

Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Spring 2003 Newsletter

Welcome back from vacation! We hope you had a wonderful break and are ready to jump into the full range of activities that await you this Spring. This newsletter gives you a taste of some of the programs and projects in the realm of human rights and humanitarian law that will take place in the coming months. There are many ways for you to get involved - we encourage you to join us!

Join the Center's New Student Advisory Board!!!

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is pleased to announce the establishment of a Student Advisory Board (SAB) to help design programming for the WCL community and to assist in projects for the Center. The SAB will be a great opportunity for students committed to human rights and humanitarian law to work closely with the Center and help develop ideas and projects. Five students will be selected to serve on the Board, which will meet periodically throughout the semester. Board Members will be asked to commit fifteen hours per month to Center projects. In addition, Advisory Board members will be able to participate in special SAB-only activities, including meetings with key human rights leaders and various networking opportunities.

Advisory Board positions are open to all WCL students. Interested students are asked to fill out an application and will be invited to an interview. Applications will be available after Tuesday, January 7 on the Center website at <http://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/center.cfm>, and at the Center office at 4910 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 16. Applications are due at **12pm on Wednesday, January 22, 2003**. For more information, call the Center at 274-4180.

Keep on Munching!!! Munching on Human Rights Continues This Semester

The second semester of Munching on Human Rights awaits! Munching is an introductory program to educate and engage students, especially 1Ls, about basic issues in international human rights and humanitarian law. Munching gives you a great opportunity to informally interact with WCL's internationally known faculty and to get a taste of cutting-edge issues in international law. All sessions are held in Room 402 from 12-1pm and lunch is always served! This semester's schedule is below:

- January 14th - *A Road Map Through the Regional Human Rights Systems* (we will discuss the Inter-American, European and African systems of human rights)
- February 11 - *Law of War/Law in War* (we will discuss the application of the Geneva Conventions - who is covered, what scenarios are envisioned and how does today's "war on terrorism" relate?)

- March 4 – *The Quest for Implementation of International Norms in the United States* (we will discuss how the United States relates to international law, treaties and the concept of universal jurisdiction)
- April 8 – *Challenges and Struggles in Promoting Human Rights* (we will discuss various strategies in promoting and protecting human rights – advocacy v. litigation v. activism, etc.)

The Time is Now: Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition

Meeting for Volunteers – Tuesday, January 28, 12pm, Room TBA

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

Volunteering for the Moot Court Competition is always fun and educational. You will meet and interact with law students from all over the Hemisphere and you will also learn about the Inter-American system. This year, we have created a new program for students who volunteer for the Competition. Volunteers will be invited to participate in a special preparatory session at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and will have the opportunity to learn about the Inter-American system at programs designed specially for IAMC volunteers.

This year's Competition will be held from May 18-23, 2003 at WCL and work is already underway! You can be involved in a number of ways. We are looking for a group of volunteers, especially people with language skills, computer skills and/or an interest in the Inter-American system. To learn more about volunteering for the Moot Court Competition, please join us for a meeting on **Tuesday, January 28 at 12pm** (Room TBA)

Looking for a Few Good Dean's Fellows!

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is looking for a few good Dean's Fellows! Projects this semester will include work on the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, the Indigenous Rights Training Institute, coordination of student research teams and a variety of other Center-related projects. In particular, we are looking for students who speak/read/write Spanish or Portuguese (although all students are encouraged to apply). Interested students should please send your resume and a writing sample to Hadar Harris at hharris@wcl.american.edu by **Friday, January 17, 2003**.

War Crimes Research Office

The War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) is pleased to announce the establishment of its **International Student Resource Panel** -- a new opportunity for WCL students to become involved in its cutting edge-work in the fields of international criminal and humanitarian law. The WCRO is presently seeking **student volunteers who have legal experience in another country** to become founding members of the Panel. Panel members will serve as resource persons for WCRO research projects that have a comparative law element. The amount of time required to serve on the Panel is highly flexible, and Panel members are free to donate as much or as little time as they would like. If interested, please send your contact information and country (or countries) of expertise to warcrimes@wcl.american.edu.

Health and Human Rights Law Student Association

Join the Health and Human Rights Law Student Association! Attend our meetings to learn of the many issues in health and human rights and to find out about *job and internship opportunities* in this broad field.

The Health and Human Rights Law Student Association (HHRLSA) was formed in the 2001-2002 school year as the first human rights student organization at WCL in years. We address a broad range of topics including land mines, torture, asylum, environment, economics, AIDS, mental and physical well-being, and sex discrimination. Our main off-campus support comes from Physicians for Human Rights (PHR).

We warmly welcome all students, faculty and staff to participate in/attend our spring events, which include: cell phone donation drive for domestic violence survivors, in conjunction with Women's Law Association; continuation of our teach-in on the medical experimentation/torture of Unit 731 of the Japanese Imperial Army in WWI I ; co-sponsorship of the Vagina Monologues performed at WCL; lunch discussion on the human right to clean water and a healthy environment. We are very happy to take student suggestions as well!

Students should note that leadership positions for next year are available now!! Also, students are invited to attend PHR's Leadership Training April 5-7. Interested students should contact Anita immediately:
anitasarahjackson@hotmail.com. We have something for you!

Women and International Law Program

The Women and International Law Program specializes in bringing together advocates of all kinds to discuss ways to integrate gender into legal education on a global scale. In Spring 2003, we will be participating in several conferences

towards this end. In particular we will be coordinating a conference on gender and legal education in India. We will also be hosting lunch talk at WCL specifically for the WCL community on current issues of Women and International Law. Also in April 2003, we will be hosting a dinner at WCL on Afghan women's rights in today's Afghanistan.

The Women and International Law Program is also interested in hearing *your* ideas on talks you would like to see us host at WCL or talks you would like to host with our support at WCL on issues of Women and International Law. Please contact us and let us know your ideas! Janine Moussa, Program Coordinator, Jmoussa@wcl.american.edu.

Upcoming Events at WCL

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

January

- 14 *Munching on Human Rights: A Road Map Through the Regional Human Rights Systems*; Room 402, 12-1pm (lunch will be served).
- 22 Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Student Advisory Board Applications Due; 12pm
- 28 Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition Volunteer Meeting; 12pm, Room TBA

February

- 10 Public Interest Lawyering with a Global Impact: Human Rights, Immigration, and Foreign Policy (Co-sponsored by the Office of Public Interest, Office of Career Services, and the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law)
- 11 *Munching on Human Rights: Law of War/Law in War*; Room 402, 12-1pm (lunch will be served).

March

- 3-7 Indigenous Rights Training Institute (for more information, contact the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, 202-274-4180)
- 4 *Munching on Human Rights; The Quest for Implementation of International Norms in the United States*; Room 402, 12-1pm (lunch will be served).
- 18 Conference: International Perspectives on the Right to Vote; Room 603, 10am-1pm (Co-sponsored by the Program on Law and Government and the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law)
- 20-21 Freedom of Expression Conference

April

- 2 Grotius Lecture, featuring The Honorable Mary Robinson. 4pm, Room TBA
Ms. Robinson will be speaking about Human Rights and Globalization. The Distinguished Discussant is Ko Yung Tung, currently General Counsel at the World Bank. (Co-sponsored by the International Legal Studies Program and the American Society of International Law).
- 8 *Munching on Human Rights: Challenges and Struggles in Promoting Human Rights*; Room 402, 12-1pm (lunch will be served).
- 11 Conference: "Inspection Mechanisms and Accountability at International Financial Institutions" (co-sponsored by the International Legal Studies Program and the World Bank Inspection Panel).

May

- 18 - 23 Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition
24- 13 June Academy on Human Rights

Spring 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.

Law 620	International Humanitarian Law	(Goldman)
Law 655	Immigration and Naturalization	(Ahmad)
Law 656	Asylum and Refugee Law	(Rosenberg)
Law 660	International Law	(Goldman)
Law 691	Sex Based Discrimination	(Johnson)
Law 702	Seminar: Death Penalty	(James)
Law 712	Seminar: Human Rights Litigation	(Tigar)
Law 715	Seminar: Disability and the Law	(Dinerstein)
Law 719	Seminar: Public Health Law	(Bruner)
Law 723	Seminar: Current Issues in International Organizations	(Maksoud)
Law 725	Seminar: Gender, Cultural Difference and International Human Rights	(Bruch)
Law 739	Seminar: Advanced Human Rights	(Orentlicher)
Law 755	International Human Rights Clinic	
Law 795	Non-State Actors in Human Rights, Humanitarian and International Criminal Law	(Cerone)
Law 808	International Business and Human Rights	(Orentlicher)
Law 809	Comparative Labor and Employment Law	(Lofaso)
Law 815	Seminar: Feminist Jurisprudence	(Wiseman)
Law 895	Gender, Race, Ethnicity and International Human Rights	(Romany)

Looking for Dean's Fellows

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is looking for part-time Dean's Fellows. Native Spanish or Portuguese speakers are particularly encouraged to apply. Please send resumes and writing samples to Hadar Harris at hharris@wcl.american.edu by Friday, January 17, 2003.

Prof. Diane Orentlicher is seeking a part-time Dean's Fellow this Spring. She would like someone with strong research skills in international law. Interested candidates should contact her at orentlic@wcl.american.edu.

The Women and International Law Program seeks one to two dean's fellows for the Spring 2003 semester to help the program with its upcoming events. This includes substantive research as well as help with the everyday program activities. If interested, please drop off a resume and brief cover letter to Janine Moussa, Program Coordinator, Women and International Law Program at our new office location 4910 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 16, Room 110 (one block away from WCL building) - OR email the information to Jmoussa@wcl.american.edu

The War Crimes Research Office is seeking several Dean's Fellows for the Spring semester of 2003. JD (2nd and 3rd year) 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. Please submit a resume and a cover letter, along with a short writing sample and a transcript (unofficial is fine) to John Cerone, Executive Director, War Crimes Research Office, either by email at warcimes@wcl.american.edu, or to our office. The deadline for applications is **Friday, January 17, 2003**. If you want to discuss the various possibilities of working at the WCRO with us first, please feel free to stop by our new office at 4910 Massachusetts Ave, NW, just one block from WCL, call us at 202-274-4067, or e-mail at warcimes@wcl.american.edu

Summer Programs

THE WCL ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

MAY 27 - JUNE 13, 2003

We are pleased to announce that the registration period for the summer 2003 Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is now open, and we will be accepting applications through May 12, 2003.

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is the only program in the world in English and Spanish that offers three weeks of intensive summer courses with world-renowned scholars and activists in the human rights field. The Academy has been designed as an innovative and diverse program tailored to meet the needs

of counselors in international organizations, government agency workers, international relief agency workers, policymakers, NGO representatives, academics and students specializing in human rights. Each year, the Academy offers intensive, specialized courses on regional human rights law, universal human rights law, international humanitarian law, as well as other thematic courses. In addition to classes, the Academy offers panel discussions, on-site visits to national and international institutions in Washington, DC, conferences by distinguished lecturers and human rights practitioners, and a film festival.

WCL students may receive credit for attending the Academy. Applications are available on our web site at <http://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/hracademy>. Classes fill quickly, so apply soon!

THE SALZBURG SEMINAR

AUGUST 6-13, 2003

The Salzburg Seminar is one of the world's foremost international educational centers committed to broadening the perspectives of tomorrow's leaders. With the principles of reconciliation and intellectual inquiry central to its activities, the Seminar is dedicated to promoting the free exchange of ideas, experience, and understanding in a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural environment. During the course of each year, some 1,000 professionals of exceptional promise from more than 100 countries gather at the Seminar's magnificent facility at Schloss Leopoldsdron for discussion of political, social, and cultural issues of universal concern. It is the Seminar's belief confirmed by a tradition of fifty-two years, that intensive interaction among peers from diverse backgrounds in a neutral forum will expand viewpoints, facilitate the establishment of worldwide professional networks, and effect enlightened change in the future.

The Social and Economic Dimensions of Human Rights (August 6-13, 2003), will bring together human rights activists, scholars and policy-makers from around the world to discuss the relationship of social and economic conditions to the respect for conventions of human dignity. For more information (including application materials), see www.salzburgseminar.org

**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.
Our office is in the Annex one block away.
4910 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 16, Room 116.
Please come by and see us anytime!**
