



## Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

### **AU Washington College of Law To Be Launch Site of New Int'l Committee of Red Cross Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law and Protection of War Victims, Sept. 28**

Contact: Kathy Thompson, WCL Public Relations, 202-274-4279; Cell Phone: 703-855-5556

Washington, D.C. (Sept. 20, 2005) – American University Washington College of Law will be the host for the US launch of a new study by the International Committee of the Red Cross evaluating customary international humanitarian law and its application to the protection of people affected by war. Ten years in the making, the study will be revealed at “The Reaffirmation of Custom as an Important Source of International Humanitarian Law,” to be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, in Room 603 of the Washington College of Law, 4801 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

The 5,000-page study identifies 161 rules of customary international humanitarian law that offer legal protection for people affected by war. The WCL conference will feature the report’s primary authors and discussants from around the world, with a keynote speech by Judge Theodor Meron, president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

#### Agenda:

- 9 a.m.           **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**  
**Claudio Grossman**, dean, AU Washington College of Law  
**Geoff Loane**, head of delegation, ICRC, Reg’l Delegation for N.America, D.C.
- 9:10 a.m.       Presentation, Questions and Answers  
**“The Contribution of the ICRC Study to the Clarification of Customary  
International Humanitarian Law”**
- Chair: **Dean Claudio Grossman**, AU Washington College of Law  
                    Speaker: **Jean Marie Henckaerts**, legal advisor, ICRC
- 10:30 a.m.      Break
- 10:45 a.m.      Roundtable Discussion  
**“The Relevance of the Customary Law of Armed Conflict in Contemporary  
Armed Conflicts”**

Chair: **Robert K. Goldman**, faculty director, War Crimes Research Office,  
professor of law, AU Washington College of Law

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Panelists:

- **Louise Doswald-Beck**, professor, Graduate Institute of International Studies & University Centre for International Humanitarian Law, Geneva; **co-author of the ICRC study**
- **Hays Parks, col, USMCR (Ret.)**, adjunct professor of law, AU Washington College of Law; **International Affairs Division, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Dept of Defense**
- **Joshua L. Dorosin**, assistant legal advisor, U.S. Dept of State
- **Michael J. Matheson**, professor of law, George Washington University Law School; **member, UN International Law Commission**
- **Burrus N. Carnahan, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.)**, principal contributor to the report to the ICRC on U.S. Practice in the Field of Customary International Humanitarian Law
- **Jordan J. Paust**, law foundation professor, University of Houston Law Center

12:30 p.m.    **Luncheon Keynote**  
**“The Revival of Customary International Humanitarian Law”**

**Judge Theodor Meron, president, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia**

The conference is co-sponsored by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the War Crimes Research Office, both of AU Washington College of Law, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. For registration information, call WCL’s Office of Special Events, 202-274-4075 or visit [www.wcl.american.edu/seclc](http://www.wcl.american.edu/seclc). There is a \$50 registration fee to cover the cost of the luncheon.

To arrange to cover the conference, or for other media assistance, contact Kathy Thompson, director of Public Relations, 202-274-4279; Cell Phone: 703-855-5556; or E-mail: [kthompson@WCL.american.edu](mailto:kthompson@WCL.american.edu).

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