

Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law sponsors the following programs to promote a culture of and give prominence to human rights and humanitarian law around the world:

Specialized Human Rights Program, a unique three-week intensive program, offers courses on human rights and humanitarian law in both English and Spanish. Each year nearly 200 participants from around the world choose from among 17 courses taught by more than 30 internationally known human rights scholars and activists.

Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition trains law students to use the human rights legal system to redress violations. The only such trilingual event (sessions in English, Portuguese, and Spanish), the competition has seen more than 1,000 students, who, with faculty, represent more than 100 universities and 20 countries.

Human Rights Essay Award, an annual writing competition, encourages scholarly work in international human rights law. The Academy grants two awards for best articles in English and in Spanish. Winners receive a scholarship to attend the Specialized Human Rights Program and the opportunity to publish their article in the *American University International Law Review*.

Annual Meeting on Human Rights enables the Academy to continue its commitment to provide a forum for discussion of major issues concerning the development, sustainability, and effectiveness of the Inter-American Human Rights System, and human rights in the Americas.

Legal Education and Curriculum Development Project develops and coordinates agreements with academic institutions in Latin America and Europe to support local capacity development in the area of international human rights law.

The Academy regularly conducts and publishes scholarly research. It also administers the **Inter-American Human Rights Digest** and manages the **Inter-American Human Rights Database**.

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A LEGAL APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS



Human Rights Month

May 18 – June 12, 2009

WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Human Rights Month

Each year, the Academy sponsors a month of events dedicated to human rights theory. It is an opportunity to share experiences and network with fellow practitioners and internationally known scholars and activists. Activities include conferences, workshops, and a film festival related to human rights and humanitarian law, as well as visits to international organizations.

In 2009, **Human Rights Month (May 18–June 12)** coincides with the **4th Annual Meeting on Human Rights: The 50th Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (June 5–9)**, cosponsored by the Center for Justice and International Law.

The meeting will reflect on the past and future of this regional system in light of the 50th Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Panelists include former presidents of the Commission and the Court, as well as representatives from states, civil society organizations, and academia.

We hope you will join us for some—or all—of these events.

Claudia Martin and Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón
Codirectors
Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 28:

The 11th Hour

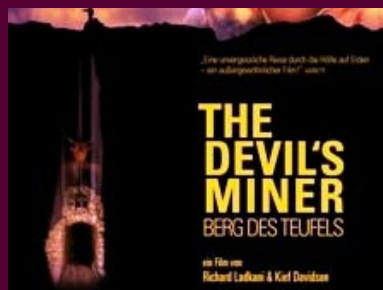
This film addresses the environmental crisis caused by humans' impact on the planet and urges the public to take action for the protection of our environment. (12:30–2:30 p.m.)



Tuesday, June 2:

The Devil's Miner

This film deals with the problem of child labor and tells the story of Basilio, age 14, and his brother, 12, who worship the devil for protection while working in a Bolivian silver mine to support their family. (12:30–2:30 p.m.)



Wednesday, June 4:

Darfur Now

A call to action for people everywhere to help end the crisis in Darfur, this film portrays the heroic efforts of six very different people responding to a humanitarian tragedy in Darfur. (12:30–2:30 p.m.)



Calendar of Events

All events are free but registration is required; visit wcl.american.edu/secle/cl_form.cfm.

14th Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition

- **Preliminary Oral Rounds** May 18–20, 8:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
- **Semifinal Oral Rounds** May 21, 9:00–11:30 a.m.
- **Final Oral Round Friday** May 22, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

The following panels will be conducted in Spanish and English, with simultaneous translation, and transmitted as live Webcasts.

All panels: 12:30–2:30 p.m. WCL Room 603

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

The Role of International Courts: Current Issues and Challenges Ahead

- Elizabeth Andersen, Executive Director, American Society of International Law
- Antonio Cançado Trindade, Judge, International Court of Justice
- Sylvia Steiner, Judge, International Criminal Court

Commentator: Claudia Martin, Codirector, Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Ratification of Human Rights Treaties and the Obama Administration

- Alexandra Arriaga, Cochair, Working Group for the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Doug Cassell, Director, Center for Civil and Human Rights, University of Notre Dame
- Howard Davidson, Director, Center on Children and the Law, American Bar Association

Commentator: Rebecca Cook, Professor of Law and Faculty Chair in International Human Rights, and Codirector, Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Programme, University of Toronto

MONDAY, JUNE 1

Environment and Human Rights: Developments on Implementation

Cosponsored by the International and Comparative Environmental Law Program, American University

- Gustavo Alanis-Ortega, President, Mexican Environmental Law Center
- Natalie Bridgeman, Attorney, International Human Rights Counsel
- Asbjørn Eide, Professor Emeritus, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo

Commentator: David Hunter, Director, International and Comparative Environmental Law Program, American University Washington College of Law

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Indigenous People's Rights: Current Status in International Human Rights Law

- Victor Abramovich, Member, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Leonardo Crippa, Staff Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center
- Katherine Gorove, Attorney, Office of the Legal Adviser for Human Rights and Refugees, U.S. Department of State

Commentator: Jonas Grimheden, Research Manager, Freedoms & Justice, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

4th Annual Meeting on Human Rights: The 50th Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Co-sponsored by the Center for Justice and International Law

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

A Retrospective Look at the Work of the Commission

- Robert Goldman, Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law
- Claudio Grossman, Dean, American University Washington College of Law
- Juan Méndez, President, International Center for Transitional Justice

Commentator: Víctor Abramovich, Member, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Freedom of Expression: A Key Issue on the Commission's Agenda

- Catalina Botero, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Herman Schwartz, Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law
- Leo Zwaak, Senior Researcher, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University

Commentator: Christof Heyns, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

A Look at the Future of the Commission: How Will It Evolve?

- Santiago Cantón, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Felipe González, Member, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Michael Shifter, Director, Andean Program, Inter-American Dialogue
- Viviana Krsticevic, Executive Director, Center for Justice and International Law

Commentator: Diego Rodríguez Pinzón, Codirector, Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Human Rights Violations after 9/11: A Debate about Accountability

- Federico Andreu-Guzmán, General Counsel, International Commission of Jurists
- Manfred Nowak, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture
- Yves Sandoz, Professor of Law, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- Joseph Zogby, Legal Advisor to Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Commentator: Joanne Mariner, Director, Terrorism and Counterterrorism Program, Human Rights Watch