19, she lectured on "Fragmentation and International Law: the case law of the Inter-American Human Rights System," at the

Marie Curie Research Week, sponsored by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies Leiden University, the Netherlands. Professor Martin has continued to serve as a Member of the Editorial Board, *Oxford Reports on International Law in Domestic Courts*, Oxford University Press and Amsterdam Center for International Law and as a contributor on Inter-American Human Rights Law for the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights.

Diane Orentlicher, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, was a guest on the Kojo Nnamdi Show, on February 3, 2009. The show is a program on WAMU, National Public Radio for Washington, DC. Professor Orentlicher spoke about current issues relating to war crimes tribunals. On February 12, 2009, she was appointed to serve on the Advisory Board of a newly-established War Crimes Committee of the International Bar Association, and in late February she was nominated to serve another term as a member of the advisory council for the American Bar Associations Center for Human Rights. She moderated a panel on "Incorporating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into the Domestic Realm," at a conference entitled *Realizing the Promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Examining the First 60 Years and Beyond*, co-sponsored by the American Society of International Law and WCL on December 2, 2008. Professor Orentlicher was also a speaker at a conference on crimes against humanity entitled, *Specifying, Articulating, and Enumerating Such Crimes: Are All Atrocities Crimes against Humanity?* The conference was held at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts on December 5, 2008.

Professor Orentlicher was, in addition, a member of a panel addressing the question, Are Adequate Legal Frameworks in Place at the Domestic Level? at the *International Conference on the Prevention of Torture and Other Ill-Treatment* sponsored by WCL and the Association for the Prevention of Torture in Washington, DC on February 23, 2009, participated in a meeting on International Justice in Africa in Dakar, Senegal, hosted by the Open Society Institute on February 26, 2009, and presented a talk on "International Criminal Courts: What Impact do they Have?," at the Human Rights Workshop at Yale Law

School, New Haven, Connecticut on March 11, 2009. In early March 2009, Professor Orentlicher published a chapter, "Crimes Against Humanity; a Legislative Agenda for the United States," in *The Enforcement of International Criminal Law* (Aegis Trust, 2009).

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón is Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at WCL. In December 2008, he made a presentation entitled "*Commemoración Sexagesimo Aniversario de la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos*" at an event that the Fiscalía General de la Nación (Attorney General's Office of Colombia) in Bogotá, Colombia organized to commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In March 2008, he was invited to the Law School of Gent University, in Belgium, to sit on the jury panel of PhD candidates defending their dissertations on provisional measures in international human rights law. He has contributed to the British publication *Butterworths Human Rights Cases* (Lexis/Nexis) in his capacity as Correspondent for the Americas. The multi-volume series reports on recent human rights cases around the world. Moreover, Professor Rodríguez Pinzón contributes to the international law journal *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* by reporting periodically on the news of the Inter-American Human Rights System. Finally, he is currently an *Ad Hoc* Judge in *Chiriboga v. Ecuador*, a case before the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. The Court released its decision regarding admissibility and merits on May 6, 2008.

Susana SáCouto, Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and Professorial Lecturer in Residence at WCL, delivered a presentation on *The Relationship between Widespread and Systematic Gender-Based Crimes and Genocide* at an Expert Meeting on The Investigation and Prosecution of Gender-Based Crimes, held by the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague on December 12, 2008. In late January 2009, Ms. SáCouto participated as one of seven principal speakers at a two-day symposium entitled *International Criminal Tribunals: Problems and Prospects*, hosted by Florida State University's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. Ms. SáCouto spoke on the subject of *Victim*

Participation at the Case Stage of Proceedings before the International Criminal Court. On February 19, Ms. SáCouto delivered a presentation on the ICC and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia to students of AU's Washington Semester Program in International Law and Organizations. Later this year, Ms. SáCouto will publish an article with co-author, Katherine A. Cleary, on *The Importance of Effective Investigation of Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Crimes at the International Criminal Court*, in AU's Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law.

Herman Schwartz, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, wrote an article, "The Supreme Court and the Election: What's at Stake" published in *The Nation* on October 16, 2008. Moreover, he was a speaker on the panel, "Domestic Incorporation of International Human Rights Treaties" at the *60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* conference at WCL in Washington, DC on December 2, 2008.

Richard Wilson is Professor of Law at WCL, a Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic. In November 2008, he gave a lecture, *Waging Lawfare Over Guantanamo: Violent Euphemism and the Nation's Narrative* at Catholic University Law School Faculty Luncheon Speaker Series in Washington, DC. Moreover, he made a consulting visit with a lecture and workshop entitled *Extending the Reach of Clinical Methods: The Use of Negotiation and Other Simulations by Law School Classroom Teachers* at the State University of Moldova, Chisinau, Moldova in December 2008. In addition, in January 2009, he was a guest on *Con la Gente*, a program on Radio Continental in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He spoke about Guantanamo and the President's Executive Orders. Professor Wilson had a piece published in the *Southwestern Journal of Law and Trade in the Americas*, entitled "Supporting or Thwarting the Revolution? The Inter-American Human Rights System and Criminal Procedure Reform in Latin America." Professor Wilson authored another piece entitled "U.S. Export of Clinical Legal Education: Not Legal Imperialism, Just a Good Idea Whose Time as Come" which will appear in *The Global Clinical Movement: Educating Lawyers for Social Justice* in 2009. **HRB**