

*Engaging the Community, the Nation and the World*

# WELCOME STUDENTS

*Welcome* FROM DEAN  
CLAUDIO GROSSMAN

On behalf of the WCL faculty and administration, it is my pleasure to welcome our new and returning students. I hope that your summer was productive and fulfilling, and that you are eager to begin the upcoming academic year. Our community looks forward to providing our J.D., LL.M., and S.J.D. students with the highest quality of teaching, scholarship and service. Some of the exciting initiatives and new developments that will enhance your WCL experience are outlined below.

Reflecting WCL's ongoing success, approximately 9,200 total applicants sought admission to our J.D. and LL.M. programs this past year. We welcome an entering J.D. class of approximately 380 full-time and 100 part-time students, and more than 200 LL.M. students, including approximately 120 new LL.M. candidates. Our LL.M. students are U.S. and foreign lawyers who will enrich our institution through their diverse cultures, languages, experiences and legal traditions. I urge you to collaborate with your fellow students in areas of common interest.

WCL's faculty and administrators are continually working to provide you with an ever-growing range of opportunities to learn, acquire new skills, achieve personal distinction, serve others, and participate in our community life. This year, you will meet new faculty, and be exposed to new courses and curricular innovations, expanded opportunities in experiential learning, programmatic initiatives, and career and technology related services. WCL's Pence Law Library offers vast and varied on-site and on-line resources and services, technological offerings, and informed staff who are eager to assist you. Our community is constantly moving toward higher levels of excellence, inspired by our collective energy and creativity, and guided by our shared vision in the promotion of human dignity through legal education.

Finally, it is you -- our students -- who are the heart of WCL. You will continue to shape the school's values and traditions as you experience the rich opportunities created for you. Welcome to WCL!

## FACULTY DEVELOPMENTS

This past year, WCL hired the following professors, visitors, practitioners-in-residence, fellows and instructors, some of whom have long been members of our community in other capacities:

David Baluarte, Practitioner-in-Residence, who previously clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, will have supervision and teaching duties in the International Human Rights Law Clinic - General Human Rights Section.

Yael Cannon, Practitioner-in-Residence, is a Senior Attorney/Policy Attorney at The Children's Law Center's Health Access Project in Washington, D.C. She will have supervision and teaching duties in the Disability Rights Law Clinic.

Michael Carroll, Professor, who was previously a Professor at Villanova University School of Law, will teach on topics including Law and the Internet, Contracts, Intellectual Property and Cyberspace, and Licensing and Legal Entrepreneurship.

David Gantz, Visiting Professor, and Professor of Law and Director of the International Trade Law Program at the University of Arizona, Rogers College of Law, will be teaching International Trade Law II and other courses in international law.

Anna Gelpert, Associate Professor, was an Associate Professor of Law at Rutgers School of Law Newark. She will be teaching Contracts, International Finance, Financial Institutions, and a seminar on the financial crisis.

Elizabeth Keyes, Practitioner-in-Residence, is currently employed as a Supervising Attorney at WEAVE (Women Empowered Against Violence). She will have supervision and teaching duties in the International Human Rights Law Clinic - Immigrants' Rights Division Clinic.

Jamie Lee, Practitioner-in-Residence, is currently a partner in the D.C. law firm of Reno & Cavanaugh. She will have supervision and teaching duties in the Community and Economic Development Clinic.

Benjamin Leff, Assistant Professor, was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. He will teach Federal Income Tax, Federal Estate Tax, Tax-Exempt Organizations, Tax Procedure and Tax Policy.

Juan Mendez, Visiting Professor, is the former President of the International Center for Transitional Justice. He will teach Advanced Human Rights, a seminar on genocide, International Criminal Law, and Regional Approaches to Human Rights.

Amy Myers, Practitioner-in-Residence, is currently employed as a Supervising Attorney at WEAVE. She will have supervision and teaching duties in the Domestic Violence Clinic.

Jayesh Rathod, Assistant Professor, was a Practitioner-in-Residence in WCL's clinical program. He will teach in the International Human Rights Law Clinic - Immigrants' Rights Division, and will teach a course in the spring.

Jenny Roberts, Visiting Associate Professor, is Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic at Syracuse. She will teach in the area of criminal law, and in the Criminal Justice Clinic.

Ediberto Roman, Visiting Professor, is a Professor of Law at the Florida International University College of Law. He will teach Torts.

Stephen Wermiel, Law and Government Fellow, was the Associate Director of WCL's Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project. He will teach constitutional law and a seminar on the Supreme Court.

William Yeomans, Law and Government Fellow, has served as Chief Judiciary Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy. He will teach Legislative Process, a seminar on Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch, Constitutional Law, and an Advanced Civil Rights seminar.

# WELCOME STUDENTS

## NEW COURSES

WCL offers over 525 courses and seminars during the year. We continually reevaluate these offerings to provide you with classes that address current issues in the legal arena. To enhance your learning experience, we introduced the following new courses and seminars this past year: Comparative Secured Transactions and Public Policy; Drafting Wills and Trusts; Gender, Inequality, and the State; Housing Law; Legislation: Institutions and Interpretations; Legislation: Process and Political Rhetoric; and Presidential Leadership on Rights. New first-year elective classes approved were: Civil Procedure II: Trial through Appeal; Intangible Property: Personal and Intellectual; Law and Economics; and Legislation and Statutory Interpretation.

## CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS

The law school's ongoing and dynamic process of development also includes a first-year curriculum which covers both the essential common and public law courses as well as provides electives in the spring, giving each student the opportunity to select courses in international, regulatory, or other critical fields. In addition, all first-year sections are integrated or trans-curricular. To achieve this objective, portions of classes are team-taught, panels are presented, and commons are held, all by law school faculty from multiple disciplines. These exciting and innovative developments mean that breaking down barriers between fields is no longer a distant goal at WCL – it is a reality.

WCL's Legal Rhetoric Program is based upon an understanding of the powerful interdependence of language and law that has helped create a unique Program that provides an environment in which students learn to become effective writers and lawyers. The Program combines exceptional resources, outstanding expertise, and innovative pedagogy to develop students' research and writing skills. Students become independent thinkers as they learn to think through research and writing strategies to create effective legal documents. They also develop a sophisticated vocabulary for discussing writing strategies, which is invaluable in law offices and judges' chambers and for working both independently and collaboratively. These skills give our students an edge from their first day in practice.

Our Legal Analysis Program provides students with an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of legal analysis and reasoning while gaining insights into the classroom experience. The Program is open, by application, to all entering students. The Program consists of a summer workshop and fall sessions on a variety of topics first-year law students often find challenging, such as preparing for class and for examinations.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Established in 1972, WCL's Clinical Program offers a nationally acclaimed model of clinical education to a significant number of our J.D. students. WCL clinics present students with transformative learning opportunities by emphasizing the importance of taking responsibility for client cases or matters while working under the supervision of experienced faculty members. WCL is a national leader in integrating its clinics into the overall life of the law school. Last academic year, approximately 240 upper-level students participated in WCL's nine in-house clinics, under the guidance of 30 clinic faculty and practitioners-in-residence. The in-house clinics offer students opportunities to represent low-income and other under-served clients or organizations in such di-

verse fields as General Practice, Community and Economic Development, Criminal Justice, Disability Rights, Domestic Violence, Federal Tax, Intellectual Property, International Human Rights, and Women and the Law. WCL also offers an evening section of the General Practice Clinic so that students from the part-time division have the opportunity to represent actual clients. In addition, the law school participates in D.C. Law Students in Court, an off-site clinical program sponsored by five area law schools.

WCL's Supervised Externship Program is one of the largest in the country, allowing students to earn academic credit for work in some of the nation's most prestigious not-for-profit organizations, courts, government agencies and law firms engaged in pro bono projects. Last academic year, over 300 students took advantage of externship opportunities with local placements including the Executive Office of the President, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Center for International Environmental Law, U.S. District Court (DC, MD, & VA), American Civil Liberties Union, and pro bono work at the law firm of DLA Piper.

The International Externship Program, whereby students earn academic credit for work abroad while supervised by WCL faculty, has a distinguished and growing list of placements including the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and the South African Human Rights Commission.

## PRO BONO AT WCL

A commitment to pro bono legal activities has always been a cornerstone of WCL's mission, and student and faculty involvement is impressive. One example, the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, was founded in 1999 to enable gifted upper-level WCL students to teach about the Constitution and democratic participation in local high schools. Last academic year, 46 students taught two or three days each week in 11 local public schools and public charter schools, reaching more than 300 high school students. This innovative program has been replicated by law schools around the nation and abroad.

Another example of WCL's commitment to pro bono work is the Equal Justice Foundation (EJF). As a result of its 16th Annual 2009 Public Interest Auction, the EJF raised approximately \$176,000 to support all 44 applicants volunteering in summer fellowships at numerous public interest organizations.

Entering its ninth year, the Office of Public Interest (OPI) works closely with the Office of Career & Professional Development (OCPD) to provide a variety of services for students pursuing public interest careers. OPI administers the Public Interest/Public Service Scholarship (PIPS) program, and coordinates the In My Back Yard (IMBY) Public Service Day, the Pro Bono Honors Pledge Program, the 1L Public Interest Roundtable Series, and the Public Interest Wire newsletter. Together with the OCPD Public Interest Specialist, OPI provides a variety of career focused public interest programming and information on job searches, career fairs and funding opportunities, as well as mock interviews and post-graduate fellowship advice and application review.

Through the Pro Bono Honors Pledge Program, students complete a minimum of 75 hours of pro bono and community service projects at organizations working on behalf of low-income and underrepresented populations. Students completing the Pledge receive recognition at the annual Student Public Service Awards Reception and a notation in the

commencement program.

These are just some of the many pro bono initiatives at WCL where students can gain valuable professional experience and contacts, make new friends, and contribute to worthy causes. I hope that you will take advantage of these important opportunities.

## CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OCPD is committed to assisting students in the development of critical job search skills necessary for securing a position in your chosen legal field, including the more "traditional" legal jobs as well as "nontraditional" careers in law-related fields. OCPD counselors help students through every stage of their career development, from identifying summer and academic year opportunities to securing post-graduate positions. During OCPD's 2008 Fall Recruitment Program, 174 employers conducted on-campus and regional interviews. Additionally, more than 340 positions were posted by employers via resume collection and direct application processes. OCPD also conducted approximately 2,190 student and alumni counseling sessions, and sponsored or co-sponsored 84 internal education programs.

OCPD's efforts combined with WCL's motivated student body have produced impressive results: approximately 95 percent of the class of 2008 was employed nine months after graduation! WCL graduates found employment in every sector, from academia to private practice, government to public interest, and domestic to international law.

## FOUNDERS' CELEBRATION

WCL was founded over a century ago by two pioneering women who believed that knowledge of the legal system was a key to achieving gender equality. In honor of our founders, Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillett, and in commemoration of the law school's establishment, WCL hosts the annual Founders' Celebration. Many innovative and exciting events are held each spring to promote academic excellence, bring interested individuals from the private and public sectors to WCL, and introduce prospective employers to students as well as prospective students to WCL.

The 2009 Founders' Celebration, "Justice for All," offered 59 outstanding conferences and events on key issues of our time to over 6,800 lawyers and other professionals, judges, scholars, and students from around the nation and the world. The more than 420 distinguished speakers and presenters included Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. The 2009 Founders' Celebration continued our engagement with the judiciary by hosting numerous other domestic, foreign and international judicial leaders from courts including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, African Court on Human and People's Rights, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Plans are already well underway for the 2010 Founders' Celebration. I encourage you to think about possible events, as many past events have been organized with the cooperation of student organizations, faculty members and our Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, which oversees the Founders' Celebration.

## IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

WCL has the most up-to-date, high-speed, and reliable network infrastructure available. Wired and wireless connections are available throughout the law school. The Office of Technology has continued its extremely successful podcasting and webcasting program. As of early summer, WCL had nearly 1,090 podcasts of events available for download, and approximately 850 podcasts of classes available to students. Some classes are webcast when students are unable to attend classes due to circumstances such as religious holidays.

To facilitate pod- and webcasting of events and classes, the Office of Technology continues to upgrade audiovisual equipment throughout the law school, particularly in classrooms. Cameras, projectors and media recording devices have been added to facilitate the webcasting initiative.

## BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

This past year brought about numerous improvements to the law school's facilities. The Moot Court Room underwent renovations to provide a new layout with technology upgrades, a larger floor plan, new furniture, and a separate deliberation room. This project also allowed for additional classroom space.

At the same time, the lobby has been extensively renovated with new floors, ceilings and plasma televisions to advertise the numerous programs running at our law school. The renovation allowed the Legal Rhetoric Program to expand. To meet ever increasing needs, another 7,500 square feet of office space was constructed at the 4301 50th Street location.

Acoustics are also being improved to ensure that all classrooms provide the best possible clarity for lectures. Room 100, as the prototype, has already received acoustical wall and ceiling treatments, and similar upgrades to rooms 401, 402, and 602 are expected to be completed by the fall.

## ADMISSIONS

You will be proud to learn that WCL received roughly 8,700 applications just for this year's entering J.D. class. This significant number and the credentials of the applicants reflect the formidable and ever-growing reputation of WCL and its graduates.

All of you are members of a unique student body enriched by more than 200 LL.M. candidates, from over 55 foreign countries, in the International Legal Studies and the Law and Government programs. The blending of different legal cultures creates an exceptional opportunity for academic and intercultural exchanges and lasting relationships with a diverse and engaging group of individuals.

## STUDENT AFFAIRS AND DIVERSITY SERVICES

Associate Dean Jaffe and the dedicated staff of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), and the Office of Diversity Services (ODS), are here to assist you with a variety of academic and personal matters as you settle in and find your place at WCL. Please take a moment to get acquainted with OSA and Sherry Weaver, director of ODS, and share your questions and concerns with their offices.

# WELCOME STUDENTS

Among its many activities, OSA sponsors “Opportunities Day” in the spring for students to interact with faculty and staff on a more informal basis, and an academic advising period during which students learn all they need to know about selecting upper-level courses, focusing on the bar exam, and more. Also watch for ODS-sponsored events, a conference on diversity issues, and a series of cultural events. These and other initiatives will be announced in the weekly newsletter, *The Docket*.

## CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Center was created in 1990 to work with WCL students and faculty as well as the international human rights community to provide scholarship and support for human rights initiatives around the world. The Center provides hands-on human rights experience for WCL students through a variety of activities including the Student Advisory Board, a variety of speakers and training opportunities, interactions with human rights practitioners and academics from across the globe, and publication of the student-run *Human Rights Brief*, which provides concise analysis of major issues in international human rights and humanitarian law and is distributed to more than 6,000 subscribers in over 90 countries. Students frequently contribute to columns on a variety of subjects including international tribunals, regional human rights organizations, and the United Nations.

## SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

WCL has a variety of exciting specialized programs concerning human rights, commercial arbitration, health law and environmental law. Our Health Law and Policy Institute provides students with courses and training in a wide array of issues related to practice in the health law field. The annual Summer Session on Environmental Law provides law students and practitioners with an opportunity for intensive environmental law study, and offers a broad range of courses taught by leading practitioners from government, business and NGOs. Our newly created Center on International Commercial Arbitration is building on the accomplishments of our International Arbitration Program, which includes a summer session taught by leading practitioners and arbitrators from around the world. As you think ahead to summer, consider these innovative programs together with WCL’s numerous other summer initiatives including study abroad opportunities and courses.

## ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Entering its eleventh year, WCL’s Academy provides specialized legal training on human rights rules, mechanisms and challenges that are shaping our world. The Academy’s Specialized Program is a unique intensive, three-week program that offers human rights courses in both English and Spanish, taught by leading human rights experts. This year the Academy offered 17 courses taught by more than 30 renowned experts to nearly 200 participants from across the globe. The Academy also hosts Human Rights Month, the Human Rights Award and an Annual Meeting on Human Rights, and is home to the annual Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, the world’s only trilingual (English, Portuguese, and Spanish) competition dedicated to

the Inter-American human rights system. The 14th Annual Competition was held this summer and attracted approximately 230 participants comprising 88 teams from 33 countries, with more than 300 lawyers participating as judges and coaches. In the last two years, participants included students from 14 universities in Europe, Africa and Asia, as well as from universities across the Americas.

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The time that you invest in WCL is an investment in yourself and your future. As students, your contributions and efforts, both in class and in extracurricular areas, enrich you individually and the WCL community as a whole. WCL is proud to have so many active and diverse student organizations which bring together individuals to develop, explore and promote common interests. Student activities abound at the law school and include national and international moot court competitions, student publications, study abroad programs, and myriad public interest initiatives.

Another key activity at WCL is participation in the law school’s elected student government, the Student Bar Association (SBA), which represents the students’ interests. The SBA places students on numerous committees, including joint committees with faculty and administration of both the law school and main campus. By joining the SBA and becoming a member of its committees, you can make a difference in your experience at WCL, while improving the experience of your fellow students as well.

## *Closing Remarks*

On behalf of the Washington College of Law, I would like to welcome and encourage you to become an active participant in our vibrant community. I look forward to meeting those of you who are new students, and all students, new and returning, are invited to join me for one of the dean’s luncheons that I host throughout the year. These luncheons provide excellent additional opportunities to get better acquainted and discuss topics of interest to you.

This year will be filled with opportunities and challenges for each of you as individuals, and for all of us as members of the WCL community. We will celebrate the accomplishments and face those challenges together, continually developing WCL as one of the most dynamic academic institutions in the world.

*Welcome to Washington College of Law!*

