

## **Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**

*Fall, 2002 Newsletter*

Welcome - and welcome back! We hope you had a great summer. As you think about your priorities for this semester, the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (CHRHL) wants to let you know about courses, activities and projects in which you can participate. Cutting-edge work is being done on a wide variety of human rights and humanitarian law projects at WCL - we encourage you to get involved!!!

Included in this newsletter are:

- A Few Ways to Get Involved
- Upcoming Events at WCL
- Fall Course Listings in Human Rights/Humanitarian Law
- Upcoming Events in the Human Rights World
- Professional Development Opportunities

### **A Few Ways to Get Involved**

#### **Join the *Human Rights Brief***

The Human Rights Brief is now accepting applications for its 2002-2003 staff. The Brief is a student-run publication that analyzes current human rights issues. Issues are published three times a year and are distributed to scholars, students, human rights practitioners, legal professionals and more. Working on the Brief is a great way to get experience working on a legal publication and to meet fellow student human rights advocates.

The Brief is now accepting applications for staff writers, article editors, and publication editors. These positions are open to all JD and LLM students. Applications are available outside Room 630. Please feel free to contact Jill Quinn or Megan Hagler at [chief\\_hrbrief@wcl.american.edu](mailto:chief_hrbrief@wcl.american.edu) with any questions.

#### **"Munching on Human Rights"**

Interested in human rights but stuck studying property and torts? Join us for Munching on Human Rights, an introductory program to educate and engage students, especially 1Ls, about basic issues in international human rights and humanitarian law. Held on the second Tuesday of the month at lunch, Munching will give you a great opportunity to informally interact with WCL's internationally-known faculty. The Munching schedule is listed in the calendar below, or for a full syllabus, contact the Center at [humlaw@wcl.american.edu](mailto:humlaw@wcl.american.edu) or (202) 274-4180.

#### **Research Cutting-Edge Issues**

The International Legal Studies Program is looking for students who are willing to assist them in a project that will focus on the development of legal theories to address the issue of reparations for victims of development projects. For further information please contact Dr. Loretta Feris at lferis@wcl.american.edu or 274-4314, or stop by her office in room 345.

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is looking for several Dean's Fellows and volunteers to assist in a variety of research projects. All students are welcome to apply. Research topics include:

- issues in international election observation;
- monitoring of national compliance with international treaty obligations;
- the death penalty in the context of the OSCE framework;
- freedom of expression issues; and
- theories of reparation

If you are interested in researching these or other topics, please contact Hadar Harris, Executive Director, WCL Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at (202) 274-4180 or hharris@wcl.american.edu.

The War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) is seeking several Dean's Fellows and volunteers. JD and LLM students are eligible. Interested students with a background in international law, particularly international criminal/ humanitarian/ human rights law, are especially encouraged to apply.

Examples of research projects include:

- preparing summaries of relevant jurisprudence for publication,
- assisting with projects for WCRO clients,
- helping to establish an international humanitarian law and international criminal law database.

To apply, please submit a resume, a cover letter and a transcript (unofficial is fine) along with a short writing sample, to John Cerone, Executive Director, War Crimes Research Office, at our new office location, 4910 Massachusetts Avenue, NW (1 block from the WCL building). The deadline for applications is **Friday, September 6, 2002**. For more information, email the War Crimes Research Office at warcrimes@wcl.american.edu or call (202) 274- 4067.

#### The Academy on Human Rights

Professor Claudia Martin, Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University, Washington College of Law, is looking for one Dean's Fellow to work 20 hours a week. Students interested in this opportunity should submit their resume to Fabiana Arciniegas at [farciniegas@wcl.american.edu](mailto:farciniegas@wcl.american.edu)

### **Human Rights Film Series: October 16-November 15**

Like to go to the movies? This Fall, the Center, in conjunction with Human Rights Watch, the AU Center for Social Media and the Kay Spiritual Life Center, will be holding the latest installment of the Human Rights Film Series. Films will examine a wide variety of human rights issues - from life in post-9/11 Afghanistan, to the impact of social and economic inequities in Haiti. Films will be shown once at WCL and once on Main campus and will be followed by a discussion with a guest speaker. In addition, we will be holding brown bag lunches on the underlying topics of the screenings. Check the calendar below for dates and times. (*Films listed are subject to change*).

### **Participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition**

The Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition brings together students from all over the Western Hemisphere to compete in a tri-lingual moot court featuring written and oral advocacy based on the Inter-American human rights legal system. Last year, 43 teams competed from 13 countries. The Competition is conducted in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

This year's Competition will be held from May 18-23, 2003 at WCL but the work starts now! You can be involved in a number of ways:

- ◆ Be a part of the WCL team and represent the law school at the Competition!
- ◆ Volunteer now to help prepare for the Competition

To learn more about the Competition, go to [www.wcl.american.edu/humright/mcourt](http://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/mcourt) or contact the Center at [humlaw@wcl.american.edu](mailto:humlaw@wcl.american.edu) or (202) 274-4180.

### **The Jean Pictet Moot Court Competition**

The War Crimes Research Office is also looking for students interested in forming a team to compete in the 2003 Jean Pictet Moot Court Competition. The competition is held in French and/or English. If there is sufficient student interest, the WCRO will consider creating a team. The Jean Pictet Competition is an international humanitarian law (IHL) simulation/moot court involving both mock diplomatic negotiations and oral argument. It is an excellent opportunity to immerse yourself in the study and practice of the laws of war and international criminal law. The finals are held in Geneva each August, while last year's regional competition was held in Lisbon, Portugal. If you are interested or want more information, please contact WCRO at [warcrimes@wcl.american.edu](mailto:warcrimes@wcl.american.edu) or (202) 274- 4067.

### **The Renee Cassin European Human Rights Moot Court Competition**

For close to a decade, WCL has been the only North American law school to send a team to the French-only Renee Cassin European Human Rights Moot Court Competition in Strasbourg, France. Three JD students prepare throughout the fall and spring semester for this competition, held in mid-spring. The team is selected

in the late spring of each semester, so this year's team has already been selected. However, you can enhance your opportunity to be selected through the interview process for next year by contacting the coach and offering to assist the team during the coming year. For more information, contact Thierno Balde at [bthierno@hotmail.com](mailto:bthierno@hotmail.com).

### **Create Your Own Project/Conference/Research Topic/etc.**

Do you have a *Great Idea*? The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law wants to help bring it to fruition. Along with being a resource, the Center is an incubator for new projects, conference ideas, original research and scholarship. If you have a *Great Idea* regarding human rights and humanitarian law that you wish to pursue, come talk to us! You can reach Hadar Harris, Executive Director, WCL Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, at [hharris@wcl.american.edu](mailto:hharris@wcl.american.edu) or at (202) 274-4180.

### **Upcoming Events at WCL**

(The following is a partial listing of scheduled events upcoming this semester.)

#### September

- ◆ 5: Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Lunch Meeting for New and Returning Students, 12:30pm, Room 402
- ◆ 10: Munching on Human Rights: What is Human Rights and Humanitarian Law? Dean Claudio Grossman (*tentative*), 12-1pm, Room 402 (lunch will be served)
- ◆ 11: September 11 Remembrance Events

#### October

- ◆ 3: Center for Human Rights Tribute Dinner for Aryeh Neier, President of the Open Society Institute (Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and philanthropist George Soros are scheduled to attend), Willard Hotel. Contact the Center for more information.
- ◆ 8: Munching on Human Rights: What is the International Bill of Human Rights? Professor Rick Wilson, 12-1pm, Room 402 (lunch will be served)
- ◆ 16: Human Rights Film Series: *Afghanistan Year 1380*, 6pm, Room 603
- ◆ 22: Human Rights Film Series: *The Pinochet Case*, 6pm, Room 603
- ◆ 28: Human Rights Film Series: *Profit and Nothing But!*, 6pm, Room 603

#### November

- ◆ 5: Human Rights Film Series: *Film TBA*, 6pm, Room 603
- ◆ 12: Munching on Human Rights: What are the Roles of International Organizations? Professors Claudia Martin and Diego Rodriguez-Pinzon, 12-1pm, Room 402 (lunch will be served)

- ◆ 14: Human Rights Film Series: *The Gaza Strip*, 6pm, Room 603
- ◆ 15: Defending Human Rights: Personal Perspectives from Human Rights Defenders from Around the World. Lunch Reception. 12-2pm, Room TBA

December

- ◆ 10: International Human Rights Day

### **Fall Course Listings in Human Rights/Humanitarian Law**

The following is a partial list of courses being offered at WCL this semester in human rights- related subjects. If you would like to talk about your course selections or need more information, please contact us at 274-4180 or email us at [humlaw@wcl.american.edu](mailto:humlaw@wcl.american.edu).

Law 626	Human Rights	Grossman
Law 660	International Law	Goldman, Orentlicher
Law 662	International Organizations & Multinational Institutions	Orentlicher
Law 703	Seminar: Right to Die & Assisted Suicide	Urofsky
Law 707	Seminar: Church & State	Shiffman
Law 707	Seminar: Advanced Constitutional Law	Schwartz
Law 712	Human Rights Litigation Seminar	Tigar
Law 725	International Protection of Refugees & Displaced Persons	Vu
Law 738	Seminar: International Courts	Heywood
Law 739A	Seminar: Advanced Human Rights	Goldman
Law 755	International Human Rights Clinic	R. Wilson, Bruch, Crow
Law 756	International Human Rights Clinic Seminar	R. Wilson, Bruch, Crow
Law 795	Advanced Issues in International Law	Williams
Law 795	Advanced International Human Rights Advocacy	Jabareen
Law 795	Research Seminar: Social Justice	Schwartz
Law 863	Litigating Reparations for African Americans	Aiyetoro
Law 895	Seminar: Gender, Race and Ethnicity in International Human Rights	Romany
Law 898	Legal and Judicial Reform	Bhansali

### **Visiting Scholars and Humphrey Fellows at WCL**

Each year, WCL welcomes visitors from all over the world as part of the International Visiting Scholar Program and the Humphrey Fellowship Program. These programs are designed to provide opportunities for scholars, judges, lawyers, government officials and local activists to engage in research and scholarship while contributing to the international environment of WCL. Various events are scheduled with these accomplished people throughout the year, however some students may wish to seek them out to take advantage of their unique perspectives. For a list of the visitors who will be joining WCL in 2002-2003, please visit: [www.wcl.american.edu/scholars](http://www.wcl.american.edu/scholars) or contact Amy Nickel, International Programs Coordinator at [anickel@wcl.american.edu](mailto:anickel@wcl.american.edu) or (202) 274-4391.

## Upcoming Events in the Human Rights World

- World Summit on Sustainable Development; Johannesburg, South Africa; August 26 - September 5
- First Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court; United Nations, New York; September 2-13
- Inter-American Human Rights Commission Session; Washington, DC; October 7-23
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: December 2
- World Summit on the Information Society; Geneva, Switzerland; December 3 - 10;
- International Human Rights Day: December 10

## Professional Development Opportunities

### PAID 6-MONTH INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR 3Ls and LLMs

The Transitional Justice project at the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame Law School is offering an internship stipend to give recent law graduates opportunities to gain practical experience by working as interns or law clerks with truth commissions or international criminal tribunals. Stipends are provided for 6-month internships and participants are expected to write a report at the end of their tenure.

The program focuses on the following priority themes: (1) Truth Commissions and other experiences with official truth telling; (2) International Criminal Law and Universal Jurisdiction; (3) The performance and jurisprudence of special war crimes tribunals; (4) The creation of a permanent International Criminal Court; (5) Criminal prosecutions in domestic jurisdictions for human-rights crimes, and their relationship to democratic stability and the rule of law.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 20, 2002.**

For more information, contact the Center at (202) 274-4180 or [humlaw@wcl.american.edu](mailto:humlaw@wcl.american.edu).

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### WRITERS NEEDED

The Digital Freedom Network, a U.S.-based non-governmental organization that develops and promotes the use of Internet technology for global human rights activism, is looking for experienced writers throughout the world to write articles on a volunteer basis about local human rights issues. The articles are usually 500-1500 words in length and will be published on the organization's Web site, [www.dfn.org](http://www.dfn.org).

We are looking for individuals who have some journalistic writing experience and knowledge of international affairs and human rights to write articles about human rights issues in

their countries. We especially welcome those in developing nations with experience working in human rights NGO.

For more information, please contact Jacqueline Kozin via email at [jkozin@dfn.org](mailto:jkozin@dfn.org) with a short description of your background and relevant experience. Writing samples are appreciated.

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#### RUSSIAN AND MEXICAN ATTORNEYS SOUGHT FOR PART TIME WORK

The International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) is seeking a Russian and a Mexican lawyer to work with them for a limited time on a judicial enforcement project.

Time: 10-15 hours per week for one or two months, maybe longer

Pay: \$15 per hour

If you are interested, please send your resume to:

Keith Henderson, Sr. Rule of Law Advisor

International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)

1101 15th St., NW, 3rd Floor

Washington, DC 20005

Email: [khenderson@ifes.org](mailto:khenderson@ifes.org)

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#### VOLUNTEER RESEARCH ANALYSTS, SURVIVOR'S RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

Survivors' Rights International, Inc. (SRI) is a nonprofit organization whose aim is to raise public awareness about contemporary acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes taking place around the globe. SRI strives to raise awareness of genocidal atrocities that are not receiving adequate media attention, particularly those stemming from conflict situations.

SRI seeks Country Research Analysts that believe in our mission and goals. Minimum ten hours per week/voluntary basis

Requirements:

- ~ Some knowledge, experience or background in international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international affairs, advocacy or lobbying at national or international level, conflict situations, development/restructuring issues or related field, and/ or willingness and desire to learn;
- ~ Preferably knowledge of past and prevailing country conditions and warning signs of impending widespread gross abuses or atrocities;
- ~ Preferably some background in legal analysis or international affairs;
- ~ Excellent research, analytical and writing skills;
- ~ Fluency in English, second languages desirable;

~ Ability to work independently from home or office with some guidance and willingness to aid in minor administrative duties.

To apply send, fax or email resume and cover letter to:  
Hiring Committee, Survivors' Rights International, Inc.  
1925 North Lynn Street, 12th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Fax: (703) 528-5776  
Email: [info@srintl.org](mailto:info@srintl.org) Web Address: [www.srintl.org](http://www.srintl.org)  
No phone calls please.

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**The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law wants to work with you!**

**We can be reached at (202) 274-4180**

**or by email at [humlaw@wcl.american.edu](mailto:humlaw@wcl.american.edu).**

**Our office is in the Annex one block away.**

**4910 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 16, Room 116.**

**Please come by and see us anytime!**