

At 25 Years: Looking Back for Hope Going Forward



By Ronald A. Brand
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Five years ago, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Center for International Legal Education (CILE). At that time, we thought the 25th anniversary would call for an even bigger celebration. But there will be no large in-person conference with a gala dinner, and we will have to wait to have alumni return to be with one another in Pittsburgh. Like everyone else, we are subject to the limitations brought about by a pandemic—one of those events consistently predicted but always assumed not likely to happen in our lifetime. But it did happen, and all of life has changed.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic we are celebrating 25 years of CILE. We began this fall with our 27th annual McLean Lecture on World Law, which was our opening keynote event, featuring 2006 JD graduate, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Shackelford, speaking on her book *The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age*. Check out the link on page 32 for this and others in the series of programs and alumni videos throughout the year. Please visit often to see what is new and to get updated reports.

We have used our CILE Notes newsletter each year to highlight what our

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students and alumni have been doing. We have tried always to have those reports be in their own words, not ours. This year the pages that follow provide an expanded set of reports, with alumni both looking back on their Pitt Law/CILE experience and discussing how it prepared them for a global life in the law. The stories are worth your time. They scratch the surface of the impact our CILE graduates have had, and are having, around the globe. They are supplemented in the videos on our CILE website, which bring to life the many contributions of our students, alumni, advisory board members and others. We will be adding more throughout this year of celebration.

As always, we have tinted the background color on the pages that follow that are in the words of our students and alumni. Their stories are our stories at CILE. They are the ones who make our work worthwhile and demonstrate the impact law students and lawyers can have on the world. They are the ones who provide hope for the future.

We live in uncertain times; times in which national and global commitments to rule of law and our ability to respond to global problems with global solutions are tested every day. At CILE and Pitt

Law, we have the privilege to see and work toward our future on a daily basis. Our students and alumni are committed, engaged, and energetic in their dedication to a future in which justice, equality, and the rule of law are not just theoretical concepts but real goals that can be achieved through the practical skills those students and alumni are developing and demonstrating. It is easy to be discouraged by reports of daily events, but I have seen the future in our students, and the good of the present in our alumni, and it gives me hope. ■



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Some photos in this publication were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not necessarily reflect current health and safety guidelines.

law.pitt.edu/cile

CILE ALUMNI STATEMENTS: LLM Alumni



Jose Luis Syquia (LLM '98)
Philippines

Unit Head, Due Diligence Unit at Asian Development Bank (ADB), Office of Anticorruption and Integrity

Different individuals have their own reasons for pursuing an LLM degree, as well as their own stories to share on choosing an institution that would take that journey with them. My story began 23 years ago at a local mall in Manila, Philippines, when I purchased a book on “the top law schools in the United States” and read through it in a quiet corner of a local coffee shop. Back then, it was still in vogue to search for actual reference books, almanacs, and resources at bookstores or the local library.

As I scanned through the numerous schools and programs listed in the freshly opened tome, my first instinct was to search for well-known universities that had seasoned LLM programs for international students. However, I felt that I also wanted a law school that somehow reflected and understood my situation as a young and newly minted lawyer, filled with passion to make a difference regardless of the uncertainties that lay ahead. In other words, I wanted a program that would give me the opportunity to be a pioneer of sorts – one that would not only teach me but would also grow and mature with me. Obviously, I felt that my preferences

were quite vague and that I probably would not find the ideal law school, in that it seemed like I was looking more for a living, breathing person than an institution. Nevertheless, I decided to give the book three careful passes before giving up on my personal preferences; and as I made each pass, one particular program stood out more and more as fitting the bill – the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Legal Education (CILE) LLM program.

It was certainly a young program with only two prior LLM batches, and so one could argue that it lacked significant numbers of distinguished LLM alumni to speak on its behalf. On the other hand, for me this meant that I had more reason to rely on its raw conviction, passion, and the quality of its proposed approach to broaden its international reach and make its mark in the world. This appealed to me, because I was myself a new lawyer in a field teeming with experienced and distinguished practitioners, and I felt that the CILE LLM program was in a similar situation. More importantly, I felt convinced that I would have the privilege of being an integral part of its journey. I therefore took the plunge and committed myself to a full academic year with CILE.

The year that followed indeed proved to be a memorable one, and it was enriched with the feeling of being part of a fresh program that’s mission and vision were continuously unfolding as each day passed. The program made it clear to the class that we would each become its ambassadors of change – to go beyond the borders of Pitt Law and apply our knowledge across the globe. I remember Professor Brand saying in no uncertain terms that each of U.S. were expected to return to our own countries and embed ourselves in programs and initiatives that we felt passionate about. With this statement, he managed to stitch the CILE LLM program’s DNA in my own, and left me two basic principles that would serve as my guideposts to this day: (i) to be change agents in our own countries; and (ii) to create meaningful impacts wherever we go, with homegrown solutions that benefit from an international perspective.

During CILE’s 10th year anniversary, I had the opportunity to write an article about my experience at Pitt Law and how it impacted my professional life.

By that time, I was armed with a number of years' experience working in the trenches of development reforms, and so I decided to write an article about how international studies can help technical assistance programs in developing countries by providing broad perspectives and experiences. However, I also discussed the dangers of relying on a top-down approach and the need to complement international perspectives with bottom-up approaches, so that the end product would be a contextualized reform package that would be appreciated by all stakeholders on the ground. The article was called "Western Education and Eastern Development: Ensuring Effective Development Assistance in East Asia through Capacity Building," and although it was intended to be a sharing of my experiences, it also turned out to be my personal guide and road map for the next 15 years.

As we celebrate CILE's 25th year anniversary, instead of sharing a curriculum vitae of positions I took since leaving the halls of Barco Law Building, I would like to use this opportunity to simply say that I have proudly held on to the principles I learned from Professor Brand and the rest of the CILE faculty, like Professors Flechtner, Curran, and Chew. I have held on with the same persistence and perseverance that they applied to turn their vision for CILE into a well-recognized international LLM program that has by now managed to spread numerous change agents across the globe. I can say that the Pitt Law DNA is well-entrenched in me and that it continues to flow to people I reach out to in my profession – whether I would be training financial regulators about anti-money laundering reforms or tutoring young girls who survived harrowing experiences, or whether it would be advising policy makers about the importance of reform legislation or working with local government officials in the field.

For example, whenever I am tasked to design and implement a technical assistance program for developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region, be it on budget and expenditure reforms, financial regulatory reforms, anti-corruption, or tax reforms, my first step is always to undertake extensive in-country consultations with impacted line agencies and stakeholders. This helps me to avoid the temptation of taking the

easy approach of parachuting the lessons I learned from other jurisdictions into any specific country. Rather, I take the more arduous path of developing an action plan that reflects localized issues and priorities. This approach does not give immediate outcomes and quick successes, but it ensures lasting reforms that capture the needs of the people who will have to live with them long after my team and I have left the country. It also makes my work more fulfilling.

Although I deeply enjoy my job, I sometimes find myself wondering how my life would be if I had taken a different path after Pitt Law; and I must admit that I sometimes compare my current position with friends and former colleagues who are now senior vice presidents of large banks or senior partners in respected law firms. I realize that each person is uniquely cast as they pass through any academic institution, and that the shape of that cast defines fulfillment and joy in the workplace. As for me, I am now increasingly looking forward to taking an early retirement in seven years' time so that I can finally have the liberty of engaging more deeply in the activities I am most passionate about, such as teaching.

After almost 25 years of growing with Pitt Law's CILE program, and seeing how much it has achieved through its numerous alumni spread across the globe, I can indeed say that I made the right choice back then as I sat in the coffee shop corner. I took a calculated risk in choosing the CILE LLM program, but as I recently discussed in a chat with a fellow Pitt Law alum: I now feel in my heart it is true that, looking back after all these years... we were pioneers. ■



Natalya Stepanova-Sipper (LLM '99)

Uzbekistan

Owner

Stepanova-Sipper's
Central Asian Consulting

Since my graduation in 1999, I have worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and as an expert witness in international arbitrations. I can say with confidence, that the Center for International Legal Education (CILE) is doing a fantastic job in exposing Pitt Law School students to a wide array of international legal issues, programs, and courses. The CILE has also provided me with a delightful opportunity to share my international arbitration experience, legal expertise, and cultural knowledge with future U.S. lawyers.

In 2000, Professor Brand and I traveled to Ukraine to help develop a stronger curriculum at a partner law school, and establish a faculty exchange program. I have developed materials, created, and taught the following courses at the law school: "Introduction to Russian, Ukrainian, and Uzbek Legal Systems," "Introduction to Russian and Uzbek Legal Systems," "Introduction to the Legal Theory of the Commonwealth of Independent States." This would have never happened without great support from Pitt Law.

Using this opportunity, I also would like to express my gratitude to LLM alumni Daniil Fedorchuk, Olena Rodionenko, Mariya Nizhnik, Nataliya Dryomina-Voloc, Gunesh Bakgal, and Anna Heatherington for being guest speakers in my classes over the years. I additionally had several CILE Advisory Board members speak to my class. The students were dazzled by their presentations, and greatly appreciated their effort. In 1999, I started my own consulting business, Stepanova-Sipper's Central Asian Consulting, and have served as an independent legal consultant to law firms and businesses such as: Westinghouse Electric Company LLC; Coca-Cola Bottlers Uzbekistan; Reed Smith LLP; Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP; Jones Day; Herbert Smith Freehills LLP; AKINCI Law Office (Turkey); Cooley LLP; Nokia, and other businesses and private persons. I have prepared formal expert reports with respect to aspects of Uzbek

law for the United States Department of Justice, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), as well as the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). I have provided oral testimony as an expert witness during the ICC (Singapore) and ICSID (Paris) proceedings, and for political asylum petitions for clients from Uzbekistan.

CILE had brought us together from around the globe to study in Pittsburgh. Now it is our turn to help future, and practicing lawyers discover all the spectacular opportunities that the CILE provides. I am proud to be a Pitt Law LLM alumni and an adjunct professor. ■



Victor Mosoti (LLM '01)

Kenya

Chief Counsel,
Environment and International Law
World Bank Group

I arrived at Pitt Law in the Summer of 2000 with firm views about what I wanted to do during my year, and where I wanted to go next. I knew I wanted to make the most of the LLM experience. I knew that I wanted to get an SJD and then go back to my alma mater, Moi University in Kenya, to teach law. I was also sure that I wanted to focus on aspects of environmental and international law, which I expected would provide a rich enough canvas for an academic career. These seemingly well-formed aspirations 'collided' with the literal candy-store that I found Pitt law to be—a very wide range of interesting courses to choose from, committed and engaged professors, a vibrant

varied student community as well as a nurturing academic environment with resources I could only have dreamt of in my law school back in Kenya. Most of all though, there was CILE and Professor Brand whose generous encouragement and support made all the difference.

I took a seminar on international trade law with Professor Brand which led to an internship at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and from there to an eight-year career with the United Nations in Rome, Italy. I then transitioned to the World Bank in Washington, D.C, where I have devoted the last decade to the fields of environmental and international law as they relate to the development work of the World Bank.

My day-to-day work involves managing a diverse practice group of lawyers who work at the intersection of international law and development advising the World Bank and its clients. As I said at the end of my LLM year, "Pitt Law's LLM opens doors". It did so in my case and changed my life in a very real sense, and for many other friends I know.

I am particularly gratified that in addition to the LLM program, Pitt Law now offers an SJD program as well.

I was and am part of the partnership between Pitt Law and the Moi University School of Law in Eldoret, Kenya, where I obtained my first law degree. The Pitt-Moi partnership has deepened over time. Over the last 20 years, many JD students have spent time in Kenya interning, lecturing, and learning through the partnership while many Kenyan lawyers have graduated from Pitt Law's LLM program. They are all leaving imprints in their chosen fields, whether in academia, public service, private legal practice, or in international organizations across the world. I attribute this to the rigor at Pitt and equally to the worldliness that CILE helps to inculcate in Pitt Law students, which inevitably creates a network of global lawyers and truly global citizens committed to using the law to address the challenges their clients and societies face. Changing the world may seem like a far-fetched and lofty goal for a law school program. But for CILE, it is both admirable and realistic, and one on which it has acquitted itself tremendously well! ■

Annick Imboua-Niava (LLM '06)

Côte d'Ivoire

Partner, IKT Law Firm

I discovered the LLM Program through the English for Lawyers at Pitt Law. English for Lawyers, a three-week program, made me realize how useful it could be to have a better knowledge of the American legal system and improve my skills in international business transactions and business law. I then decided to prepare myself to obtain a Fulbright scholarship as I could not afford the tuition.

I began my journey as an LLM student after I was granted two scholarships in the 05-06 academic year, including the Franklin West apartment scholarship.

My culture shock upon arriving in Pittsburgh was more academic than social. I learned a different way of studying law, that turned out to be very useful during my later professional practice. In addition to improving my legal English, I came to understand the common law system better, especially the U.S. legal system.

My goal after completing the LLM was to be part of the international department of the firm where I worked in Abidjan before leaving for Pittsburgh. Upon my return, I had to negotiate a mining contract. My LLM training, including interaction with other international students, made me at ease with the fact that all documents were in English, and even allowed me to clearly understand the Indian accent. I have since worked on transactions in which I have been able to respond to the expectations of all parties and to help ensure that local legal rules are understood by an international client. I joined my partners in the IKT law firm in 2010. I am developing a department in IP, Communication Law, and Data Protection, and am now president of the recently incorporated Ivorian Association of Data Protection Officers. I would like to say thank you to everyone at CILE, and Pitt Law for the education I received and for the many wonderful experiences along the way, and especially to Professor Brand, Linda Tashbook, Gina Clark, and Franklin West Inc. They all played a major role in my success as a woman lawyer in my country, and as a citizen of the world. ■



Nevena Jevremovic (LLM '16)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Manager, Corporate Learning
The International Association for
Contract & Commercial
Management (IACCM)

I came to Pittsburgh in Aug. 2015, from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to complete my LLM. I had completed my legal studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Sarajevo (both B.A. and LLM), was working in an international law firm, and I was actively advocating for a reform of B&H's alternative dispute resolution framework as a co-founder and president of the Association ARBITRI.

It was the experience at Pitt Law that completed my education, setting me on a path of professional and personal growth beyond what I could have imagined. The adaptation to a culture so vastly different from my own made me flexible and adaptable in the international environment.

My starting point after graduation was a one-year position at the Institute of International Commercial Law (IICL) at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University (formerly known as Pace Law School). I had the opportunity to upgrade the CISG Database, and conduct a series of online education programs. At IICL, we had a vision of an upgraded CISG Database, which included giving it a new, modern look, reorganizing the information, and adding features to it to make it more user friendly and accessible to a new generation of students, practitioners, and researchers. I used the opportunity to work closely with my colleagues from

B&H to add the first nine (9) CISG-related B&H cases to the Database, with English translations. I also worked with the Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce (CLDP) to receive funding for a group of B&H professors and teaching assistants to participate in an online program on International Commercial Law and Dispute Resolution. Members of the group now work as Vis Moot coaches, focusing their effort and energy into sharing the knowledge with the students in B&H and preparing them for work in an international sphere. My time at IICL was enriching.

The next stop on my journey was The Hague, where I spent six months at the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). I had the pleasure of working in a different international environment: international legal diplomacy. Witnessing first-hand the negotiations of international treaties – such as the Hague Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments – and the social norms behind them was thrilling. The level of discussion, the interplay of politics and law, and the power-play that underpins it reshaped my understanding of the process. During my work at HCCH, I supported the team of the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH on the Judgments Convention, and also had an opportunity to support research projects related to international commercial law.

The Hague was, for so many different reasons, a symbolic place for me. As an academic and practitioner, I found inspiration in the number of international institutions present in The Hague. Bodies such as the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration bring a vibrant, diverse community of lawyers, diplomats, and activists, with whom I had the pleasure of interacting. As a CILE alumna, I found a piece of Pittsburgh there: the Peace Palace, built with the support of yinz very own industrialist, Andrew Carnegie. As a B&H citizen, a country ravaged by war in the early '90s, I found some peace just a few steps from my workplace at the chambers of International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Shortly before I was set to leave The Hague, the ICTY rendered a decision against Ratko Mladić for the crimes committed during

the war in B&H.

Upon my return to Sarajevo, I started working as a Manager at the International Association for Contract and Commercial Management (IACCM), while at the same time resuming full-time my work with the Association ARBITRI and the B&H Vis Moot community. At IACCM, I was introduced to an industry perspective on contracts and international contracting practices, and new trends using technology, contract design, legal design, and contract simplification. I also began to understand contracts in their broader social context and their inherently interdisciplinary nature. This inspired me to choose my Ph.D. topic by focusing on the theory of proactive law, and the system of remedies in the CISG with a focus on sustainable contracts. I also worked on various forms of online, classroom, and blended learning programs, embedding the trends of microlearning, socially engaging learners in the program, and ensuring interactive approaches between learners and the program in an online environment. As a result, I am fluent in designing online programs, delivering classroom lectures, and assessing learning outcomes.

I supported B&H Vis Moot teams and was lucky to be part of their success: the teams made it to the round of 16 (the University of Zenica in 2018), semi-finals (the University of Zenica in 2019), and the round of 64 (the University of Mostar in 2020). I was also lucky enough to work with an excellent team of attorneys in B&H on reforming the country's ADR framework, and participating in a series of international events on the use of technology in the sphere of dispute resolution at the invitation of the U.S. State Department.

You will now find me in my small office in Sarajevo, with plans to finish my Ph.D. studies and transition to a teaching position. I am ready to fulfill my long-lasting dream of teaching international commercial law. I plan to share what I have learned over the last 10 years through research and teaching. The world is changing, and the legal community needs to adapt, starting with legal education. My desire is to show students the complexity of the world we live in through the world of contracts and empower them to do better than we did in ensuring that social values are

CILE ALUMNI STATEMENTS

adequately addressed, respected, and protected. So, we avoid scenarios of abuse, corruption, and unethical behavior in global supply chains.

I cannot help but look back and appreciate that my journey began in a coffee shop in Vienna where Professor Brand and Professor Flechtner offered me a place in CILE's LLM program. I am forever grateful for the inspiration, encouragement, and support they offered me during the LLM and afterward. Thank you for showing me that we can be better, go further, and achieve more, irrespective of the country we come from, the name we hold, or the religion in which we believe. ■



Yevhenii Shatskyi (LLM '16)

Ukraine

Human Rights Officer
United Nations Office of the High
Commissioner for Human
Rights, Kramatorsk Field Office

CILE and Pitt Law were the foundation to the start of my international law career. After graduating with my LLM degree, I interned at an international Washington, D.C.-based NGO organization. Upon completion of my internship, I returned to Ukraine to work as a Refugee Status Determination Associate in the UNHCR Kyiv office. Working with UNHCR, I conducted interviews and reviewed the legal qualifications to determine the international legal status of people who had applied for asylum. Most recently, I joined the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine as a Human Rights Officer, and now work in the Field Office of the mission in the eastern Ukraine conflict area.

Four years after the completion of my LLM, I continue to apply the knowledge I received. The utility of participation in the LLM program is impossible to overestimate. I see in practice how international law and philosophical concepts learned at Pitt Law manifest themselves on the ground in the conflict context. I am grateful that CILE created a program that was deeper and more fundamental than just studying legal norms and was focused on comparative analysis of the U.S. and other countries' laws and international law concepts. Pitt Law's LLM program taught us to understand the philosophy behind the norms and gave

us the ability to compare ideas and their impact on norms. These skills open endless opportunities as they assure adaptation and understanding of various fast-changing legal and social environments. ■



Fahira Brodlija (LLM '17)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Country Coordinator,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Most of my accomplishments since my graduation from the Pitt Law LLM program can be tied back to the knowledge, skills, and empowerment I

received during my year in Pittsburgh. Pitt Law's academic resources and sense of community made my time as an LLM student a truly transformational experience.

Following graduation, I spent six months in internship programs – first at Alcoa in the Ethics and Compliance department, and then in Amman, Jordan, at the law office Al Jazy & Co, where I had my first experience in international arbitration. After my return to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018, I spent

“ I have had the opportunity to connect with numerous CILE alumni around the world, who are holding distinguished positions in the private and public sector. **Our success and persistence stand as living testimony of the impact and value of the CILE program.** ”

a year working on a project funded by the U.S. Department of State dedicated to the development of the first practical legal education curricula for universities across the country.

Since 2019, I have been the Country Coordinator for a German Institute for International Cooperation (GIZ) project dedicated to legal reform in the Western Balkans. My work is focused on the reform of the investor-state dispute settlement systems in the region, in the context of the work of UNCITRAL Working Group III. Since Oct. 2019, I have taught Civil Law as an adjunct lecturer at the International University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law. Recently, I have become the Director of Research, managing the development of arbitrator reports for Arbitrator Intelligence. In addition, since 2017, I have been the coach of Vis Moot teams from Sarajevo Universities, hoping to spark the interest of the next generation of students in international arbitration.

Through these diverse experiences and engagements, I have had the opportunity to connect with numerous CILE alumni around the world, who are holding distinguished positions in the private and public sector. Our success and persistence stand as living testimony of the impact and value of the CILE program. ■



John R. Cencich (LLM '19)
United States of America
Professor, Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Investigative and Forensic Sciences, and Director of Criminal Justice Graduate Programs
California University of Pennsylvania

As a professor of criminology at California University of Pennsylvania and living in Pittsburgh, the decision to take my LLM at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law was an easy one from a practical standpoint. Yet, my actual experiences at Pitt Law were well beyond what I had expected. I had been back in the United States for more than 10 years following a four-year appointment as an international war crimes investigator for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). By that time, I was already retired from my law enforcement career where I had investigated organized crime and worked undercover. My experiences at The Hague and investigating crimes against humanity in the Balkans were unprecedented, but the day came to begin a new career in academia. With a JSD from Notre Dame and an LLM from the University of Kent at Canterbury, I blended my education in law with my professional background in teaching courses in equivocal death analysis, geographic criminology, and organized crime. However, it was after beginning teaching in the first professional Doctor of Criminal Justice (D.C.J.) program in the country that I decided I wanted to add more depth to my lectures in the area of U.S. jurisprudence. That's what brought me to Pitt Law.

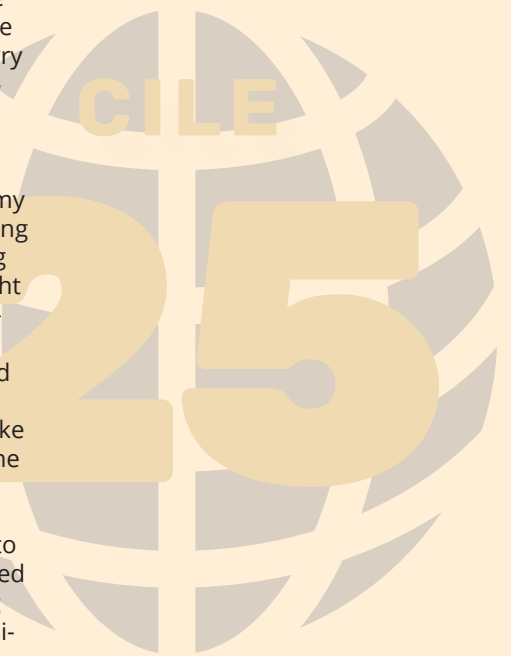
The required LLM core courses laid the foundation for my other studies, which included Introduction to American Law. For instance, my interest in civil rights was certainly bolstered by the in-depth lectures provided by distinguished law professors on cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which placed my understanding of the relevant issues at an entirely different level. The legal methodology course alone enhanced my ability to undertake rigorous research that I could incorporate into the classes I taught. And civil procedure, for which I was entirely lacking, added new dimensions to my insight into our great legal system. By the end of the course, I was convinced that every American's life would be truly enriched by such an offering.

The course in Constitutional Law in Action focused on U.S. civil rights law, and through it I deepened my understanding of the notions of "color of law" and "qualified immunity" and how they are actually applied in contemporary state and federal litigation. Quite uniquely, the course was taught by a trial attorney who represents plaintiffs alleging to have had their rights violated by the government and by a representative of the Attorney General's Office who defends the actions of law enforcement. This approach provided unprecedented views from the perspectives of plaintiffs and defense and served to provide me with keen awareness on how the police and government agents can better carry out their work in a constitutional manner.

Advanced Criminal Procedure took me into an entirely new realm. I had taught the subject in the police academy for more than 15 years, as well as having made numerous arrests and executing many search warrants. I had also taught the subject in an undergraduate criminal justice course. I now use my new knowledge in a course titled "Advanced Criminal Law and Procedure" for doctoral students. When I discuss topics like entrapment and due process, I combine focused and honed legal knowledge with my time conducting or supervising undercover operations. My aim is to seek the balance between society's need to ferret out crime with the competing interests of ensuring the rights of criminal suspects and accused.

During my law enforcement career, I've testified as an expert witness in U.S. courts and helped prepare scientific and technical professionals to do the same at the ICTY. I had also served on the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Wrongful Convictions, and one of the areas identified as contributing to the convictions of innocent defendants was so-called "junk science." In this regard, the course offering on "Expert Witness" piqued my interest. Once again, I was challenged through this experiential course and was not left disappointed. I now incorporate much of what I learned from a top trial attorney and litigator in my forensic science courses as well as a new class that covers wrongful convictions under the category of "Achieving Justice More Often."

Perhaps the highlight of the program was the other students from all over the world who formed a tight and cohesive cohort. It was an eclectic, talented group who have been trained in different legal systems yet were all motivated by the shared desire to seek justice for all. Undoubtedly, they will take what they have learned back to their home countries and make the world better. ■





Daniela Ballão Ernlund (LLM '97)
Brazil

Partner Attorney,
Ballão Ernlund Advogados Associados

I have good memories of my life in Pittsburgh as a LLM student, during the years of 1996 to 1997. It was the second year of Pitt Law's LLM program. The past 25 years have brought maturity to the CILE and to me as well.

Upon my return to Brazil, I worked for well-known international law firms in my hometown, Curitiba. I was also hired as a senior lawyer by a large multinational corporation. Meanwhile, I was engaged with academic life as a part-time university professor, and had the opportunity to share my international academic experience in the U.S.A. I was invited to be President of the Women Lawyers Committee of the Paraná State Bar Association. As a leader, I organized programs to encourage women lawyers and to empower them in their careers. I was also invited to be part of the Paraná State Bar Association as counsel and director. These positions gave me the opportunity to work for the development of the legal profession based on a full sense of justice. Today, I work at Ballão Ernlund Advogados Associados, a law firm in my hometown that bears my name as founding partner. The activities of my law firm are related to business ordinances, contracts, and international business transactions, including mediation and arbitration. I am very pleased with my career. I thank Pitt for all of the academic support they provided. ■



Nadine Hafaitha (LLM '19)
Palestine

SJD Candidate and Graduate Assistant,
Center for International Legal Education,
University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Joining Pitt Law as an LLM student in 2018 was when I got closer to my passion in international dispute resolution. I was adamant to utilize all opportunities that CILE and Pitt Law had to offer, because

I did not know at the time that I will have any other similar learning opportunities

outside of Palestine. I wanted to learn theory but also implement the concepts I learn in practical settings, and my classes at Pitt Law have been incredibly valuable in helping me achieve this goal. CILE supported my personal goals as an LLM student through my participation in the Vis Moot then working at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr in London.

I was fortunate to have been chosen as a member of the Pitt Law 26th Vis Moot team. I cannot convey in words how important this was to my career after my LLM degree. I wanted to challenge my limits and practice research, writing, and oral skills. The Vis Moot enabled me to be trained and supervised by some of the best in this field, such as Professors Brand and Flechtner. Despite not being able to travel with my

team to Vienna due to visa restrictions, my experience remains close to my heart and is the reason I am here today as an SJD student.

After completing my LLM, I spent a year at Wilmer Hale as a legal intern and visiting foreign consultant. There, I worked personally with some of the most skilled and experienced individuals in international arbitration and litigation. My work included conducting legal research for the purposes of answering complex legal issues and contributing to the Wilmer Hale publications. I also started efforts to research international arbitration in Palestine and initiate gradual arbitration-related reform efforts in the region.

Today, I am back at Pitt Law as an SJD student where I will research the challenges arbitration in Palestine faces. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to return as an SJD student under the supervision of Professor Brand and for being able to work and support CILE through my role as a graduate student assistant. ■

“ I was fortunate to have been chosen as a member of the Pitt Law Vis Moot team. I cannot convey in words how important this was to my career...**The Vis Moot enabled me to be trained and supervised by some of the best in this field, such as Professors Brand and Flechtner.** ”



A FEW OF OUR OTHER NOTABLE LLM ALUMNI



Marco Gardini (LLM '97)
Italy
Professor
University of Parma



Bo-shan Lin (LLM '97)
Taiwan
Dean of Students
Chinese Culture University



Rami Shehadeh (LLM '98)
Palestine
Head of the Syria Desk
United Nations Department
of Political Affairs



Timur Arifdjanov (LLM '00)
Uzbekistan
Partner
URI-KOM Law firm



Tuyet Anh Dinh (LLM '02)
Vietnam
Managing Partner
IDVN Lawyers



Milena Djordjevic (LLM '02)
Serbia
Associate Professor
University of Belgrade
Faculty of Law



Evelyn Kamau (LLM '02)
Kenya
United Nations Office of
Staff Legal Assistance



Mariya Nizhnik (LLM '03)
Ukraine
First Deputy Head
Antimonopoly Committee
of Ukraine



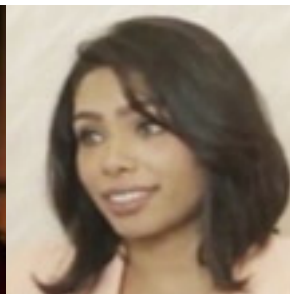
Dmitry L. Lysenko (LLM '04)
Russia
Of Counsel
Baker & McKenzie, Moscow



Maurice Oduor (LLM '04)
Kenya
Lecturer
Moi University
School of Law



Vjosa Osmani Sadriu (LLM '05) (SJD '15)
Kosovo
Speaker of Parliament
of Kosovo



Nora Al-Shamlan (LLM '08)
Bahrain
Assistant Professor
University of Bahrain



Chi Lieu Dang (LLM '08)
Vietnam
Partner
DNA Vietnam LLC



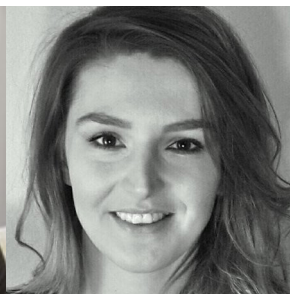
Gan Yong (LLM '09)
P.R. China
Associate Professor
of Law
Wuhan University



Lars Benecke (LLM '09)
Germany
Head of Law
Patents and Compliance
Crop Science Bayer AG



Elena Petrášková (LLM '09)
Slovakia
Vice President
Subsidiaries Operations
and General Counsel
U.S. Steel Košice



Donikë Qerimi (LLM '09)
Kosovo
Legal Expert
Ministry of Justice of Kosovo
Lecturer and Teaching
Assistant
University of Prishtina



Elina Aleynikova (LLM '10)
Russia
Associate
White & Case LLP, Paris



Nika Rassadina (LLM '17)
Ukraine
Legal Specialist
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
LLP, Frankfurt



Nahla Kamaluddin (LLM '13) (JD '16)
Bahrain
Immigration Clinic Fellow
University of Pittsburgh
School of Law

JD Alumni



Renee Martin-Nagle (JD '84)

Special Counsel
Eckert Seamans

Although my graduation from Pitt Law preceded the birth of CILE by more than ten years, the seeds that gave birth to the program and to my career-long focus on international law were planted by Professor Ronald Brand when he joined the faculty of Pitt Law in 1982. As a young teacher with ideals and ideas, Professor Brand taught the first course in international business transactions, which explored cross-border transactions as well as the applicable treaties and the entities that could engage in those transactions. Together with a course in public international law, IBT opened my eyes and my mind to possibilities outside of my own narrow perspectives as a rural coal miner's daughter. As a 2L in the spring of 1983, I won a competitive scholarship to study abroad that was endowed by Stanley Prostednik, and I chose to study international law in Paris, which would allow me to utilize my undergrad interdisciplinary major in French. The world opened up to me during that summer, and in 1986, two years after earning my JD, a French helicopter company called Aerospatiale hired me as its first general counsel in the U.S. Four years later, Airbus similarly selected me to serve as its first U.S. general counsel, a position I held for more than twenty years. While the bulk of my work focused on U.S. law, Airbus's American subsidiaries had numerous cross-border transactions with the French-based parent company,

and my work took me to France and other European countries several times each year.

With my appetite for international issues increasing each year, the ground initially tilled and sown by Professor Brand was ready for another crop. For several years I had been reading widely about global environmental issues, and the birth of my first grandson in April 2007 inspired me to reinforce that growing passion with action. In Aug. 2007, I enrolled in an LLM program at George Washington University that focused on environmental law and gave Airbus three years notice of my departure at the end of 2010. While my real interest was in international environmental law, working full-time while taking classes did not allow me the flexibility to take all of the courses required for that specialty. Nevertheless, after six semesters of night classes, I graduated with highest honors in May 2010 and left Airbus in Jan. 2011 without a clear idea of the next direction to take. Providence intervened when my LLM thesis on deep freshwater aquifers won the first Jamie Grodsky Prize for Environmental Law Scholarship in March 2011, and one of the judges for the prize invited me to join the Environmental Law Institute as a pro bono visiting scholar. For the next several years, ELI served as a platform for publishing articles and giving presentations on environmental issues in both aviation and freshwater, and in 2014, I returned to Pitt Law to teach international environmental policy. Through word of mouth, the co-director of the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance (SCELG) in Glasgow, Scotland, heard about my work on freshwater, and in 2014 he invited me to pursue an interdisciplinary doctorate through SCLEG in the science and policy for freshwater aquifers. I happily accepted the challenge and moved to Glasgow in 2015, exchanging my four-bedroom, three-bathroom home in northern Virginia for a studio flat that shared three bathrooms with six other studios. The intellectual freedom experienced during that period was exhilarating and almost dizzying, and the opportunity to live in another country fulfilled a lifelong dream. My elderly mother's health caused me to return to Pennsylvania in 2018, and the PhD was completed remotely in early 2019. The PhD work

on governance of offshore freshwater resources examined and synergized varied international legal regimes such as the law of the sea, international freshwater law, and the law of offshore hydrocarbon development, and my thesis was published as a book by Brill in 2020. My publications on international legal principles affecting freshwater now number more than twenty, and I have taught international environmental policy at three of my alma mater universities, including Pitt, Strathclyde, and Saint Francis.

Pursuing the interest in international law that Professor Brand sparked led to greater adventures than I could have imagined, and I have no doubt that in its long tenure under his leadership CILE has similarly benefitted thousands of students and more than a few faculty as well. Congratulations to Professor Brand and to CILE for a long and successful run and may the storied past be a prelude to yet more impressive and influential achievements. ■



James Callaghan (JD '96)

Chief Executive Officer
One Sky Solutions

It is hard to believe that it has been 24 years since I graduated from Pitt and it's interesting to look back over the years at the wealth of experiences that my time at Pitt Law has afforded me.

When I graduated from Pitt I completed another Master's Degree, an LLM in European and International Law at the Free University of Brussels. From there I got a job at the Alliance of European Lawyers, which was a grouping of seven Continental European law firms that

shared a combined office in Brussels. I had the opportunity to work with lawyers from all over Europe and experience the differences in legal cultures and practices. My most interesting matter that I worked on while at the Alliance was the Exxon-Mobil merger, which at the time was the largest merger in value terms. It took approximately 18 months between the European Commission merger control clearance process and implementing the various conditions imposed by the Commission. I also worked on a number of competition issues related to aviation for American Airlines and All Nippon Airways.

After almost four years with the Alliance (which had merged in the meantime with Linklaters & Paines in the UK making it for a time the largest law firm in the world), I went on to join Ryanair, the Southwest Airlines of Europe, as Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs and also Company Secretary of this NASDAQ listed airline. The company grew from just six million passengers per annum when I joined to almost 70 million when I left nine years later. It was at Ryanair that I got a baptism of fire in the difference between a private lawyer and an inhouse counsel. My old boss, Michael O'Leary, told me when I started "I hate lawyers! I don't want people running around the company telling me what I can't do!" Herein lies the balance for a good inhouse counsel, to completely understand what the commercial objectives of the company are and then work with management to achieve those goals, while at the same time ensuring that the company maintains a high level of corporate governance and compliance with all relevant laws.

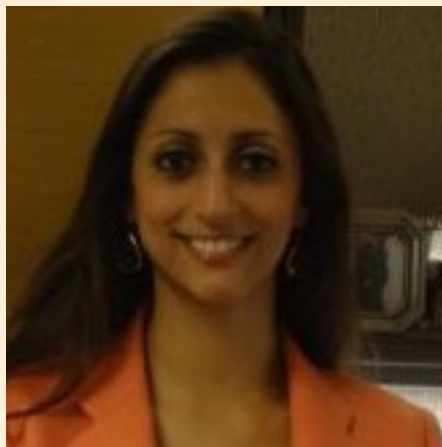
I went from the clone of Southwest in Europe to ultra-luxury Middle Eastern carrier, Etihad Airways. Etihad experienced many of the same competitive challenges that Ryanair had in the early days as a relatively new player in the market, competing with much larger global carriers. My greatest challenge at Etihad was defending against various attacks by the major U.S. airlines on the Gulf carriers. Having benefitted for decades from liberal Open Skies agreements, the U.S. carriers tried to prevent the Gulf carriers from using these same liberalising principles to grow their presence in the global market.

After seven years, I left the Middle

East to join Uber as General Counsel for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Here I faced my biggest challenge in maintaining the balance between the commercial interests of the company and corporate governance/compliance. I left Uber after 13 months. Two weeks later, the investors insisted that the CEO (who founded the company) step down and they brought in a new CEO. There comes a time when the guy at the top refuses to listen to the advice of his legal counsel on governance/compliance issues that an inhouse counsel needs to make the ultimate choice.

Having left corporate life I am now enjoying being my own boss and doing a variety of interesting projects, including being the CEO of an airline related business; an investor and director in an airship company; and the legal advisor for a company professionalizing karate.

If I have any advice for graduates and young lawyers it's that there is no such thing as work/life balance, there is just life. Take care of your physical and mental health and cultivate your relationships with friends and family. Have fun, be creative, find your true purpose - for life is short! ■



Katerina Ossanova (JD '08)

Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice

I can only imagine the number of people who have been impacted or touched by CILE in the past 25 years, but I know for a fact that much of my professional career has been shaped by CILE.

I made the decision to attend Pitt Law after hearing Mark Walter discuss CILE's programs and its support of law school students interested in

international law at the open house. My three years at Pitt Law exceeded all expectations as I immersed myself in numerous and unique international experiences. My first summer of law school, CILE helped me spend the summer in Pristina, Kosovo, working for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo's Legal Policy Division. Not only did I spend my summer working on novel international legal assistance matters and drafting policy recommendations for the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, but I was fortunate to have the support and friendship of CILE LLM alumni living in Kosovo.

CILE is also the reason for three formative events that shaped the rest of my law school experience. First, because of CILE, I applied for and received a Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship. Second, I took part in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and our four-person team represented Pitt Law at the Vis Moot in Vienna, Austria. And third, through CILE and in coordination with the Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), I traveled to Bahrain and Oman, and back to Austria, to teach international commercial law and arbitration to law school students and to introduce the Vis Moot to these countries who sent teams for the first time to participate in the Vis Moot.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the success and impact of CILE is inextricably linked to the passion and dedication of one man, Professor Ronald Brand. Professor Brand cares deeply about creating a diverse and beneficial experience for Pitt Law students interested in pursuing a career in international law. Not only does CILE provide a rich environment of classes, study abroad opportunities, and international internships, but Professor Brand also works hard to cultivate a network of CILE alumni who in turn support Pitt Law students and fellow alumni. I graduated from Pitt Law in 2008 with an International and Comparative Law Certificate, but more importantly, with unique experiences, lifelong friends I made all over the world, and Professor Brand as a mentor.

Fortuitously, or rather because CILE opens many doors for Pitt Law graduates, I was hired by CLDP in 2009 as an

Attorney-Advisor International to manage their Eastern Europe and Eurasia portfolio. In that capacity and over the next six and a half years, I developed, implemented, managed, supervised, and monitored technical assistance programs in the commercial law arena for governments and private sectors in support of their economic development goals. My monthly work trips took me to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and the Persian Gulf where I worked with both the public and private sectors to implement reforms that resulted in improved legal and business environments in those countries. I was also fortunate enough to continue working on the Vis Middle East Moot program that I first became involved in as a law school student, but this time as one of its main organizers. In many ways, CLDP was my dream job and I was fortunate enough to be able to jump into this kind of opportunity right out of law school. Notably, my path to CLDP became possible because of CILE, as without my involvement in the Vis Moot and the invitation to travel and teach in the Persian Gulf by Professor Brand, I would not have been made aware of CLDP or met many of its amazing attorneys prior to applying to work there.

When it came time to make my next career decision, I knew I only needed to turn to one person. Professor Brand encouraged me to apply to the Department of Justice's Office of Foreign Litigation (OFL) and of course he knew some of the attorneys working at OFL. No one I know makes more genuine friendships or enjoys facilitating connections more than Professor Brand! My transition to the Department of Justice was unexpected for me given my lack of litigation and law firm experience, but what I brought to the position was a unique set of skills and experiences that I had accumulated starting with my time at Pitt Law. I was specifically hired to manage OFL's Office of International Judicial Assistance (OIJA), which serves as the Central Authority for incoming requests for international judicial assistance in civil or commercial matters involving service of judicial documents or evidence pursuant to several treaties and through diplomatic channels. My office administers, interprets, and applies the Hague Evidence Convention,

Hague Service Convention, and the Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory on behalf of the United States. I also provide comprehensive guidance to U.S. Government attorneys on transnational litigation, service of process abroad, international discovery, enforcement of judgments abroad, and prepare Letters of Request, letters rogatory, and requests for service abroad on behalf of the United States. My career, exclusively as a U.S. Government attorney, has allowed me to extensively travel internationally, to meet colleagues and make friends all over the world, to attend and speak at numerous conferences and events, and to pursue areas of international law I find challenging and interesting.

From the seeds that were planted while I was at Pitt Law and took part in CILE programs, I have grown and shaped my public sector career in international law as one fueled by a genuine interest in international law and building relationships. My professional positions have each been a mix of policy, development, and law in a way that allows me to represent the United States but also provide assistance to and learn from foreign counterparts. As big as this world can feel, my experiences have taught me that the world can also feel exponentially smaller when you meet people around the world who share your interests, beliefs, and hopes.

There are so many more events, memories, and experiences I could share about CILE and how much of a profound impact Professor Brand has had on my life. I will forever remain grateful for how influential CILE has been in my professional development and for the remarkable experiences it has led me to. I take comfort in knowing CILE has supported and influenced thousands of other Pitt Law students and that Professor Brand continues to inspire and influence future international lawyers. ■



Corin Stone (JD '98)
Scholar-in-Residence and
Adjunct Professor
American University
Washington College of Law

I was so fortunate during my time at Pitt Law to have mentors and professors like Ron Brand and John Burkoff, who encouraged and inspired my interest in international law. Before my 2L year, Professor Burkoff connected me to an internship with human rights lawyers in India, and during my 2L year, Professor Brand connected me to a part-time position at the Hague Conference on Private International Law, which ultimately led me to a position in the State Department Legal Adviser's office. While at State, I had the opportunity to argue before the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal in the Hague (a case that was more than 20 years old at the time and that we ultimately won only a few years ago – almost another 20 years later!), I spent almost a year in Baghdad as the first legal advisor to the new U.S. Embassy and Ambassador John Negroponte, and I negotiated international science and technology agreements as part of U.S. free trade agreement negotiations with a variety of foreign countries.

When Ambassador Negroponte was nominated to be the nation's first Director of National Intelligence in early 2005, he asked me to help stand up the new agency and to be its first Deputy General Counsel. Because we did not have a General Counsel confirmed by the Senate for the first nine months, I was also the de facto General Counsel as we created the agency. For the past 15 years I have been a part of the ODNI.

After five years as the Deputy General Counsel, I moved into several policy positions: I was the Assistant DNI for Policy & Strategy – the lead for all policy and strategy across the Intelligence Community (IC); I was the IC Information Sharing Executive – the lead for resolving cross-IC information sharing and safeguarding disputes and ensuring appropriate levels of transparency and insights; I led an agency-wide transformation and reorganization of the ODNI; and most recently, I was the Deputy DNI for Strategy & Engagement – overseeing IC-wide innovation, science & technology, over-the-horizon research & development, information & data governance, policy & strategy, strategic communications and legislative affairs. In addition, from 2014-2017, I had the great fortune to be asked to serve as the Executive Director for the National Security Agency – the number three at the agency overseeing all NSA operations and issues. What an experience for a lawyer and international relations major to oversee a highly technical agency! It was an enriching, humbling and just plain fun experience every day.

This fall, I have agreed to join American University's Washington College of Law (on detail from the ODNI) as an adjunct professor and scholar-in-residence in their new Tech, Law and Security program. I am thrilled to be able to engage with law students and others at AU, to support and inform their interests in international and national security law, and to showcase the benefits and great experiences you can have working for the U.S. Government. I'm also excited to have the opportunity to engage more deeply with academia and the private sector on cutting-edge legal issues related to innovation, technology and security. I am grateful to Pitt Law for the great preparation and to Professor Brand and CILE for the support and encouragement along the way. I'm 100% confident that I would not be where I am today if not for those formative experiences while in law school and had Professor Brand not seen in me the potential to make a difference in ways I'd never even imagined for myself. Happy 25th anniversary to CILE – while I cannot believe it's actually been that long I know that, like a fine wine, you've only gotten better with age. Here's to another 25! ■



Nicole Breland Aandahl (JD '01)

Director of Diversity and Leadership at the Center of Strategic & International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Professor Brand and the CILE for a quarter century of excellence. I am a proud CILE alum.

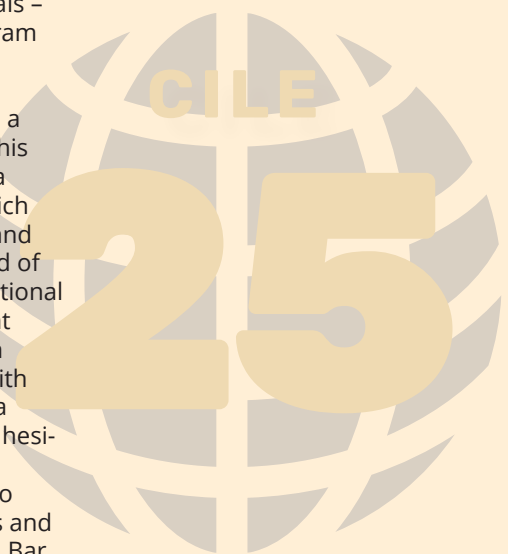
I chose the University of Pittsburgh School of Law from a carefully curated list of law schools with international programs and global reach. Pitt Law was the only school that met all of the criteria on my list. I had majored in Russian Studies in college during the pivotal early 1990s and was determined to forge a career in diplomacy and law. I was confident that CILE would help me achieve my goals – but I never imagined that the program would help me to exceed them.

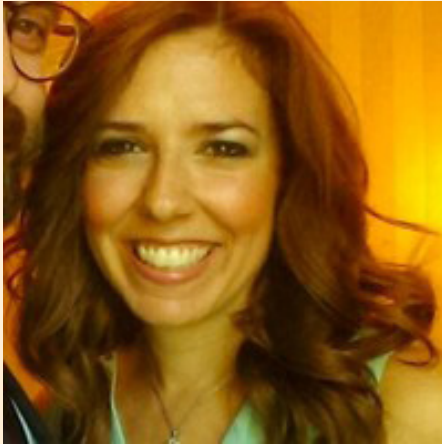
After availing myself of CILE's resources and events, I soon found a mentor in Professor Brand. Under his direction, I joined Pitt Law's Niagara International Moot Court team, which dramatically improved my writing and oral argument skills. When I learned of CILE's partnership with Donetsk National University (DNU) in Ukraine I sought ways to become involved. So, when Professor Brand approached me with the opportunity to attend DNU on a legal education exchange, I did not hesitate to say 'yes'.

Preparation was intense. I had to advance my Russian language skills and obtain approval from the American Bar Association (ABA). CILE's close working relationship with Pitt's University Center for International Studies (UCIS) allowed me to pursue a Graduate Certificate in Russian Study. CILE also supported me during the ABA approval process.

Donetsk was a life-changing experience. I learned about the Ukrainian legal system and made lifelong friends. The experience would not have been so exceptional had it not been for the care and attention of CILE in cultivating mutually meaningful relationships with sister institutions like DNU. I continued to support CILE's relationship with DNU after returning to Pittsburgh by coaching the school's Vis Moot Court Competition team.

My experience with CILE laid the foundation of my success in foreign policy and law with the U.S. Government and defense industry. I enjoy returning to Pittsburgh to speak with CILE students about my career and offering seminars on my area of subject matter expertise. I still recall with fond memory my time in Donetsk and I keep up with my closest friends from that time. To this day, when I tell friends and colleagues about my experience with CILE, they are impressed and wish they had such an experience. Congratulations to Professor Brand and CILE for 25 years! Thank you for everything you did to support me, and for everything you do and have done for so many. Here's to another 25! ■





Justine N. Stefanelli (JD '05)

Director of Publications and Research
American Society of International Law

The road to my current position as Director of Publications and Research at the American Society of International Law (ASIL) started when I took Comparative Legal Cultures as a 2L at Pitt Law. The class added a layer to the love I already had for other cultures and traveling, and it inspired me to go to Brussels the summer before my final year at Pitt Law for an in-depth series of courses on European Union (EU) law. At that point, I decided that I would make some sort of career out of EU law and endeavored, with the help of Pitt Law's CILE, to take as many European and international law classes as I could during the rest of my time at Pitt Law. I also became a Research Assistant to Professor Curran and tutored some of Pitt Law's LLM students in legal writing. After graduating and passing the Pennsylvania bar exam, I moved to London for an LLM in EU law at Queen Mary University of London, where I eventually also obtained a Ph.D. It was during my LLM that I began interning as a research assistant at a non-profit legal research organization, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), where I eventually became a Senior Research Fellow in EU law and Acting Deputy Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, which sits within BIICL.

The international law education and support I received from the talented and open-minded professors at Pitt Law provided me with a unique skill-set that enabled me to offer BIICL a transatlantic perspective on UK and EU

law. For 13 years, I led and participated in important research projects with domestic and international law implications, working closely with representatives from practice, academia, and the UK and EU governments. I was fortunate to have numerous opportunities to provide expert testimony on EU law issues before the UK and EU Parliaments, and the EU Commission. The projects I took part in included a comparative study on the recognition of judgments across EU member states and the operation of the Full Faith and Credit clause in the U.S. Constitution; a comparative study on international disaster relief law in the EU member states and at the EU level, which resulted in the adoption by the EU Commission of a set of guidelines on the subject; several studies on unfair business practices in the grocery sector that led to the adoption of EU legislation regulating such practices; a comparative study on immigration detention and the rule of law in Europe; and the drafting of a rule of law checklist for European states, with the Council of Europe's Commission on Democracy through Law (also known as the Venice Commission).

Though I adored my time in London—during which I became British and met my husband (an Englishman who studied the law, but then went into data management)—my husband and I decided to relocate to the United States and settle in Washington, D.C., where I had friends, many of whom are also graduates of Pitt Law. In fact, it was through my friendship with Wes Rist (Class of 2005) that I learned of the open position at ASIL. Having enjoyed my time at BIICL and the experience of working for a small non-profit, ASIL seemed like the perfect fit. I joined ASIL in Sept. 2019 and have been steeped in scholarly writing about international legal developments ever since, having oversight of all of ASIL's publications, from its flagship, the American Journal of International Law, to its blog about current legal developments, ASIL Insights. I am also excited to be able to develop an international law research program for ASIL and work with the ASIL community to identify opportunities to make meaningful contributions to international law academia and practice through the research program.

I have never lost sight of the role that Pitt Law played in getting me to where

I am today, and I have been grateful to stay in touch with many of the professors who taught me and the friends that I made along the way. Pitt Law's CILE is a vital part of legal education, by offering opportunities to look beyond the U.S. legal system and enrich the educational experience through comparative study and experiences abroad. CILE, and the wonderful professors who are engaged with it, not only provided me with an outstanding international legal education, but perhaps more importantly, heartily encouraged me to pursue further education in international law—something that initially seemed like a pipedream, but became my reality and quite literally opened up a whole new world for me to explore. ■



Krysta Smith (JD '14)

Trial Attorney
Office of Foreign Litigation, U.S.
Department of Justice

After graduating from Pitt Law in 2014, I moved to Washington, D.C., without a job, knowing that my greatest chance of finding a position in international law was contingent upon me being physically present in DC.

Although my career goal was to work on civil matters, my first position was a law clerk (contract attorney) in the Office of International Affairs (OIA) in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, I worked on cases involving mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, primarily involving the extradition of fugitives. My time spent at OIA was brief. Even while working in OIA, I continued to strive to transition to working on civil matters. Fortunately, it did not take long for an opportunity to

arise that moved me towards my goal. Soon after starting at OIA, I attended the 20th anniversary celebration for CILE. While there, I learned from another CILE graduate of a similar position in the Office of International Judicial Assistance (OIJA), a component of the Office of Foreign Litigation, in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Within a few months, I interviewed for and was hired as a law clerk in OIJA to work on civil international law matters, which is where I remain today. OIJA is the Central Authority for the Hague Evidence Convention, Hague Service Convention, and the Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory. OIJA is also responsible for executing requests received from non-Convention States through diplomatic channels. As a law clerk for the past four and a half years, I have been responsible for reviewing incoming evidence requests from countries throughout the world, as well providing guidance on international judicial assistance processes to individuals in the United States and abroad.

I would not have been qualified for this position without the opportunities I had at Pitt Law. As a law student, I completed an externship in the Office of Private International Law in the U.S. Department of State. As an extern, I worked with the both the Hague Evidence Convention and the Hague Service Convention, which are now an integral part of my everyday work. In addition, the relationships I built as a student at Pitt Law through CILE have continued to benefit me both personally and professionally as these individuals have now become my friends and colleagues in this seemingly small, yet global, international legal community.

I am truly excited for the next steps in my legal career as I recently accepted a Trial Attorney position in the Office of Foreign Litigation in the U.S. Department of Justice to continue working on OIJA matters. While I have not yet transitioned into this role, I anticipate that my work will continue much as it has for the past four years while increasing my opportunities to expand my knowledge and expertise in the field of international judicial assistance. CILE and Professor Brand gave me the tools and opportunities to develop my international legal career and I will be forever grateful. ■



Drew Roberts (JD '15)

Attorney Advisor

International

Commercial Law Development Program

To say that CILE has played an important role in my legal career would be a gross understatement. I entered law school in 2012 with the general idea that I was interested in all things international. How to turn that academic interest and personal passion into a career was a completely mystifying concept to me. Yet here I sit, eight years later, an "Attorney Advisor-International" with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program, otherwise known as CLDP.

The first time I entered the CILE offices in the Barco Building, I knew that I would find help discovering academic and professional opportunities in the international law space. CILE helped me secure an internship after my 1L year with the incredible Vjosa Osmani, then a member of parliament in the Assembly of Kosovo. In Pristina, I assisted on just a few of the multitude of projects Vjosa was working on at the time. I was able to get international experience, working with a member of a legislative body, in a ceaselessly fascinating country. In addition to the fascinating topics I helped Vjosa to research, I learned invaluable lessons about hard work, tenacity, and initiative-taking just by watching Vjosa and her colleagues use every day to imprint their vision for a free, dynamic, and prosperous Kosovo into being.

I used some of that initiative-taking skill-set to plot my own course through the rest of law school. CILE helped me to spend my 2L year of law school at

Queen's University of Belfast receiving an LLM in Human Rights Law. While students back in Pittsburgh were taking courses on criminal procedure, tax, and evidence, I was learning about transitional justice and international conflict law in a city where those topics were more than just conceptual courses. The logistics of spending a year away from Pitt while still being able to graduate in three years (with an additional degree) was not easy, and often looked impossible. But with the encouragement and support of CILE staff, I made it happen.

I came back to Pitt ready to dive into work that might prepare me for a career in international criminal and human rights law. It did not take long to realize that a career in that field is not so easy to come by, especially in Pittsburgh. However, to stay connected to CILE and to continue learning about international law generally, I took Professor Brand's International Commercial Arbitration course and was fortunate to be able to participate on that year's Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team. It was in this course that I first heard about CLDP and the work they were doing around the world to help developing and transitional countries strengthen their institutions and create economic opportunities for their citizens, including through training students from around the world on commercial arbitration through the Vis Moot competition.

During this time, and throughout my time at Pitt, Professor Brand and the CILE team warmly welcomed me to talk about my interests and career goals. I will forever be grateful for that, because, in addition to providing a venue to allow students like me to help explore our interests and develop our worldviews alongside academic leaders at the top of their field, one of those conversations set me on the path to be where I am today. I will never forget Professor Brand once telling me, as I was describing my passion for human rights law, that it is essential to work on economic development and institutional capacity as well – because a country that does not have a solid economic foundation will likely be less inclined to focus on or have any time for human rights.

After leaving Pitt, I spent two years clerking for Judge Deborah Kunselman in the Beaver County Court of Common

Pleas. While Beaver County civil court law does not exactly qualify as international practice, clerking for Judge Kunselman shaped everything about me as a lawyer, in the best sense of that word. I recommend that any law student who truly wants to hone his or her legal analytical skills look for clerkship opportunities. And if you are lucky enough to land a position with “Judge Debbie”, you will be eternally grateful for the opportunity.

After my time in Beaver, I was accepted as a Presidential Management Fellow. I interviewed with several federal agencies for policy positions before finally accepting a job as an International Trade Specialist with the Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration. The experience and skills I obtained through my clerkship and through my time at Pitt made it effortless to pitch myself in interviews with federal government agencies looking for individuals who can take initiative, write concisely, and come to the job with an analytical eye. Everything I mentioned in my interviews related to my time at Pitt came as a direct result from my relationship with CILE. I spent two years with ITA working to analyze foreign countries’ compliance with international trade agreements. I worked with teams to come up with creative solutions to use the resources of the U.S. government to ensure agreement compliance – that is to work towards the rule of law.

As part of my fellowship, I was required to complete a brief rotation into another office. As luck would have it, CLDP was right across the street. When I mentioned to a senior staff member that I was interested in applying to move to CLDP permanently, he told me that it is almost not fair when Professor Brand’s former students apply for jobs with CLDP, because it seems that they come to the interview already knowing every answer to the questions that will be asked. Needless to say, the interview went well. I now work on commercial development technical assistance programs in Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Balkans for CLDP. Every day I get to go to work as an international lawyer. In that role, I help developing and transitional countries work towards their goals of strengthening institutions and providing economic opportunities for their citizens. Best

of all, I have begun working on helping some law schools in those countries start or strengthen their own Vis Moot programs. I now ask for Professor Brand’s expertise as we introduce a new generation of motivated law students from around the world not only to the rule of law, but to CILE as well. ■



Elizabeth Taylor (JD '19)

Associate
Reed Smith LLP

I could not have predicted when I began my journey at Pitt Law the depth of experience I would have or the connections I would make around the world as a result of CILE. In fact, I might not have predicted that I would get involved with international law or legal education at all, but I am continually grateful that I did. I was fortunate to compete with the 2018 Pitt Law Vis Moot team in Vienna, where I became friends with students, professors, and attorneys from around the world.

During my 3L year, Professor Brand helped me to get involved with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP),

which provides legal education and Vis Moot training for law students in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Balkan region. I accompanied CLDP-sponsored trainers and attorneys to Tunisia, Bahrain, and Vienna in 2018 and 2019 to help conduct educational seminars and roundtables with students from all over the world.

After taking the bar exam, I began my full-time career as an Associate at Reed Smith LLP, a global law firm headquartered in Pittsburgh. My practice focuses primarily on commercial policyholder coverage litigation and arbitration, but I also assist with government investigations, financial industry litigation, and commercial contract disputes. I also continue to work pro bono with CLDP, helping to organize and conduct educational and training seminars for Vis Moot in the Middle East, and assist Professor Brand and Professor Emeritus Flechtner with coaching the Pitt Law Vis Moot team.

My experience at Pitt Law and CILE has affected my career in more ways than can be conveyed in a note. I can say, however, that the skills I learned and experiences I had at CILE have proven incredibly valuable in my current practice. My work with CILE has helped me obtain the confidence and skills to perform effectively at a top-tier law firm and I have drawn on that experience when interacting with international clients, evaluating procedural issues, and analyzing the merits of a commercial dispute, just to name a few. I plan to continue to work with and support CILE while building my career at Reed Smith because I know, from my own experience and that of so many friends from the U.S. and abroad, that international legal education is of tremendous importance, now more than ever. ■

My work with CILE helped me obtain the confidence and skills to perform effectively at a top-tier law firm and I have drawn on that experience when interacting with international clients, evaluating procedural issues, and analyzing the merits of a commercial dispute...

A FEW OF OUR OTHER NOTABLE JD ALUMNI



John Kropf (JD '88)
Corporate Privacy Executive
Northrop Grumman
Corporation



Luke Dembosky (JD '94)
Partner
Debevoise & Plimpton
Former U.S. Deputy
Assistant Attorney General
for National Security



Marketa Lindt (JD '94)
President
American Immigration
Law Society



Todd Shenkin (JD '94)
Founder & Managing
Director
TS2 Capital Advisors



Marianela Peralta (JD '94)
General Counsel & Corporate
Secretary at Allegis Global
Solutions



John Blanck (JD '95)
Attorney Adviser
U.S. Department of State



Myles S. Getlan (JD '95)
Partner
Cassidy Levy Kent



Elke Flores Suber (JD '96)
Associate General Counsel
Microsoft



Mark Walter (JD '98)
Senior Principal Global
Practice Specialist
DAI



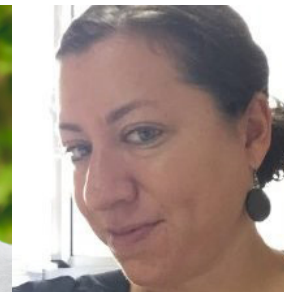
Ellen Freeman (JD '99)
Managing Partner
Ellen Freeman Immigration
Law Group, PLLC



Charles T. Kotuby (JD '01)
Partner
Jones Day Global Disputes
Adjunct Professor of Law
University of Pittsburgh



Nasos Mihalakas (JD '01)
Global Professor of
Practice in Law
University of Arizona
James E. Rogers
College of Law



Debra Lefing (JD '04)
Assistant Attorney General
Washington State Office
of the Attorney General
Torts Division



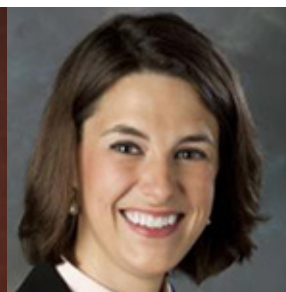
Wes Rist (JD '05)
Deputy Executive Director
American Society of
International Law



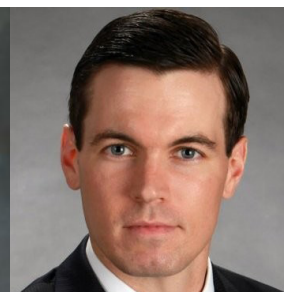
**Elizabeth (Lizzy)
Shackelford (JD '06)**
Author and Independent
Consultant



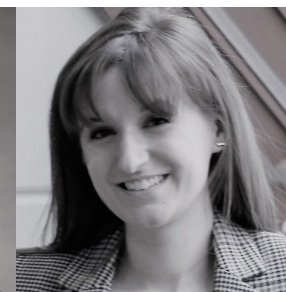
Tatyana Margolin (JD '07)
Regional Director
for Eurasia Open
Society Foundations



J. Katherine Drabecki (JD '08)
Immigration Attorney
Dentons Cohen & Grigsby



Patrick Yingling (JD '11)
Associate
Reed Smith LLP



Kimberly Karr (JD '12)
Corporate Counsel
MSA: The Safety Company



Janet Checkley (JD '14)
Regional Compliance
Program Manager
Microsoft



Nicholas Weltz (front row, second from the right) with the Vis Pre-Moot Training Program in Tbilisi, Georgia

Pitt Vis team, where it was obvious they had improved greatly. Several teams I trained qualified for the elimination rounds of the Vis, and one even made it to the semi-final round.

Even in these strange, uncertain, and difficult times, thousands of students from all around the world: from Georgia, to Azerbaijan, to Pittsburgh, dedicated hundreds of hours to advancing their knowledge of international commercial law and building their arbitration skills through the Vis Moot. ■

From Beirut to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
Boutros Imad (LLM '20)



This summer I had the privilege of an internship with Judge Lisa Lenihan at the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. As a judicial intern, I researched and drafted reports and recommendations regarding prisoners' civil rights, summarized findings from depositions for use at pre-trial conferences, and researched different areas of law while assisting in drafting Memorandum Opinions. The internship gave me the opportunity to attend pre-trial proceedings in criminal cases and understand how the whole process works. I had the chance to join the pre-trial conferences in civil cases where the Judge helps lawyers in reviewing the evidence and clarifies the issues in dispute, which can sometimes lead to the settlement of the case.

Since Judge Lenihan is eager to make the best out of this internship, she conducted "intern training sessions"

Vis Moot Training in Tbilisi
Nicholas Weltz (JD '20)

Upon entry into the country of Georgia, they give you a small bottle of red wine. After several long flights and even longer layovers, this was a great way to be greeted at 5 a.m. Before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down international travel, I was able to go to Tbilisi in late Feb. to conduct a Vis Moot Training with the U.S. Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP).

In Dec., Professor Brand proposed that Arnela Maglič (LLM '18) and I help CLDP run the Tbilisi training and pre moot program. The Tbilisi pre moot already had a nine year history, but CLDP was becoming the primary sponsor and starting to run the training program. Arnela and I developed a training that could help students with their arguments for the Vis Moot, which was supposed to be in Vienna in April. We focused on ways that students could structure arguments and endear themselves to the arbitrators. After weeks of Skype meetings (back when Skype meetings were rarer), and sending powerpoints back and forth, it was time to go to Georgia.

For late Feb. in the mountains, the weather in Tbilisi was pleasant, the people were welcoming, the food was delicious, and the wine was unique. In Georgia they make an amber wine out of a type of orange-colored grape that grows in the Georgian highlands.

Arnela and I conducted a six-hour

training for about 70 students. We taught them how to use body language to convince the arbitrators of their confidence, how to work as a team with their partner, how to respond to questions, how to structure arguments, and how to introduce themselves. The trainings were followed by a two-day pre moot. Vis pre moots are exciting because they are often the first-time teams are presenting their arguments in front of other teams and arbitrators who aren't their coaches. I was able to arbitrate four rounds overall and sat in on a few more. The teams were still building their arguments, but the students were very adaptive, and many took the advice Arnela and I had given them to heart when constructing their arguments.

The organizers threw a dinner for the students and guests, with dancers performing traditional Georgian dances and several courses of delicious Georgian food. On the final day, there were a few more pre moot rounds before it was time for the closing ceremony. Held in a trendy hotel, the ceremony recognized the winning teams and the outstanding achievements of the students. At the end of the night everyone said goodbye, reminding each other that they would "see you in Vienna." Of course, 2020 had other plans. The Coronavirus lockdowns began soon afterwards. A week later, the Vis moot was moved online. I saw many of the students I met in Tbilisi online during the virtual Middle East Pre-moot and online practice sessions with the

every week in order to help all interns at the Court expand their knowledge and understanding in different areas of American Law. The unique aspect of interning at the Court is the privilege to work with a Judge and the experience the graduate gets from working on cases prepared by accomplished associates and partners. I want to thank the CILE for helping me find the right place to start my career at. ■

A Year at the Sorbonne Megan Yvorra (JD '21)

This past year, I had the privilege of studying French, European, and International Business Law at the Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne through Pitt Law's exchange program. My time in Paris was filled with many exciting opportunities and challenges, some expected and others completely unexpected, and I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

While previously the LLM was only available to those fluent in French, the Sorbonne recently opened the degree to English speaking students by creating a separate program. By opening this degree to English speaking students, the Sorbonne allowed for an incredibly diverse classroom, with students from Iran, Russia, Colombia, and Syria, to name just a few. Learning an entirely different legal system with stu-

dents from around the globe was a truly unique experience that provided additional insight into France's legal system and the legal systems of my classmates' countries, as well as the legal system of the United States.

France's civil law education system includes a heavy focus in courses such as public and private contract law, French public economic law, and French business law, while EU and international laws and regulations are explored more deeply in courses such as competition law, European Union law, and international contracts. Attempting to understand a civil law system as compared to our common law system can be incredibly difficult at times but is also an interesting and enjoyable challenge. I gained a better understanding of the United States' role in international law by seeing it through the lens of other countries.

One highlight of my time at the Sorbonne was a class trip to the Cour de Cassation (Court of Cassation), the highest court in the French judiciary. We were taught about the court's history and how it has evolved over the years. The building itself was absolutely stunning, which was unsurprising because Paris is one of the most beautiful cities I've ever seen, and contained a rich history. Seeing the court in person and being given such a detailed, educational tour brought to life the lessons we had learned in the classroom and was an unforgettable experience.

Aside from the wonderful experiences inside the classroom, immersing myself in French culture was one of my favorite parts of the exchange. Enjoying croissants, crepes, and countless other fresh pastries and treats on a daily basis while staring at a beautiful view of one of Paris' beautiful landmarks was something I had always dreamed about and finally got to live. When I first arrived in Paris, I was nervous and self-conscious when attempting to speak French. My constant increase in confidence in my language abilities was a huge source of pride and is a skill I could not have gained by simply being in a classroom in the United States.

Unfortunately, my time in Paris was cut short because of COVID-19. In the middle of March, France went into a complete lockdown, all of Pitt's study abroad programs were cancelled, and I was required to return to Pittsburgh. Luckily, we were able to continue our classes online, which meant I could finish the program and obtain the degree. However, this was not without its challenges. Suddenly, I had classes starting at 4 a.m. because of the time difference and scheduling exams was tricky. Difficulties aside, I am grateful to have had the time in Paris that I did. I thank the Sorbonne, Professor Curran, Dean Hamoudi, the registrar's office, and CILE for making the transition to and from Paris as smooth as could be. ■



Megan Yvorra (front row, first on the left) with her class at the Cour de Cassation (Court of Cassation)

Brand Leads Training and Pre-Moot in Alexandria, Egypt

From March 4-7, 2020, Professor Ronald Brand traveled to Alexandria, Egypt, to join Professor Ingeborg Schwenzer from the University of Basel in order to lead a conference and training sessions and to conduct the University of Alexandria's Vis International Commercial Arbitration Pre-Moot. During the conference, Brand spoke on "The Role of the CISG in International Commercial Arbitration." With Professor Schwenzer, he led students through the 2020 Vis Moot problem and trained them for the oral argument portion of the competition. He also served as an arbitrator for the Pre-Moot, which was held both in person and online for the teams given the advancing COVID-19 pandemic. ■



Professors Brand and Schwenzer with student organizers of the AlexandriaU-CRICA Conference and Pre-Moot

Rist Shares ASIL Expertise to Preparing Students for International Careers

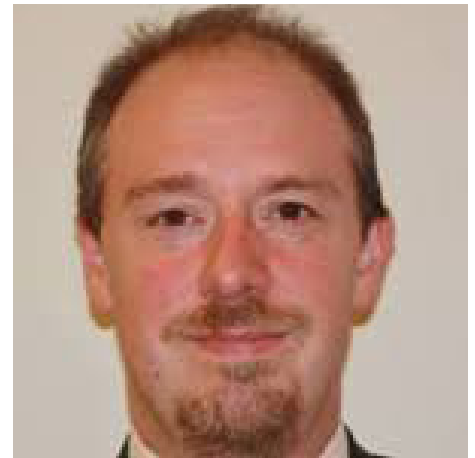
On Nov. 12, 2019, Wes Rist (JD '05), the Deputy Executive Director at the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and a former CILE Assistant Director, returned to Pitt Law to speak to students on "Pursuing a Career in International Law." Rist is the author of ASIL's *Careers in International Law*, a guide to pursuing the practice of international law. He discussed steps students can take to stand out in the search for an international law position. Topics covered included targeted job searching, resume drafting, managing professional contacts, identifying appropriate international experiences, and pursuing volunteer and professional membership opportunities. ■



ASIL Deputy Director, Wes Rist, advises students on careers in international law.

Wolf Returns to Discuss International Tax Law

On Oct. 28, 2019, Shawn Wolf (JD '96), of Packman Neuwahl Rosenberg, presented "An Overview of the Work of a U.S. International Tax Lawyer." Wolf focuses his practice in the areas of international taxation and his presentation discussed inbound investment, outbound investment, and foreign trusts. Wolf has been a frequent author and lecturer on topics relating to international taxation and served as Co-Chair of the annual International Tax Conference co-sponsored by the FICPA/ Florida Bar for five years. He has been named a Florida Super Lawyer since 2018, and has been selected by peers for inclusion in the 2011-2020 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of tax law. ■



Shawn Wolf addresses a group of JD and LLM students interested in international tax law.

Ossenova Brings DOJ Expertise on Cross-Border Taking of Evidence and Service of Process

CILE alumna Katerina Ossenova (JD '08) returned to Pitt Law to lecture on "Obtaining Evidence and Service of Judicial Documents Abroad in Civil Matters" on Oct. 24, 2019. Her presentation included an overview of proper methods and procedures for international service of judicial documents and international discovery. She covered the principal treaties, Federal Rules, diplomatic channels, and other sources of judicial assistance. Ossenova is a Trial Attorney and manages the Office of International Judicial Assistance (OIIA) within the Office of Foreign Litigation at

the U.S. Department of Justice, where she provides guidance and training to U.S. Government attorneys on how to serve process or obtain evidence abroad for use in litigation. In 2017, Ossenoova helped draft the Amicus Brief for the United States in the United States Supreme Court in *Water Splash, Inc. v. Tara Menon*. The case dealt with Article 10 of the Hague Service Convention. ■



Katerina Ossenoova of the U.S. Department of Justice gives a lecture on international service of judicial documents and international discovery at Pitt Law.

Winter Speaks on Autonomous Weapons and the Law of War

On Sept. 24, 2019, CILE Visiting Professor Elliot Winter lectured on “Lethal Autonomous Weapons and the Law of War” at the School of Law. Winter is a Lecturer in International Law at Newcastle University (United Kingdom), where he teaches and conducts research on the Law of Armed Conflict, with particular emphasis on new military technology. He teaches a course on World Trade Organisation Law and is Director of Undergraduate Programmes. ■



Visiting Professor Elliot Winter addresses the Pitt Law community during his presentation on Lethal Autonomous Weapons and the Law of War.

Brand Receives 2019 Sheth Faculty Award

Professor Ronald Brand was presented the 2019 Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement at the award ceremony arranged by Pitt’s University Center for International Studies on Oct. 14, 2019. The Sheth Award was established by Mrs. Madhu and Dr. Jagdish N. Sheth through the Sheth Family Foundation to recognize a University of Pittsburgh faculty member for their international activities, teaching, research and/or public engagement. Brand was introduced by Dean Amy Wildermuth and Chancellor Emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg. Also present at the ceremony was Dr. Renee Martin-Nagle, who had nominated Brand for the Sheth Award and was a student in the first class Brand taught at Pitt Law in the fall of 1982. ■



Pitt Law alumni Renee Martin-Nagle, Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg, Professor Ronald Brand, and Vice Provost for Global Affairs Ariel Armony at the 2019 Sheth Award Ceremony

Pitt Law Vis Moot Team Makes Elite 8

The Pitt Law Vis Moot team of George Apossos, Nick Bencsics, Tarek Maalouf, and David Zwier made it to the round of eight teams at the 27th Willem Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition. There were 249 teams from more than 80 countries participating in the virtual moot, which occurred online April 3-9, 2020, rather than onsite in Vienna. Despite being online, it still was on Vienna time, so arguments began as early as 2 a.m. Pittsburgh time. After making the round of 64 teams based on team scores that had Pitt ranked number 20 after the four general rounds, the Pitt team went head-to-head to defeat teams from the University of Ottawa at a 2 a.m. time slot; the University of Southern Denmark at a 5 a.m. meeting; and Bucerius Law School (Hamburg, Germany) at 8 a.m.; before bowing out to the University of Hamburg at a more reasonable 11 a.m. session. The achievement was the best a Pitt Law team has done at the Vis Moot in 25 years of competing. ■

Weisberg on the Legal Implications of the Holocaust

On Feb. 11, 2020, Professor Richard Weisberg spoke to the Pitt Law community on “How Judges and Lawyers Behaved During the Holocaust in Europe, and the Aftermath in U.S. Federal Courts.” Professor Weisberg, the Floersheimer Professor of Constitutional Law at Cardozo School of Law, discussed his historical findings about the Vichy legal system and provided updates on efforts in U.S. federal court that continue to seek a measure of justice for victims. He has assisted lawyers suing French banks in U.S. federal court for Holocaust-era theft of Jewish assets, which resulted in a quadrilateral settlement that directed the return of tens of millions of euros of banking assets to Jewish victims of Vichy law. This ongoing process helped earn Weisberg the French Legion of Honor in 2008. He is a Visiting Professor at Pitt Law for both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years. ■

CILE Pivots to Provide Platform for Successful 10th Annual Vis Middle East Pre-Moot

With COVID-19 shutting down travel, the 10th Annual Vis Middle East Pre-Moot, originally scheduled to be held at the Royal University for Women in Bahrain was at risk of cancellation. The two principal administrative sponsors, the U.S. Commerce Department's Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) and Pitt Law's CILE saw a challenge in the problems of COVID-19, and turned the result into the first Virtual Vis Middle East Pre-Moot. With the expert help of Pitt Law's IT department, headed by Kim Getz, the crew from CLDP flew to Pittsburgh rather than Bahrain and set up a command center in the CILE offices in Barco Law Building. CLDP lawyers Stephen Gardner, Mais Abas Abousy, and Zmarak Khan, along with CILE Director Ronald Brand and Program Administrator Emilie Schlauch, were assisted by Pitt students and alumni including Elizabeth Taylor (JD '19), Nicholas Weltz (JD Class of 2020), and Amer Abu-Sham (LLM '19), who served as trainers, arbitrators, moderators, and organizers. Two days of training were held, using video lectures and Zoom, followed by the Pre-Moot, with 27 law schools from 18 countries competing. Pitt Law's Vis team of George Apossos, Nicholas Bencsics, Tarek Maalof, and David Zwier was the runner-up team, losing in the final round to the team from the a Royal Institute of Colombo, Sri Lanka. With the training and competition held on the original schedule - on Bahrain time - it meant days starting at midnight for the team of organizers and arguments presented at 2 a.m. for the Pitt Vis team. The final round served as a model for the later Vienna Vis Moot, which confirmed plans to operate online after viewing the successful CILE/CLDP effort. Even when the CLDP team was ordered back to Washington because of COVID-19, Getz and her team provided a smooth and successful video session for the competition's final round, with nearly 200 viewers logged on to observe. ■



Members of the CILE and CLDP teams, led by Kim Getz (center), set up video logistics for the 10th Annual Middle East Pre-Moot.



Nick Weltz (JD '20, left) and Elizabeth Taylor (JD '19, right) celebrate a successful pre-moot with Pitt Vis team members Tarek Maalouf (JD '20) and David Zwier (JD '20).

22 Shenkin Discusses Private Sector Career Paths in International Law

On Jan. 30, 2020, Todd Shenkin (JD '94), the Founding and Managing Director of TS2 Capital Advisors, spoke to Pitt Law students about "Career Paths in International Law and the Private Sector." Shenkin has served as an advisor and active principal participant in over 500 institutional investment transactions, including situations involving over 300 private investment funds. Before founding TS2, Shenkin spent eighteen years at MetLife, where he was Vice President & Associate General Counsel. While at MetLife, he was also the lead private investment funds and product development lawyer for MetLife Investment Management. ■



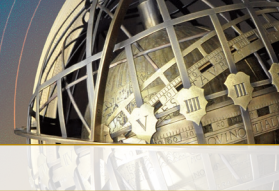
Professor Brand welcomes Todd Shenkin (JD '94) back to Pitt Law.

De Vos on the Legal Origins of Brexit

Returning CILE Visiting Professor, Marc De Vos, lectured on "Brexit: Who is to Blame?" on Jan. 21, 2020. Professor De Vos is a professor of law and dean at the Macquarie School of Law in Sydney, Australia. He previously served as professor of law at the University of Ghent Law School in Ghent Belgium, where he was Director of LLM programmes and international relations. He is also the founding general director of the Itinera Institute, an independent policy research institute, based in Brussels. His main areas of legal specialization include Belgian and European employment and labour law, European Union institutional and constitutional law, non-discrimination and fundamental rights, and the rule of law. ■



Marc De Vos (far left) re-connects with Semester at Sea colleagues during his presentation on Brexit at Pitt Law.



Rule of Law Around the World

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, four LLM students spoke to the Pitt Law community about the legal systems and rule of law challenges in their home countries as part of CILE's long-standing Rule of Law series. Presentations covered Arab Spring and the importance of the rule of law during different eras of the Tunisian government (Nourhene Chtourou); presidential power in Ukraine (Yaroslav Pavliuk); the French Constitutional Council (Agathe Ferrari); and constitutional principles of equality in the German legal system (Yanis Klumpp). ■



Nourhene Chtourou (LLM '20) presents on the Arab Spring and rule of law in Tunisia.

Yaroslav Pavliuk (LLM '20) speaks on presidential power in Ukraine.

Agathe Ferrari (LLM '20) delivers a presentation on the French Constitutional Council.

Yanis Klumpp (LLM '20) talks about the constitutional principles of equality in the German legal system.

Brand Serves as Arbitrator for Vis Finals

Professor Ronald Brand was selected to be an arbitrator for the final round of the 27th Willem Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition, held online for the first time due to COVID-19. This marks the second time a Pitt Law professor has served on the final panel, with Professor Emeritus Harry Flechtner having done so for the 24th Moot in 2017. Brand had hoped to be conflicted out as the Pitt Vis team reached the round of eight, with the possibility of being in the final round as well. ■

Dr. Doris Toyou Joins Our SJD Alumni

Doris Toyou (Cameroon) successfully defended her dissertation in Dec. 2019, becoming the 10th graduate of the Pitt Law Doctor of Juridical Sciences (SJD) program. Her dissertation is titled "Private Equity and Investor Protection in the United States and in Europe." Dr. Toyou's dissertation advisor was Professor Branson, and the other members of her committee were Professor Peter Oh of the School of Law and Professor Kenneth Lehn of Pitt's Katz Graduate School of Business. ■

CILE hosts Arbitration Webinar with MOU Partner, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad

On Friday, July 17, 2020, CILE hosted a webinar titled "Arbitration: The United States and India" in partnership with ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad. The event featured CILE Director Ron Brand and Raj Panchmatia, a Partner at Khaitan & Co, as panelists who discussed the basics of arbitration, with a focus on drafting an effective arbitration clause in both the United States and India. The event was held as a webinar and attracted over 270 participants worldwide. Coordination of this event and the resulting partnership between CILE and ICFAI Law School was made possible by Pitt Law alumni, Rishav Soni (LLM '17), who serves as a Faculty Research Associate at ICFAI. ■



Professor Ron Brand and Raj Panchmatia speak to the international legal community on arbitration-related matters.



Doris Toyou celebrates her successful dissertation defense with Dissertation Committee members Kenneth Lehn, Peter Oh and Douglas Branson.

LLM Class of 2020 Academic Honors

John Cencich (Dec. 2019)
Cum Laude

Boutros Imad
Cum Laude

Yanis Klumpp
Cum Laude

Andreas Schnell
Cum Laude

Yaroslav Pavliuk
Faculty Award for Excellence in Legal Scholarship

International Law Society Officers 2020-2021

Leanne Winkels
President

Andres Sellitto Ferrari
Vice President

Luke Lockhart
Treasurer

Leah Sharp
Secretary & Archivist

Tarek Maalouf
Moot Court Coordinator

Nadia Brooks
Programming Director

Trisha Klan
LLM Community Coordinator



The LLM Class of 2021 with Professor Brand at the Mary Schenley Memorial Fountain

LLM Class of 2021

Rustam Akhmedov (Uzbekistan) received his Bachelor of Laws degree in International Law from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where he participated in the university's Legal Clinic, offering low income groups legal advice under the mentorship of his professors. In 2015, he attended an enterprise management training program in Deutsche Management Akademie Niedersachsen in Celle, Germany. Mr. Akhmedov practiced law in Uzbekistan for more than nine years at firms such as LUKOIL Uzbekistan Operating Company LLC and UzAvtoSanoat-Leasing LLC.

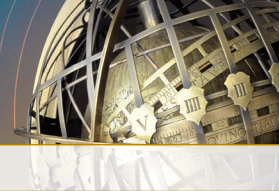
Nawaf Albalud (Saudi Arabia) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from Shaqra University in Dawadmi, Saudi Arabia, in 2018. He qualified as a legal advisor with the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce in 2018 and has worked as an intern with Albaloud Real Estate Inc. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's English Language Institute.

Abdulrahman Almashat (Saudi Arabia) received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 2017 from the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. He worked as an associate for Alshangiti & Associates before transitioning into academia as a Teaching Assistant for

King Abdulaziz University's School of Law in 2018. He founded the Beyond Law Initiative, which uses podcasts to promote sustainable projects to improve the sectors of the legal community. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's English Language Institute.

Mashaal Al Qutami (Bahrain) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the Royal University for Women in Bahrain in 2017. She was a member of the RUW team at the 2017 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. Beginning in Feb. 2018, she served as a Specialist Investigator at the International Cooperation and Development Directorate in the Ombudsman Office at the Bahrain Ministry of Interior. Al Qutami was also chosen to be a part of the First Deputy Prime Minister Fellowship program and was the youngest fellow to be chosen as part of the 2018 team.

Macarena Hernandez Cabezas (Chile) received her Bachelor of Laws degree in 2014 from the Diego Portales University in Santiago, Chile. She practiced law in Chile at firms such as AFP Modelo, where she was a tax attorney, and Cleveland & Inostroza, where she was an associate lawyer focused on labor law. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's English Language Institute.



Clotilde Hocquard (France) received her Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of History dual degree from the University of Paris, Pantheon-Sorbonne in 2018. She worked as an intern at the law office of Ruben et Associes, conducting research on criminal law. Hocquard also completed a Master's degree at the University of Paris 1 in General Private Law where she also studied for a Master's degree in Digital Law. She was selected by the Sorbonne to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Ali Ibrahim (Syria) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from Damascus University, Syria, in 2001. His practice in Syria focused on banking law, including relationships with the United Arab Emirates and the United States. In the United States, he has worked for First Commonwealth Bank.

Camille Laulanie (France) received her Bachelor of Laws degree, with a specialization in Public Law, from Caen University, Normandy, in 2018. She continued her academic career at the University of Paris 1, Pantheon-Sorbonne, where she obtained her Master's Degree in General International Law and Arbitration and International Trade Law. She has worked within the Legal Department at GIE Cartes Bancaires-CB, and interned at the Litigation Department of Crédit Agricole SA. She was selected by the Sorbonne to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Tahminehalsadat Madani (Iran) received her Bachelor of Laws degree in 2014 and her Master of Laws in International Commercial Law from Allameh Tabataba'i University in Tehran, Iran. In 2016, she competed as a member of Allameh Tabataba'i University's team in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. She has worked as a Legal Intern for WilmerHale in London, and as Legal Counsel for Cohen Amir-Aslani in Tehran. She received a Master of Laws from the University of Georgia in 2020, where she was employed as a Graduate Assistant. Madani is the recipient of a UCIS Fellowship for academic year 2020-2021.

Tahereh Nohekhan (Iran) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Tehran, Iran in 2016, where she completed research on types and conditions of aviation crimes under the supervision of Professor Mahmoud Mahdavi. She has attended international conferences of the Iran Central Bar Association, on topics including international trade law, foreign investment, energy law, and international dispute resolution.

Duniya Stanikzai (Afghanistan) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Kabul University in 2014. In 2014, Stanikzai was a member of the first Afghan team to participate in the Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Hong Kong. She practiced as an attorney at Resolute Support Rule of Law and Governance. Stanikzai established

the first Afghanistan Counter Corruption Justice Center (ACJC) and helped found the Afghan Center for Commercial Dispute Resolution (ACDR). From June 2019 to Jan. 2020, she was the Deputy Director of Shining Star Education Organization of Afghanistan. She is a member of the Afghan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) and Lawyers' Union of Afghanistan (LUA). Stankizai is the recipient of the Franklin West Housing Scholarship and a UCIS Fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year. ■

Class of 2020 December Graduates

Afaf Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 2016. While studying there, she worked as a volunteer in the University's Center for Special Needs, as well as assisting recipients of financial aid and supplies through the University's Science Club. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's English Language Institute.

Shaden Almousa (Saudi Arabia) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Princess Nora Bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2014. She has worked as a trainee with the Human Rights Commission of Saudi Arabia, and was selected as a member of a 2016 mission from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Germany. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's English Language Institute.

Zulfiya Sadykova (Russia) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Kazan State University in 2003, and her Master of Laws in International Commercial Law from City University London in 2012. Her work experience includes service as the Chief Legal Advisor of the OJSC AK BARS Bank of Kazan, Russian, where she was responsible for ensuring compliance of the bank's operations with both domestic and foreign law. Prior to that, she worked as a litigator for the Transneft oil transport company. ■



The LLM Class of 2021 meets virtually with Professors Sinsheimer and St. Val during orientation.

SJD Students 2020–2021

New SJD Student

Nadine Hafaitha (Palestine) is preparing her dissertation on Arbitration related reform in Palestine under the supervision of Professor Brand. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from An-Najah University in Palestine in 2017 and her LLM from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2019. She was the recipient of the 2018 Palestinian Rule of Law Fellowship for her LLM Studies and received the CALI Excellence for the Future Award in International Commercial Arbitration. She was a member of Pitt Law's 2019 Vis Moot team. Hafaitha has been an intern and a Visiting Foreign Legal Consultant at Wilmer Hale in London, where she was responsible for conducting research on challenging arbitration-related issues and initiating gradual arbitration-related reform efforts in Palestine. ■

26 Continuing SJD Students

Sulaiman Almualllem (Saudi Arabia)

is writing his dissertation on the U.S. discovery process and its potential adaptation to the Saudi civil procedure system. His dissertation advisor is Professor Gonzales Rose. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 2010, and an LLM from Indiana University's Maurer School of Law in 2016. He has worked as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law of King Abdulaziz University and as a teaching assistant in the College of Law of Taibah University in Medina, Saudi Arabia.

Wasfi Al-Sharaa (Iraq) is writing his dissertation on the use of criminal law in the fields of energy and environmental regulation. His dissertation supervisor is Professor Hamoudi. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from Shatt-El-Arab University College in 1998 and a master's degree in law from the University of Baghdad in 2001. He is an assistant professor of law and assistant dean of academic affairs at Basra Law School in Iraq. He is the recipient of a full scholarship from the University of Basra.

Ahmed Al Yarabi (Oman) is writing his dissertation on the legislative process under the constitution of Oman. His dissertation advisor is Professor Lobel. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the College of Law of Sultan Qaboos University of Oman in 2011, and his LLM degree from Pitt Law in 2014. He has worked most recently as a lawyer for the Oman Telecommunications Company, and as in-house counsel for other companies in Oman.

Iva Grgic (Croatia) is writing her dissertation on the law of contract farming. Her dissertation advisor is Professor Brand. Iva received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, in 2013, and her LLM degree from Pitt Law in 2014. Before returning to Pitt Law, she worked in Zagreb as an associate with Bardek, Lisac, Mušec, Skoko in cooperation with CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz. Her work experience includes a post-LLM degree internship with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, and internships with Law Office Lipovscak and with Wolf Theiss, both in Zagreb. She was the coach of Pitt Law's 2015 Jessup Moot team, which won first place honors for its memorial submissions, as well as of the 2019 Jessup Moot team.

Mais Haddad (Syria) is writing her dissertation on a comparative study of legal discrimination against religious, ethnic, and other minorities in the different nation states of the Middle East. Her dissertation advisor is Professor Hamoudi. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Damascus in Syria in 2004, an LLM in International Law from the University of Damascus in 2008, and her Master of Arts in International Politics from the City University London in 2009. She received a Chevening Scholarship from the Foreign Commonwealth Office of Britain in 2008. She has worked as a financial and investment advisor, and was a practicing attorney in Damascus from 2004 through 2013.

Vincent Mutai (Kenya) is writing his dissertation on the law of parallel importation of pharmaceutical products into the East Africa Community Common Market. His dissertation advisor is Professor Brand. He received his

Bachelor of Laws degree from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, in 2000; his LLM from Pitt Law in 2003; and an MBA from Point Park University in 2006. He has been the head of the Department of Commercial Law at Moi University School of Law, Acting University/Corporation Secretary for Moi University, and is a Founding Director of the Legal Aid Clinic of Eldoret (LACE) and Director of the National Legal Aid Service of Kenya.

Shadi Shahoud (Syria) is writing his dissertation on the harmonization of Arab secured transactions law. His dissertation advisor is Professor Hamoudi. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 2004 from Damascus University and his LLM from Pitt Law in 2016. Before leaving Syria for the U.S. after the start of the Syrian civil war, he performed two years of bar program practice with the Syrian Bar Association in Homs and at the Hanna Shahoud Law Office. He was a partner with the Hanna & Shadi Shahoud Law Firm in Homs, working as a banking and insurance lawyer and also practicing in the area of real estate law. ■

Previous SJD Graduates

2011 Yi-Ting Cheng (Taiwan), *The Future of GATS Article XV: Service Subsidy Regulations Under the WTO*

2011 Fatima Waziri (Nigeria), *Designing an Anti-Corruption System in Nigeria*

2014 Bandar Alrasheed (Saudi Arabia), *Corporate Governance of the Saudi Arabian Publicly Traded Companies: An Appraisal and Proposals for Improvement*

2015 Vjosa Osmani (Kosovo), *Treaty Application in Kosovo through Rules of Succession and as Domestic Law: The Example of the CISG*

2017 Hisham Ababneh (Jordan), *A Model BIT for Development: The Example of Jordan*

2017 Abdullah Alaoudh (Saudi Arabia), *Religious Institutions in the Constitutional Orders of the Post-Revolution Arab Countries: Egypt as a Case Study*

2017 Zvenislava Opeida (Ukraine), *Strengthening the WTO Subsidies Regime*

2018 Ohud Alzahrani (Saudi Arabia), *The Adoption of Children: An Exploration of Islamic Law in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and How it Compares to the International Standards Set by the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption*

2019 Oday Mahmood (Iraq), *The Basis for Judicial Review in the Federal Supreme Court in Iraq: Mediating Between Democracy and Human Rights through Islam's Settled Rulings*

Visiting Professors Fall 2020

Elliot Winter (United Kingdom) is a Teaching Fellow, Degree Programme Director and Ph.D. Candidate at Newcastle University Law School in the UK. During the Fall 2019 term, he taught a course on the law of armed conflict and built strategic links between Pitt and Newcastle. At Newcastle Law School, he teaches and conducts research in the law of armed conflict, with particular emphasis on new military technology. He also delivers a course on WTO law and acts as the director of undergraduate programmes. Previously, he taught international law and certain domestic law subjects at the University of Glasgow. Prior to that, he qualified as a solicitor (attorney) with Harper Macleod LLP, where he litigated for the UK and Scottish governments.

Marc De Vos (Belgium) is a professor of law and dean at the Macquarie School of Law in Sydney, Australia. He previously served as professor of law at the Ghent University Law School and at Curtin University Law School, as Director of LLM programmes and international relations at Ghent University Faculty of Law and Criminology, and as foundational general director of the Itinera Institute, an independent policy

research institute based in Brussels. His main areas of legal specialization include Belgian and European employment and labour law (social law), EU institutional and constitutional law, non-discrimination and fundamental rights, and the rule of law. During his time at Pitt Law, De Vos taught a class and delivered a public lecture on the Legal Origins of Brexit. ■

Visiting Scholars 2019-2020

Michal Araszkievic (Poland) is an adjunct professor in the Department of Legal Theory of Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, where he is a member of the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution. He earned his doctorate in law from Jagiellonian University in 2010. His research interests include the theory of legal argumentation, and applications of artificial intelligence methods in relation to law and legal methodology. While at Pitt Law focused his research on privacy and data protection. He was in residence with CILE through Sept. 2019.

Nana Doghanadze (Georgia) is a doctoral candidate at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany. Her research focused on cross-border transfer of evidence in civil and arbitration proceedings. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University in 2011, and a Master of Laws from Ludwig Maximilian University in 2014. She was in residence with CILE from Oct.-Nov. 2019.

Guansheng Yang (China) is a doctoral candidate at the China University of Political Science & Law in Beijing, China. His research focused on the enforcement of international mediated settlement agreements. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the Southwest University of Political Science & Law in Chongqing, China, and his Master of Laws degree from Sun Yat-sen University School of Law in Guangzhou, China. He was in residence with CILE through Oct. 2019. ■

Student Activities

George Apessos (Class of 2021) was a member of the Pitt Law team for the 2020 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Nicholas Bencsics (Class of 2020) was a member of the Pitt Law team for the 2020 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Allison Bustin (Class of 2020) traveled to Zenica, Bosnia, to help facilitate the CLDP Moot Training. The training program took place over the course of four days. Bustin acted as the sole trainer on the second day of training, which required her to manage the room and facilitate dialogue between the different teams and coaches. She also arbitrated multiple rounds during the pre-moot.

Nourhene Chtourou (LLM '20) traveled to New York City in Oct. of 2019 for International Law Weekend, sponsored by the American Branch of the International Law Association. She was also selected as a member of the LLM Moot Team.

Katrina Harrison (JD '20) studied at the University of Paris I / Pantheon-Sorbonne for part of the 2019-2020 academic year as a participant in the exchange program with Paris I.

Fatjona Hoti-Hajdini (LLM '20) traveled to New York City in Oct. of 2019 for International Law Weekend, sponsored by the American Branch of the International Law Association. She was also selected as a member of the LLM Moot Team.

Brittany De Hoyos (JD '20) was selected as a Student Ambassador for the American Branch of the International Law Association.

Boutros Imad (LLM '20) traveled to New York City in Oct. of 2019 for International Law Weekend (ILW) in New York City, sponsored by the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA). She was also selected as a member of the LLM Moot Team.

Tarek Maalouf (Class of 2021) was a member of the Pitt Law team for the 2020 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Yaroslav Pavliuk (LLM '20) traveled to New York City in Oct. of 2019 for International Law Weekend in New York City, sponsored by the American Branch of the International Law Association. She was also selected as a member of the LLM Moot Team.

Nicholas Weltz (JD '20) traveled to Georgia to help the CLDP run the Tbilisi training and pre moot program. Weltz and LLM alumni, **Arnella Maglic (LLM '18)**, worked for two months on a training program to help students develop their arguments for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. Weltz and Maglic conducted a six-hour training for about 70 students followed by a two-day pre-moot.

Megan Yvorra (Class of 2021) studied at the University of Paris I / Pantheon-Sorbonne for part of the 2019-2020 academic year as a participant in the exchange program between Pitt Law and Paris I.

David Zwier (JD '20) was a member of the Pitt Law team for the 2020 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. ■

Alumni News: Alumni Ambassadors Recruit Next Generation of Pitt Law LLMs

CILE alumni are some of our best ambassadors and continue to promote the Pitt Law community across the globe. In April 2020, **Fahira Brodlija (LLM '17)** and **Alija Genjac (LLM '19)** gave a presentation on the Pitt Law LLM program at the International University of Sarajevo. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brodlija and Genjac connected with students in Bosnia and Herzegovina virtually. ■

Kosovo's Evolving Political Landscape and Vjosa Osmani Fatjona Hoti-Hajdini (LLM '20)

In 2019, Dr. Vjosa Osmani (LLM '05, SJD 15) was nominated as the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) candidate to become Kosovo's next prime minister. Considering all of Kosovo's political uncertainties, Osmani's election would have been a radical change in our patriarchal society and an exceptional representation of progress for women in Kosovo. Following an exceedingly close election, Albin Kurti, former prime minister of Kosovo, Self-Determination (VV) party, became the prime minister of Kosovo, besting Vjosa Osmani by a thin margin of only eight thousand votes. Both parties LDK and VV, have shown goodwill to work on citizens' interests and join a coalition. After Kurti took on the role of prime minister, Osmani became the Chairwoman of the Assembly of Kosovo. This coalition lasted for a brief period following significant uncertainties in the middle of a pandemic.

Once LDK triggered a successful motion of no confidence in the government of Kosovo, another political crisis surfaced. Amid a pandemic, where many Kosovars were infected with COVID-19, and countless others died from it, the concern of not having a functional government was the icing on the cake. LDK reacted by forming a coalition between the old regime AAK, NISMA, two by Serb list, and one by the Turkish democratic party of Kosovo. This new government secured the lowest possible number of the votes in the 120-seat parliament, where Avdullah Hoti replaced the acting prime minister Albin Kurti.

The current government does not accurately represent the citizens' votes and their desire for change and has created a new political landscape. This new political landscape is based on the involvement of the current government promising to act according to the recent controversial "agreement" signed by the Serbian president and prime minister of Kosovo under the supervision of Donald Trump. The current government made this deal a step forward economically and an attempt at making peace, but many challenges still remain.

Throughout the recent political turmoil in my country, there was one woman who kept her promises. Osmani promised not to be a part of any decision that would enable the previous governments. She also publicly stated that she disagrees with LDK's decision-making and voted against the LDK's initiated motion. Osmani's courageous behavior and outspoken criticism resulted in her removal from every leadership position by her political party, however, she still remains the Chairwoman of the Assembly of Kosovo. Osmani has consistently shown commitment as a Chairwoman, where she has also dealt with disturbing behavior from male deputies. She has definitely set a whole new standard for the future Chairwoman or Chairman of the Assembly of Kosovo.

Regardless of my country's politics, I believe in the next generation of Kosovo, including Vjosa Osmani and others. Their education and approaches are more established. I hope to one day also be able to contribute to my country. ■

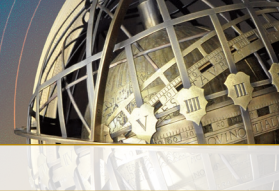


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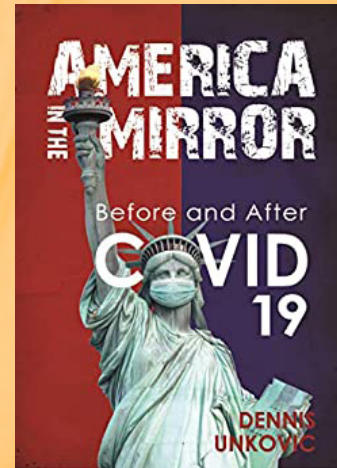
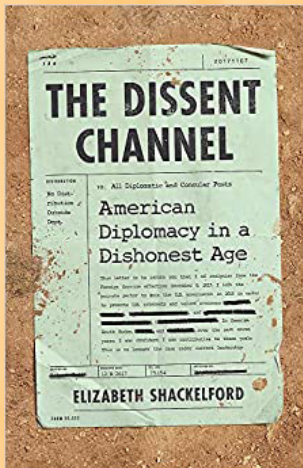
Elizabeth Shackelford
The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age (Public Affairs, 2020)



John Kropf, *Guide to U.S. Government Practice on Global Sharing of Personal Information* (3d ed, American Bar Association, 2020) (co-authored with Neal Cohen)



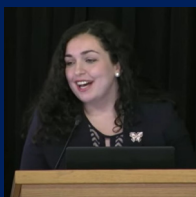
Dennis Unkovic, *America In The Mirror: Before and After Covid 19* (Kindle Edition, 2020)



CILE and the Sheth International Achievement Awards

Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award

Vjosa Osmani

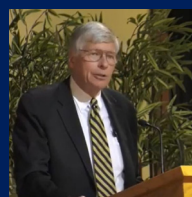


The Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award honors an international Pitt alumnus for their contributions to the international community through their professional achievements and impact on society.

[View the award video](#)

Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement 2019

Ronald A. Brand



The Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement recognizes a University of Pittsburgh faculty member for their international activities, teaching, research and/or public engagement.

[View the award video](#)



Professor Kevin Ashley has reported internationally on his experiences in co-teaching his novel course at Pitt Law on Applied

Legal Analytics and AI. He presented an invited keynote lecture entitled Teaching Legal Analytics and AI to Law Students at the European Center for Law, Science, and New Technologies at the University of Pavia, Feb., 2020. In early June, he presented the keynote speech entitled Teaching Law Students about AI and Text Analysis at the Research Meets Practice (ReMeP) 2020 Informatics virtual Conference hosted by the Vienna University of Economics and Business and the University of Vienna.

In addition, he served as an external examiner of two international Ph.D. dissertations: "Categorisation and Summarisation of Mauritian Legal Judgements using Machine Learning Techniques," by Dr. Sameerchand Pudaruth, at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Mauritius, and "Improving Semantic Search in the German Legal Domain with Word Embeddings," by Dr. Jörg Landthaler at the Technical University of Munich.



Professor Elena Baylis presented "The Politics of Global Legal Pluralism" at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in May of 2019.



Professor Ronald A. Brand moderated and spoke on a panel on "The Resilience of Judgments Recognition Initiatives" on Oct. 12,

2019, at the Annual International Law Weekend held in New York City and sponsored by the American Branch of the International Law Association. Brand also served as a Member of the ABILA Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting. On Oct. 14, 2019, Ronald Brand received the 2019 Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement from Pitt's University Center for International Studies. The Sheth Award was recog-

nizes a University of Pittsburgh faculty member for their international activities, teaching, research and/or public engagement.

On Oct. 18, 2019, Professor Brand was the lead speaker on the opening plenary panel of the annual meeting of the American Society of Comparative Law, held at the University of Missouri School of Law. He spoke on "Comparative Method and International Litigation." The papers from the panel have been published in the Journal of Dispute Resolution. On Nov. 4, 2019, Brand presented the General Report on "Regionalism in the Process of Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Titles" at the XVI World Congress on Procedural Law, held in Kobe, Japan. Brand's Report covered common law jurisdictions, and was accompanied by a report on civil law jurisdictions presented by Professor Tanja Domej of the University of Zurich.

On March 4-7, 2020, Professor Brand led training for the Alexandria, Egypt, Vis International Commercial Arbitration Pre-Moot in Alexandria, Egypt. He also gave lectures on "The Role of the CISG in International Commercial Arbitration." On March 11-14, Brand led training for the Middle East Vis International Commercial Arbitration Pre-Moot. The event, originally scheduled to be held in Bahrain, was operated virtually from Pitt Law with the assistance of lawyers from the U.S. Commerce Department Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), trainers from across the globe, and Pitt Law alumni and students.

The event ended with the 10th Annual Middle East Vis Pre-Moot, with 27 law schools from 18 countries competing.

On March 30, 2020, Professor Brand spoke on an ABA Section of International Law Webinar with Michael Coffee of the State Department Legal Adviser's Office on "The Judgments Convention: Empowering Americans to Litigate Abroad." On May 6, 2020, Brand spoke to the Allegheny County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Committee, on Zoom, on "International Commercial Arbitration: Basic Issues, Recent Developments, and Programs at Pitt Law."

On July 1, 2020, Professor Brand was the lead speaker in a training-the-trainers session for the U.S. Department of Commerce Commercial

Law Development Program (CLDP) Webinar in preparation for the 2021 Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. The program builds on over 15 years of cooperation between Pitt Law's Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and CLDP, using the Vis Moot as a pedagogical tool for developing law school curricula and commercial law infrastructure in transition countries. Participants in the Webinar included professors and Vis Moot coaches from thirteen law schools from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Kosovo. Also serving as an instructor for the program was Nevena Jevremović (LLM '16), who is now a Manager at the International Association for Contract and Commercial Management (IACCM).



Professor Pat Chew gave a talk titled, "Inflection," at the 26th Annual National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law and

Policy sponsored by Harvard Law School and WilmerHale law firm on Feb. 1.



Professor Joshua Galperin gave a lecture at McGill University in Sept. of 2019 on "Democracy, Process, and Just Transitions," that was part of a con-

ferenced called, "Building a Canadian Green Economy."



Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi delivered a virtual lecture with Baghdad's Iraqia Law School on June 8, 2020 titled "The Restoration of the Arab Law Quarterly."

The presentation was delivered in Arabic for 963 attendees.

On Jan. 5, 2020, Professor Hamoudi gave a commentary on Professor Freamon's "Possessed by the Right Hand," Islamic Law Section at the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools.



Professor Jules

Lobel traveled to Nepal in Nov. of 2019 for speaking engagements at the National Law College of Nepal and the Nepal Law Campus. During his

visit, Professor Lobel discussed potential partnerships between Pitt Law and both Nepali universities. Professor Lobel also spoke at an event organized by the Nepali Environmental Law Society, an NGO of lawyers and judges committed to the rule of law, human rights, and women's empowerment.



Professor Michael

Madison gave the keynote lecture at the Workshop on Governing Data as a Resource at Tilburg University, Tilburg, The Netherland

in Nov. of 2019. The program was co-sponsored by the Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology, and Society (TILT) and the Tilburg Law and Economics Center (TILEC). The title of the lecture was "Governing the World's Most Valuable Resource (Everything You Know About Data is Right)." An article based on the lecture was published as Michael J. Madison, Tools for Data Governance, 2020 Technology & Regulation 29-43.



Professor Sheila

Valez Martinez spoke with KDKA's Jon Delano about the Supreme Court's decision to block the Trump administration attempt to end

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) on July 18, 2020. In the interview, she said "There is still more legislative work to be done, rescinding DACA is not over yet."



Faculty International and Comparative Law Publications

Kevin Ashley, "Legal Informatics and the CISG" Ashley, K. in (F. Lachmayer, M. Pavčnik, E. Schweighofer, eds.) Festschrift for Hajime Yoshino. Internationales Rechtsinformatik Symposium (2019).

Elena Baylis, *The International Law Commission's Soft Law Influence*, 13 FIU Law Review 1007 (2019)

Elena Baylis, *Dakar Guidelines on the Establishment of Hybrid Courts* (2019) (primary drafter, with Kirsten Ainley, Philipp Ambach, Fidelma Donlon, Mark Kersten, Tiya Maluwa, & Angela Mudukuti).

Ronald A. Brand, *The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements-The Triumph of Party Autonomy*, in ELGAR COMPANION ON THE HAGUE CONFERENCE OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW (Rishi Guladi, Thomas John, and Ben Koehler, eds., forthcoming 2020)

Ronald A. Brand, *Comparative Method and International Litigation*, 2020 JOURNAL OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION 273 (2020).

Ronald A. Brand, *Understanding Forum Differences for International Commercial Dispute Resolution*, Proceedings of 1st Annual Research Symposium on International Commercial Arbitration, 4 (Royal University for Women, Maria Casoria, ed. 2020).

Ronald A. Brand, Jurisdiction and Judgments Recognition at the Hague Conference: Choices Made, Treaties Completed, and the Path Ahead, 67 Netherlands International Law Review 3 (2020).

Ronald A. Brand, *Of Magnets and Centrifuges: The U.S. and EU Federal Systems and Private International Law*, Comparative Regional Integration and MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND BEYOND, ESSAYS IN HONOR OF ALBERTA SBRAGIA, chapter 7 (Nils Ringe and Jae-Jae M. Spoon, eds. ECPR Press, 2020).

Vivian Curran, POROSTÉS DU DROIT/LAW'S POROSITIES (edited book, forthcoming 2019 or 2020, SLC, Paris)

Haider Ala Hamoudi, *Sex Policing in the Arab World in, Understanding Global Legal Pluralism: From Local to Global, From Descriptive to Normative* (forthcoming Oxford 2020) (Berman, P., ed)

Haider Ala Hamoudi, *Engagements and Entanglements: The Contemporary Waqf and the Fragility of Shi'i Quietism*, 35 J. L. & Rel. (forthcoming 2020)

Haider Ala Hamoudi, *Strategic Juristic Omission And The Non-Muslim Blood Price: AN Examination Of Shi'i Fiqh And Practice in, Visions of SHARĪ'A: Contemporary Discussions on Shi'i Legal Theory* (Brill 2019)

Haider Ala Hamoudi, *Beyond the Hawza: Legal Pluralism and the Ironies of Shi'i Law in, Regulating Religion in Asia* (Cambridge University Press 2019)

Matiangai Sirleaf, *Global Health Law: Legal Foundations for Social Justice in Public Health*, in Foundations of Global Health and Human Rights (Lawrence O. Gostin & Benjamin Mason Meier eds., forthcoming 2020) (with Lawrence O. Gostin & Eric Friedman).

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