



American University Washington College of Law

Strategic Litigation in International and Domestic Fora

October 12, 2009 • 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
followed by dinner

American University Washington College of Law, Room 603
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

**2:00-3:00 p.m. First Distinguished Lecture:
Michael Tigar**

Professor Emeritus of American University Washington College of Law (WCL), Professor of the Practice of Law, Duke Law School, and Founder of the UNROW Human Rights Impact Litigation Clinic

Topic: “Narratives of Oppression”

**3:15-4:30 p.m. Panel I: UNROW Human Rights Impact
Litigation Clinic**

For more than four decades, the people of the Chagos Archipelago have pursued their claim, in different jurisdictions on two continents, that they were forcefully removed from their island home in the Indian Ocean by the British and U.S. governments to make way for a military base.

David Vine will discuss the role of empirical data, sociology and anthropology in developing a reparations model to remedy the damages.

Richard Gifford is a UK solicitor who has represented the Chagossians for more than three decades, and in several fora.

Olivier Bancoult is the leader of the Chagossian people. He has been an articulate voice for the Chagossians’ aspirations, and is lead plaintiff.

**4:45-6:00 p.m. Panel II: Impact Litigation Project in
the Americas**

Francisco Uson was prosecuted and sentenced to five and a half years in prison for “dishonoring and disrespecting the armed forces of Venezuela” during a media interview in May 2004. His case is the first before the Inter-American system to deal with criminalization of speech against a state organ at a time when more governments in Latin America are resorting to it, silencing criticism and curtailing democratic debates.

Francisco Uson Ramirez is the victim in this case. He will discuss the alleged offense, the trial and conviction and his experience before international courts.

Dean Claudio Grossman led the Project’s litigation efforts before the Inter-American Commission and Court;

Alejandra Gonza was the staff attorney leading the efforts in the Uson case at the Office of the Special Rapporteur within the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;

Gonzalo Himiob Santome was Mr. Uson’s criminal lawyer and a key witness in his case before the Inter-American system;

Agustina Del Campo was one of the lawyers representing Mr. Uson before the Inter-American system and will moderate the discussion.

6:30 p.m. Dinner (Sixth Floor Student Lounge)
Welcome Remarks by the Dean



General Registration – no charge

Please register at www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration

General registration is free but required. For further information, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, American University Washington College of Law. Phone: 202.274.4075; Fax: 202.274.4079; or secle@wcl.american.edu

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