

cile notes

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION

Another Special Year

By **Ronald A. Brand**

*Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Professor
John E. Murray Faculty Scholar
Academic Director, CILE*



The past year at the Center for International Legal Education (CILE) has been a special one. We celebrated our 20th anniversary with alumni, colleagues, and lots of CILE friends. Our LLM

International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team won its competition the first time the team entered. We had another great year at the Vis Moot with more than 20 “Pitt Consortium” teams from as many wonderful countries. We hosted our

largest LLM class yet. Our JD students continued to find remarkable educational opportunities and our graduates continued to make important impact across the globe. And our SJD and Visiting Scholar programs added wonderful diversity to the Pitt Law community. Rather than spend more words here previewing the many wonderful stories that follow, I want to share first some comments—founded in my experience at CILE but related to current events—that I made recently in one of our local newspapers and then set you free to engage in that important rule of legal text interpretation: “read on.” ➦

History has demonstrated that the more borders are closed, the more jobs are lost. But neither the consideration of history nor the careful scrutiny of political rhetoric results in either effective sound bites or sustained voter affection. Bluntly stated: When hope seems to be fading, fear sells well.

Hope should not have to fade. But neither should it be unfounded. The more we fear the unknown “other” in the world, the less we are likely either to realize that hope or to understand the benefits of looking beyond the walls we all are inclined to establish on a daily basis.

I find hope both in the process of education and in the students with whom I am privileged to work. I have been fortunate to work at the Center for International Legal Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where we bring lawyers from around the world to Pittsburgh for an American legal education and send American students abroad to experience different cultures and legal systems.

Believing that the rule of law offers hope—and that rule by a privileged few generates understandable fear—a focus on the rule of law has allowed me to find hope in many places.

I have found hope in Kenya, where our graduates are dean and department heads at a young but strong law school in a struggling country with a struggling economy.

I have found hope in Kosovo, where our graduates are elected to parliament, serving in government ministries and teaching in law schools.

I have found hope in Serbia, where our graduates have led the University of Belgrade in becoming a major center for international commercial arbitration education.

I have found hope in the Middle East, where our American students and graduates have worked to train a strong cadre of young lawyers in countries like

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Dealing in Hope

By **Ronald A. Brand**

Fear has become the currency of public exchange this political season.

Xenophobic reactions to current tragedies raise important concerns about an increasingly interconnected world. Those responding to tragedy and those left behind in times of increasing income inequality seek justification for their anger and a target at which to direct that anger.

Human nature tends toward making that target someone other than ourselves. But targeting others also focuses us on fear rather than on hope. Thus, talk of walls, new tariffs and breaching trade agreements in the United States seems to draw voter support, even absent economic justification for such talk.





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Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

And I have found hope in Washington, where our graduates work in the departments of Commerce, Homeland Security, Justice, National Intelligence, State and others.

These students and young lawyers allow me to draw hope from my experiences with them: hope from a focus on diversity over xenophobia; hope from knowledge over ignorance; and hope from inclusion over unfounded mistrust.

In a political season in which fear has become the currency of public exchange, I am thankful for the privilege of working with young future leaders who deal in hope. ✦

This commentary first appeared in the *Tribune-Review*. Reprinted with permission.

Conversations with LLM Alumni

By **Richard G. Thorpe**
Executive Director, CILE



One of the high points of my first year at CILE has been getting to know our many alumni. I recently talked with some of our LLM alumni about their work and the impact that the University of Pittsburgh School of Law has had on their careers. Their paths are emblematic of the impact our LLM graduates have had on their home countries, the world, and the legal community. I thank them for sharing their stories and look forward to meeting more of our alumni and friends in the months to come. ✦

Jose Luis (Joel) Syquia (LLM '98)



Jose Luis Syquia is the unit head of due diligence at the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity of the Asia Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, the Philippines. ADB has 67 member countries

and is dedicated to promoting social and economic development in Asia. Syquia started with ADB in January 2009 as a senior procurement specialist handling the office's portfolio in Central West Asia. In February 2014, he went on special leave without pay to become the legal procurement lead for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in Geneva, Switzerland. He returned to ADB in April 2016 as a principal integrity specialist at the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, and now leads ADB's Due Diligence Unit, where he investigates allegations of corruption and integrity violations in ADB-financed projects and activities. His unit is responsible for the office's integrity due diligence reviews, and anti-money laundering initiatives.

business transactions and contracts, and I think this falls straight into the realm of Professor Brand's course in international business transactions, in various ways. When I was still in the procurement department at ADB, I was dealing with a lot of international procurements and cross-border transactions. I had to review international competitive bidding documents, as well as international contracts for civil works projects and the supply of goods. Then, when I worked as legal procurement lead for the Global Fund in Geneva, I was further immersed in international contracts and difficult negotiations, because the Global Fund is more directly involved in actual contracts with suppliers. We had to deal with several subjects that I studied in my courses at the University of Pittsburgh, such as jurisdictional and choice of law issues; freight, transportation and logistics; audit and anticorruption provisions; privileges and immunities; intellectual property; IT and internet-related legal issues; and even basic negotiating skills. CILE's training and focus on international comparative law was very useful. And now that I'm here in ADB's anti-corruption office, my education at Pitt Law is still definitely relevant.

RT: Were you always planning on using your LLM to go down a path in development and governmental work?

JS: Certainly, and that's the reason why I took the LLM program. I was in private law practice right after my LLM, but I never really saw myself staying there.

RT: What part of your LLM experience at Pitt Law do you think has been the most valuable to you in the various positions you've held?

JS: Well, certainly the appreciation of law in the context of international

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University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Center for International Legal Education

Ronald A. Brand, Academic Director
Richard G. Thorpe, Executive Director
Austin Lebo, Program Administrator

Please direct all correspondence to:

University of Pittsburgh
School of Law
Center for International Legal Education
317A Barco Law Building
3900 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: 412-648-7023
Fax: 412-648-2648
E-mail: cile@pitt.edu
Web site: law.pitt.edu/cile



I enrolled in the LLM program right after law school, but even then I already knew what I wanted—which was to work in international development. While the Pitt Law program was newer and more general than other programs in its approach, I preferred it because I did not want to box myself into a field early in my career. I wanted a program that would give me the international perspective I needed to get into development work, but I also wanted sufficient flexibility to experiment across various fields and possibilities. Fortunately, all my expectations were met and I think this was the true value of the Pitt Law LLM program for me.

RT: What was your most memorable experience during your year at Pitt Law?

JS: Oh, everything! The classes, interacting with the JD students, the tailored courses, and the special programs of Professor Brand. Early on, I wondered why we were taking classes together with the JD students, given that we already had completed law courses in our own countries, but I soon realized that the purpose was to assimilate us into the community and to let us experience how law was taught in the United States. That was good. This interaction proved to be enriching for me, because I enjoyed exchanging views and ideas with other students. It was certainly a great and memorable experience.

Maurice Oduor (LLM '04)



Maurice Oduor is the acting dean of the School of Law at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. He has served as a lecturer and as head of Moi's Department of Legal Aid Clinics and Externships.

Moi University is the second oldest public university in Kenya and enrolls more than 20,000 students. Oduor is one of several Pitt Law LLM alumni at Moi who have helped to build a strong collaborative relationship between our two schools. As acting dean, he is in charge of day-to-day administration and academic details. The

law school has four departments: public law, private law, commercial law, and the legal aid clinic and externships. The Department of Private Law is headed by Linda Khaemba (LLM '05) and the Department of Commercial Law is headed by Vincent Mutai (LLM '03).

RT: What part of your LLM experience at Pitt Law do you think has been the most valuable to you in your career in Kenya?

MO: I think the part of the LLM experience that has been very useful has been the exposure to a different way of learning: the so-called Socratic method. It also helped me to develop an approach to research, to finding out information. Even though we were taught how to do research in my legal studies at Moi, the big problem that we had was that we didn't have access to materials and sources. When I went to Pitt, I had access to all of these sources and was able to develop my research skills.

Then there was the internship that I did after my Pitt LLM year with the Malakoff law firm. I was able to learn about the differences between the manner in which law firms are run in the United States and how they are run in Kenya—a totally different approach—and it made me aware of different areas of practice. When I came back to Moi, I practiced law for a time and I tried to incorporate into my work some of the ideas that I acquired in my internship.

RT: What was your best experience at Pitt Law?

MO: Outside of the classroom, the LLM class trip to Washington, D.C., attending the Supreme Court session, and touring Congress. It was good to have all of the program activities outside the classroom and the ability to meet different people from many different cultures and to share experiences from different areas of the world. This was the highlight for me.

Ines Heuchert (LLM '06)



Ines Heuchert works in the legal department of Daimler AG as legal counsel—Antitrust EU. Headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, Daimler products include Mercedes-Benz automobiles and Freightliner trucks. Prior to February 2016, she was a lawyer in the offices of Allen & Overy in Brussels, Belgium.

RT: How are you finding the switch from a firm to working in-house?

IH: The type of work I get is broader. Now I have various projects, and I'm involved from the very beginning until the very end. If we do a merger, I'm involved from thinking about the merger up to closing. In a law firm, you only get involved in particular spots—you are responsible for the merger filing or some gun jumping issues—but you never see the whole project.

RT: Have you found yourself using the skills or knowledge that you acquired in the Pitt Law LLM program in your positions at Allen & Overy and Daimler?

IH: Yes, definitely. First of all, it helps a lot just to have the degree in order to find a job. I think it helped me join Allen & Overy and it also helped me to join Daimler. The year of immersion in the English language is obviously helpful if you work for an international law firm or international company. And I think what helped me most, at least at Allen & Overy, is the basic understanding of the American legal system, how the federal system works, how the court system works, what a discovery process is, how a judge and jury works, how you do class actions. You are confronted with these questions in your practice, and you may not be able to give the answer that a U.S. attorney can, but it is very helpful if you can give an overview. For example, we had a discussion at my old law firm concerning



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legal privilege, and there is no similar privilege in German law. So it is very helpful to be able to explain to a client the difference between EU law, German law, and the U.S. system in how documents or conversations are treated differently, and that in-house counsel are protected by privilege in the United States but not in the EU. That is knowledge I acquired at Pitt.

RT: What would you recommend to a student who is thinking about applying to an LLM program in the United States?

IH: I would definitely recommend that they think about going to a law school like Pitt where you study with U.S. students. I know there are some law schools where LLM students are taking classes that are all only for LLM students. So I would definitely recommend a school like Pitt because that's where you get the most experience: You are meeting people in class, involving yourself in the actual topic of the class, and you don't have this separate status that you might otherwise have.

I would always recommend choosing a smaller city, so don't go to New York or Los Angeles. Do something really American. If you go to New York, you have all these people who moved to New York, but there are not that many native New Yorkers. I think if you go to Pittsburgh you meet a lot of Pittsburgh natives. It's a very American city. If you go to another country to immerse yourself in the culture, this is the best way to do it.

Yong Gan (LLM '09)



Yong Gan is a professor of law at the School of Law of Wuhan University in China, which is regarded as one of the top three institutions of legal education in all of China.

Gan received his first law degree in 1997, a Master of Laws degree in 2001, and a doctorate in law in 2004, all from Wuhan University. He first came to Pitt Law as a visiting scholar, and then joined the LLM program to further

his study of U.S. and comparative law. He teaches private international law, international civil litigation, and international commercial arbitration.

RT: How interested are students at Wuhan in learning about the U.S. legal system and/or common law systems generally? Do many of your students consider going abroad for LLM degrees?

YG: Yes, a lot of students go abroad to pursue an LLM degree or a JD degree. Most would like to pursue an LLM degree because now an increasing number of students are starting to realize that the common law has had a very significant influence upon the international legal system. All kinds of international courts or international tribunals may follow the procedure of a common law rather than a civil law legal system. Common law influence, especially the influence of U.S. law, is increasing, and students are increasingly aware of this and want to improve their knowledge of common law and U.S. law.

RT: When you talk to students who are considering enrolling in an LLM program in the United States or elsewhere, based on your own experience of having gone through the Pitt LLM program, is there something that you would advise your students to think about it before they pursue an LLM degree?

YG: I highly recommend that they apply to the LLM program at Pitt. I regularly recommend that they take private international law and international commercial arbitration classes. I also teach property law, and include U.S. property law and U.S. contract law in my course, in both cases in English, so my courses are very beneficial for students to prepare for and become familiar with the materials that you study in a U.S. course. These courses are popular among the students who are going to study abroad.

RT: Looking back at your year at Pitt Law, what would you say was your best experience in the LLM program?

YG: The best experience was also the worst experience—I could not understand at first very well in the classroom when my professors were speaking or my classmates were speaking. Even though I had studied for many years, I still struggled to

understand classroom discussions at the beginning. But this became my best experience, because I learned to communicate well in English with my legal colleagues throughout the world. And so the hardest time I had at Pitt Law turned into the part with the biggest payoff for me.

And then, after coming back to China, with China's increasing exchange with the outside world, I have found my experience with U.S. law to be very helpful for advising Chinese entrepreneurs on how to deal with the problems they encounter when they communicate with U.S. entrepreneurs and companies.

Elina Aleynikova (LLM '10, JD '14)



Elina Aleynikova is an associate in the Paris office of White & Case, where she works in their arbitration practice. She is a native of the Russian Federation, and received her law degree from

Rostov State Economic University in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, in 2006. She worked as an in-house legal advisor for a Russian corporation prior to starting the Pitt Law LLM program. She also has a postgraduate degree in business law from Cergy-Pontoise University, where she currently lectures on arbitration.

RT: In your daily work life, do you find yourself using the skills that you gained at Pitt Law frequently?

EA: I would say that the LLM program helped me to start developing the skills which indeed were useful in my career, and then the JD continued to develop pretty much the same skills: legal writing skills, expressing oneself, advocacy, and research. Before starting my LLM program at Pitt in 2009, I had never been in such a diverse international setting. So for me, it was a first experience of working closely with people from different countries—exchanging experiences, trying to understand different cultures, and interacting with different people. Now I'm working on international cases with people who come from



different countries and quite often we have teams that include lawyers from different offices as well. I find myself using the same skills that I started to develop when I was in the LLM program, producing a joint work product with people from different cultures.

RT: When you started thinking about going to Pitt Law, did you anticipate that you would go into an arbitration practice, or did that interest develop while you were taking the LLM or JD programs?

EA: It's something that I discovered. Before coming to Pitt, I was doing commercial litigation in Russia for a few years. I was very interested in the area of commercial disputes, but I just wasn't thinking about working in the international arbitration field.

My other area of interest is compliance and white-collar crime, and that's actually the route that took me to arbitration. When I was pursuing my JD at Pitt, I was granted a Nordenberg Fellowship to do comparative research at the Institute of European Studies in Brussels on combating foreign bribery under various national laws. While in Europe, I was doing some networking in Paris because this is where the headquarters of the OECD is located, and I had some interviews for my research. I fell in love with Paris and discovered that there is an extensive arbitration practice here. In the course of one of my interviews I was talking to an American lawyer who was working in Paris, and he described to me the life of a lawyer who is doing international arbitration: being exposed to various national and international legal concepts, interacting with people from different countries, traveling a lot, and basically working from any place in the world because you're not tied to any single legal system. All of this looked very attractive to me. So I started to seriously think about it, and I ended up doing arbitration in Paris.

RT: Following your LLM degree, you decided to come back to Pitt Law for your JD. Can you say a bit about that decision?

EA: When I was working on my LLM degree, I was impressed by the quality of education at Pitt Law. It was very surprising for me that, in a U.S. law

school, from the first day you started to read actual cases and you started to learn how things work in practice. I also found it great that Pitt Law was focused on developing skills. We had wonderful professors who taught legal writing in the LLM program. Then as a JD student, I had great professors for skills-oriented courses, such as one that taught me how to organize litigation matters. We learned all the various techniques to manage a case, the witnesses, and the experts.

RT: What's your best memory from Pitt Law?

EA: There are many good memories. The reception at Professor Brand's house, where everyone was playing the piano and Professor Flechtner sang, the trip to Washington, D.C., the picnic at the beginning of the year—for me, it is hard to distinguish the best memories from just everyday life, when you are getting to know people and every day you learn something new and you find yourself discovering something. The entire LLM year was a great experience for me.

Zana Berisha (LLM '10)



Zana Berisha is the project management specialist for the Kosovo rule of law programs of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency overseeing foreign civil aid, including projects to promote democracy, good governance, and the rule of law. Berisha earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the Faculty of Law of the University of Pristina in 2008, where she was a member of their 2007 and 2008 Vis Moot teams. USAID's current projects in Kosovo include improving the enforcement of commercial law, improving women's rights to inherit and to own property, and strengthening the justice system.

RT: What are your day-to-day responsibilities with respect to the USAID projects you administer?

ZB: I approve and change the key personnel if they are not up to the job, manage the budgets, and monitor the performance indicators. I also highlight the successes of these projects and promote their work. Ultimately, the result of all these projects is to enable and strengthen the rule of law institutions in Kosovo, so the ultimate beneficiary is the citizenry of Kosovo. That gives me huge pride, to find myself in a position where I can work with other people to help my fellow citizens.

Ensuring sustainability—in particular for rule of law, where processes and human rights are important—is the responsibility of both USAID and our implementing partners. We are constantly training and mentoring people in local institutions who will continue to work on the things we are implementing. An example is how we have used the commercial law project to train around 100 mediators. In the initial three years of the project, we amended the law on mediation and opened new mediation centers. Now we have stepped back from that and are just monitoring how local institutions are actually dealing with mediation and how those centers are functioning.

RT: Did you always intend to go into either governmental or NGO work after earning your LLM degree?

ZB: My initial wish was to come back to Kosovo and teach at one of the law schools. However, life and luck decided differently. Just two weeks after I returned, I was offered a job with one of the USAID implementing partners. This was a great job, because there was a big component within the project that dealt with the business enabling environment—with commercial legislation, contracts, and the use of contracts. So it was perfect for me after the Pitt LLM experience.

RT: What part of your training or experience at Pitt Law do you think has been the most valuable to you and your career since you graduated?

ZB: Everything was spot on. What I value most is that I learned a different legal system. In Kosovo, we have a civil law system in which everything is in a statute—we don't use cases and there are no precedents. So for me, one of the overarching issues was to learn the common law system. What helped me in my first job after obtaining my Pitt LLM



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was specifically the international business transactions course. Here in Kosovo we are trying to enhance our export of agricultural products, so that training helped me to assist our companies with those kinds of contracts. Another one was the international sales seminar because it focused on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG). While the CISG is not directly applicable because we are not a United Nations member state, in our new law of obligations we have adopted the principles of the CISG for the sale of goods. There is a whole chapter in this law that looks a lot like the CISG itself, so having the international sales seminar helped me to deal practically with these issues.

RT: What was your best or most memorable experience at Pitt Law?

ZB: Oh, the whole year, it was very, very exciting, very different. Initially, there was the excitement of the change of place, of living alone so far from home. What was maybe the best experience was how we were treated as international students in Pittsburgh, and how welcoming and accepting the CILE team as well as others in the community were, and how they made us feel very comfortable and tried to help us in each and every way to adjust to the school. Most of us in the LLM group were coming from civil law countries. For us, the transition to common law teaching methods and learning methods was initially quite challenging, but with the great help of CILE and the other professors and teaching staff, we all overcame it.

Faisal Moubaydeen (LLM '13)



Faisal Moubaydeen is an associate in the Doha office of Dentons, which is currently the largest law firm in the world, with more than 7,000 attorneys in more than 50 countries. A native of Jordan,

he received his bachelor's degree in law from the University of Jordan in Amman in 2012,

where he was a member of the 2012 Vis Moot team.

RT: Tell me about your career after Pitt Law.

FM: I moved back to Jordan and started training with Eversheds. I trained at Eversheds for about a year and a half, finished my training there, and was qualified as a lawyer in Jordan.

Then I received an offer from King Abdullah's office to work in the political affairs directorate in His Majesty's office at the Royal Hashemite Court. I reviewed domestic political affairs on a day-to-day basis and briefed His Majesty on them. However, I had tailored my studies around private corporate practice, and I decided I wanted to get back to it before my [post-training] probation period was over.

I joined the Amman branch of Dentons in Jordan. Then one day, a partner in Doha called me and asked if I wanted to make the move to Doha. Doha seemed like a good move for my career: It's a booming city with a lot of oil and natural gas work, and I could work on bigger deals there and learn a great deal. So I moved to Doha about six months ago and it's looking great!

RT: What are your principal areas of practice?

FM: I am in the corporate department and I work on a wide range of matters—sometimes mergers and acquisitions, big energy projects—we basically do anything that falls into the commercial/ corporate department.

RT: Do you have a personal preference for any particular type of matter?

FM: I love it when we work on sports deals. If you get a sports contract for, let's say, beIN Sports (previously Al Jazeera Sport), and it is a contract for one of the players, that's interesting and sometimes you get to meet the player. I like media, arbitration, sports law, and energy is great as well.

RT: How did you learn about Pitt Law, and what made you decide to come to our LLM program?

FM: I didn't know much about the university until I met Professors Brand and Flechtner at the Vis. I was pursuing my law degree at Jordan University and

the Vis competition came up. We were told we were going to get some help from a few professors from Pittsburgh, and that was when I first met Professor Brand. It was amazing—the guidance they gave us and all the help we got from them—it was great. That's when I decided. I was supposed to do my master's in the United Kingdom, but I decided to switch and go to Pittsburgh and I didn't apply to any other university except Pitt. It was great being accepted, and I had an awesome year there.

I think that the key for first getting hired at Eversheds, and now at Dentons, was my LLM degree. I don't think I would have been able to join Eversheds had it not been for my studies in Pittsburgh. Once you graduate from any university in Jordan, before they hire you, law firms want to know if your English is good enough. That is the most important thing: Can you draft in English, can you write memos, can you talk to clients in English? You need proof of that, and that is where the LLM program comes in. Of course the substance, the things you learn about, are important, and I benefited from everything I studied at Pitt.

RT: What did you like most about Pittsburgh as a city?

FM: Pittsburgh is wonderful. You get this cozy feeling—it's not too big. Once you go downtown with the skyscrapers you have that big city feeling, and then you go back to Oakland and Squirrel Hill and it's like a small town. The atmosphere is great.

RT: What was your most memorable experience at Pitt Law?

FM: It was all great. I had a lot of fun. I really enjoyed every class. One of the good parts was being able to make friends from different places around the world. It was very diverse. You get to meet people from everywhere. One of the best things at Pitt is that LLMs are able to take classes with the JD students. You are not taking your classes separately, so you are treated as equals to the U.S. JD students. I remember I took a class in energy law and I got an A. It felt great to be able to do so well in a class with JD students who were more used to the U.S. system. ✦



LLM Internships

CILE has worked closely with its LLM students to arrange post-graduation internships in each of its first 20 years. These internships add practical experience to academic study and facilitate relationships that offer mutual benefits for years to come. The members of the LLM Class of 2016 who took advantage of summer internships were as follows:

Basil Abbas

Academic Internship—Professor Brand

Bashir Alghussein

United Steelworkers

Hassan Al-Senairy

Academic Internship—Professor Brand

Veronica Cruz Salazar

Goldstein Associates

Rafal Jasim

Academic Internship—Professor Brand

Nevena Jevremovic

Fellow, Institute of International Commercial Law, Pace University

Guljamiyla Kaipbergenova

White & Case LLP, Washington, D.C.

Ewelina Kemp

Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.

James Ochieng

The Honorable Lisa Lenihan

Glory Ohaekwusi

Linking the World, Dallas, Texas

Valeriia Shablii

Burns White

Shadi Shahoud

Robert Creo

Yevhenii Shatskyi

International Labor Rights Forum (Washington, D.C.)

We thank all our internship sponsors for the contributions that they have made to our students' success.

Interning at Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C., was a great experience. From conducting legal research to writing trial motions and advice memos, my experience at Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. was fulfilling to say the least. **I enjoyed seeing firsthand oral arguments at the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and attending networking lunches.** The atmosphere at the office was very welcoming and encouraging. I will remember my time there as one that was meaningful.

—Ewelina Kemp (LLM '16)

My work as the Albert H. Krizter fellow at the Institute of International Commercial Law (IICL) at Pace University is diverse. I am currently working on the new CISG database redesign. After the new database is launched in the fall, my work will largely focus on coordinating various programs offered by the Institute. This will include the online training programs on sales law and international commercial arbitration. Aside from working on the projects that I am passionate about, I have access to the international arbitration community present in New York. **All of this makes working at the Institute an amazing experience, in terms of both education and professional growth.**

—Nevena Jevremovic (LLM '16)

I interned with Judge Lisa Lenihan at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. **This gave me an opportunity to learn more about U.S. law, especially civil and criminal procedure. It also was an important opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills gained during the LLM program in practical situations.** Most importantly, it was yet another opportunity to pick important lessons for application once I return to my home country.

—James P. Tugee Ochieng (LLM '16)

Become an LLM Internship Sponsor

If your organization would be interested in hosting a Pitt Law LLM student as an intern, please contact CILE Executive Director **Richard Thorpe** by e-mail at richard.thorpe@pitt.edu

or by phone at **412-383-6754** for more information.





Grappling with a New Legal System in Ecuador

By **Batkhuu Dashnyam**, Class of 2018

I met Ecuadoreans growing up in the United States and told myself on several occasions that I will have to visit this tiny country in the north-western corner of South America one day. I never imagined that I would be living and working in Quito, Ecuador, this summer thanks to a Nordenberg fellowship. Through Gustavo Arrobo (LLM '16) and CILE, I was able to arrange a summer internship with Gustavo's Ecuadorean law firm, González, Peñaherrera & Asociados (GP&A). GP&A is a small, full-service law firm (around 22 lawyers) but it has emerged as one of the leading law firms in Ecuador in the area of oil and gas. I worked in the Arbitration, Corporate, and Tax Practice Groups under the guidance of two partners. Everyone at the firm is Ecuadorean. While I studied Spanish in high school and considered myself proficient in the language, the first several days in the country were a bit challenging, nonetheless. My Spanish had become rusty, but rather than resorting to English I tried my best to communicate in Spanish. Fortunately, my colleagues were all sympathetic and although the majority of them do speak English proficiently, we all agreed to speak to each other in Spanish all the time. There were four other interns at the firm, all of whom attend local law schools in Quito. I was the only international intern, a Mongolian, coming from the United States, with its common law system to work in Ecuador with its civil law system.

I was fortunate to be placed in a rotation system where I worked with a different practice group each week. In the arbitration group, I reviewed and provided comments on the draft ELArb (European-Latin American Arbitration Association) arbitration rules for the newly established ELArb Arbitration Center, scheduled to start operations in fall 2016. In the corporate group, I conducted research and drafted a list of potential questions



Batkhuu Dashnyam, second from left, and Gustavo Arrobo, third from right, with members of the GP&A firm

that future foreign clients might ask in the areas of Ecuadorean corporate, immigration, labor, and tax law. I also conducted due diligence, reviewing documents and doing research to help a client company restructure itself as an LLC. In the tax group, I did document review and translated several tax documents from Spanish to English.

I accompanied a criminal lawyer for court appearances in order to see how the civil law judicial system operates in Ecuador. Countries with civil law systems have comprehensive, continuously updated legal codes that specify all matters capable of being brought before a court, the applicable procedure, and the appropriate punishment for each offense. In a civil law system, the judge's role is to establish the facts of the case and to apply the provisions of the applicable code. Though the judge often brings the formal charges, investigates the matter, and decides on the case, he or she works within a framework established by a comprehensive, codified set of laws. The judge's decision is consequently less crucial in shaping civil law than the decisions of legislators and legal scholars who draft and interpret the codes. I went to a civil hearing where the respondent was alleged to have failed to make payments to the petitioner. There

was no jury but only the judge (who did not wear a robe), the court reporter, the bailiff, and the lawyers. The process did not last long. The judge established the facts and applied the provisions of the applicable code, ruling in favor of the petitioner.

I was pleasantly surprised by the people and culture that I encountered in Ecuador. Quiteños are welcoming and hospitable. They were fascinated to meet a Mongolian who is living in the United States. Whenever there was an opportunity, they asked me about the culture, history, and politics of both the United States and Mongolia. I did my best to offer a thoughtful response whenever the topic turned to politics and the upcoming U.S. presidential election. On my last day at the firm, I was asked to make a presentation on the U.S. federal legal system, the common law system, and what I had learned here. As someone who is fond of the Spanish language and the Latin American culture, I am grateful to CILE for enabling me to pursue this legal internship, and I am certain I will return to Ecuador in the future to visit friends and to conduct transactional work with clients in the country and in Latin America. ☺



A Summer Practicing Business Law in Panama

By Zachary Uram, Class of 2018

In 2012, I participated in a summer study abroad program in Panama City, Panama, during my undergraduate studies at Duquesne University. I lived with a host family that owned a hostel house in the city. The host family was patient with me as I learned Spanish and showed me Panama in an authentic way. I came away from the experience with great admiration for the Panamanian culture's emphasis on spending time with family. I stayed in touch with my host family, and in 2014 I returned to Panama to teach English. I was not sure when exactly I would have an opportunity to go back to Panama again.

When I learned of the Nordenberg Fellowship at Pitt Law, I thought of returning to Panama to combine my focus on Latin America, Spanish, and law. Through friends, I found that the Lombardi Aguilar Group would consider hiring interns, so I applied. The application process was conducted in English and the firm was quick to respond with an internship offer.

In Panama, two special niche markets exist: registering businesses and ships. Lombardi Aguilar mainly works in registering businesses. The firm has three senior partners, Gabriel Aguilar, Alvaro Aguilar, and Dr. Jorge Lombardi. Each of the partners speaks multiple languages. The firm also has a junior partner and several interns.

I was exposed to the business side of an international Latin American law firm. Every day was a different experience and the lawyers were accommodating and patient with me. My tasks included preparing databases, creating company registration and dissolution



Zachary Uram and a coworker in Panama

templates, sitting in on negotiations, and translating documents into English.

With the exception of the partners, only one other coworker spoke English. Working with 12 native Spanish speakers was beneficial and forced me to use Spanish in the workplace. I was asked on several occasions to translate e-mails and to help design responses in English. The very busy practice at Lombardi Aguilar taught me the importance of organization and communication structure within an office.

On one of the more memorable days, I sat in on negotiations over a dispute in which our client, an American citizen, was not repaid money after investing in residential housing in Panama. A bank

had loaned money to the same builders and had a first claim to recover funds. I learned the significance of having a clear agenda in negotiation in order to avoid lost time and convey a clear understanding of a dispute.

At Lombardi Aguilar, I learned that the business side of law requires much paperwork. I recommend such an internship to anyone interested in Spanish, Latin America, or the business side of the legal profession. The experience helped me to understand how international law offices function, and I was able to develop my legal Spanish while living in a beautiful, rapidly developing country. +





Contract Law in Kosovo

By Robert Cimmino, Class of 2018

In summer 2016, I had the privilege of working as a legal intern for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Contract Law Enforcement Program (CLE) in Pristina, Kosovo. The mission of CLE is "improving the ability of citizens, businesses, and the judicial system to use and enforce contracts and obligations; and to enforce court judgments in a timely and just manner." Their mission has three components: "support to institutions to increase the use of, and quality of, contracts; assistance to improve processes for enforcing court judgments and reduce the backlog of cases resolved but not yet enforced; and development of institutions to provide reliable alternative means for resolving contract disputes through both commercial arbitration and mediation of select commercial cases."

My interest in Kosovo is tied to its history and the conflict that ended in 1999, culminating in the declaration of Kosovo as an independent state in 2008. My goal is to pursue a career in post-conflict transitional justice, and establishing and strengthening the rule of law is a crucial component of Kosovo's continuing transition to a peaceful and stable democratic society.

The CLE office is almost exclusively Kosovar, which is unusual for many of the international development offices in Pristina. I enjoyed working in an office full of local lawyers because it put my work immediately in perspective and in the hands of the people who are actually impacted. "The Lawyers Room" was a bull pen of five lawyers and myself, all working on different projects including reducing the large and growing backlog of civil and criminal cases, rewriting the bankruptcy law, and reforming the mediation system. Mediation reform became my primary assignment for the summer.

Mediation centers in Kosovo are supported by the United Nations Development Programme, Center for



Robert Cimmino (right) with colleagues in Kosovo

the Study of Social Policy, and—until April 2016—USAID's CLE office. Donor support has been vital for the progress of mediation in Kosovo, but for mediation to be sustainable and effective, it needs to be supported and operated by Kosovo institutions. CLE's work on mediation gave us a unique opportunity to work with the Kosovo Ministry of Justice on writing a mediation law that is simultaneously beneficial for Kosovo, effective, and more progressive than most mediation systems throughout the European Union.

My summer work focused on shadowing our Deputy Chief of Party, Shibani Shah, and our lead lawyer working on mediation, Hasie Abdullahu, to better understand the status of mediation in Kosovo and the political climate surrounding mediation reform. I visited

courts and mediation centers around Kosovo, and attended meetings with Kosovar judicial leaders to give me a thorough picture of the work that needs to be done. I put together a series of research papers, memos, talking points, and recommendations that were used by the CLE staff to lobby for mediation reform.

I'm proud of CLE's work and the work I have been involved in, but I also could not have been happier about my time in Pristina. Pristina is alive with young people at cafés, constant festivals in the city center, and lots of chances to travel around the Balkans. It was a rewarding summer for me both personally and professionally. I look forward to going back to see friends and colleagues for years to come. ✦



HIV and Legal Aid in Kenya

By Miracle Jones, Class of 2018

I had the pleasure of being a summer intern at the Legal Aid Center of Eldoret (LACE). LACE is a nongovernmental organization that ensures that indigent individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence have access to the legal system and justice. Even though I was at LACE for a short time, I saw how LACE is a vital asset to the indigent of Kenya.

I worked on a project defining the rights of adolescents born with HIV in both the legal and medical systems. At what age do you tell your child that the rest of his or her life will be impacted by a feared virus? As a medical professional, are you required to disclose how your adolescent patient contracted the disease knowing you will have to disclose the medical status of the parent(s)? As a legal advocate, are you going to represent a child who wants to sue/prosecute the parent(s) for willful transmission of HIV as the law allows? These complex questions do not have easy answers and pose more problems than solutions. The Kenyan constitution is a few years old, and neither it nor any subsequent act expressly dictates the rights of adolescents. Yet, these issues must be addressed in order to ensure justice for all Kenyans.

One of the most frequent cases at LACE involves the offense of defilement. Defilement is the act of violating any minor under the age of 18 years of age. I saw children as young as 5 years old who are victims, and many contacted HIV as a result. At the same time, LACE is the resource a father calls on for advice on his appeal rights and to ensure that his positive HIV status is not neglected by the prison.

Other cases are less dramatic. With a three-person staff, LACE oversees 700 cases, so I was able to offer significant assistance. I prepared demand letters to employers to seek back pay for employees and drafted complaints for child support orders. The work at

LACE is an integral part of fulfilling the Kenyan mission to advance law and order. I worked on criminal and civil complaints for a variety of individuals.

I helped to represent a mother and father in court when their 10-year-old daughter was defiled by her classmate's father. I stood with the parents mere steps away from the accused. We were hoping the magistrate would revoke bond after hearing the parents' testimony. They stood in the hallway with the man who had vio-

lated their daughter and tried to keep their composure by inquiring about the legal process from other court patrons. In that moment I was reminded of my reasons for coming to law school in the first place. To know that no matter who you are, or what you do in life, or where you live, justice still is for you. This unique and wonderful opportunity was made possible by a CILE fellowship. Thank you. ✚



Miracle Jones on the job at LACE



Witnessing the Transformation of Kosovo

By Valerie Merlina, Class of 2018

I had the honor to intern in the Kosovo Assembly under the direction of Member of Parliament (MP), Vjosa Osmani (LLM '05, SJD '15). My task: to research legal and policy-related changes in response to the developing societal transformations taking place within the 8-year-old state. While navigating the winding, cobblestone streets of Pristina, among a hip and burgeoning café and restaurant scene, I came to understand how the people of Kosovo identify and live with changing infrastructure. Moreover, I was pleased to complete my research at the bidding of a representative of the people; I was not there to impose my ideas through an international organization, or to work with internationals in Kosovo. Instead, I had the unique opportunity to be an international working for a representative of Kosovo with individuals from Kosovo—an opportunity not shared by many Americans.

Before even setting foot in the Assembly building, the political conversations in Kosovo were present in airport visa liberalization signs, graffiti on side streets, and in casual conversation with citizens. Thus, in response to the current political contentions, my research focused on issues relevant to

the conversations taking place between MPs and folks walking along Mother Theresa Boulevard alike. These issues include the status of maternity leave benefits and the policy behind supporting working mothers; identifying international methods of increasing the voices of private sector workers in Kosovo; necessary and comparative changes in health care funding and legislation in Kosovo and Europe in relation to World Bank funding; and the risks and benefits of businesses using arbitration in developing states like Kosovo.

Assisting Dr. Osmani with these programs and issues gave me perspective on the lives of the people of Kosovo. While the government and civil servants continue working toward European Union (EU) integration—a significant step in the history of Kosovo—difficulties with delayed implementation of a health insurance law, allegations of corruption, and citizen travel to Serbia for care and treatment, all raise serious concerns. I was honored to be able to assist in researching these issues, in the hope that my work can assist Kosovo's representatives in considering reforms.

I became acutely aware of the importance of diplomatic efforts to resolve border disputes with neighboring Montene-

gro—disputes that affect the everyday lives of families with generations of history in the disputed territory. I also had the opportunity to attend a roundtable discussion hosted in Pristina by the Presidency of the Council of Europe, discussing Kosovo's place and future potential contributions to the Council of Europe. Later, I attended a United Nations integrity planning workshop hosted in the Sharri Mountains outside of the ancient city of Prizren. These experiences, though different in subject matter and in the missions of the respective hosts, both allowed me the opportunity to connect with students, academics, and government workers seeking progressive results in Kosovo, Europe, and the world.

As a student of history, and as a law student, to witness the transformation and continued progress of a young republic is invaluable. Thanks to CILE and a Nordenberg Fellowship through Pitt Law, I had a remarkable opportunity this summer to see, feel, and discuss what it is to live, work, and be affected by the political and legal developments in a young republic like Kosovo in a complicated post-war era. ✦



Valerie Merlina in front of the Kosovo parliament building



Realizing and Supporting the International Trading Potential of Lao PDR as a USAID Intern in Vientiane

By Ashley Hogan, Class of 2017

In summer 2015, I had a wonderful internship opportunity in Pristina, Kosovo. This summer, I was able to visit a new part of the world to me, Southeast Asia. Through the efforts of Mark Walter (JD '96) and the support of Nathan Associates (an economic consulting firm with projects all around the world) and USAID, I was able to realize my career goal of working in economic development law as an intern in Lao PDR with the LUNA II Project.

The work that I completed with the LUNA II team had real impact on the laws and regulations pertaining to international trade in Laos. The project also focused on increasing competencies of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Lao to engage in international trade. While living in Vientiane, I was able to attend many educational seminars, including a LUNA II-sponsored event on raising awareness on sanitation standards required by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to protect the health of plants, animals, and people.

After becoming a member of the WTO in 2013, the international trade integration and development process has been ongoing in Laos. Complying with WTO requirements make it necessary for the Lao government to write, adopt, and implement laws that meet international standards. I had the privilege of working with a WTO expert, as well as the LUNA II Chief of Party Daniel Fitzpatrick, on providing the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce with suggestions for improving the draft Law on Safeguards. This assignment allowed me to use the skills gained while working as a legislative intern for Vjosa Osmani in the Kosovo Parliament last summer and gain insight into WTO rules and regulations.

I also conducted research on issues and ways to improve the Electronic Official Gazette, which makes draft laws available for public comment, as



Ashley Hogan (right) is pictured with her LUNA II colleague and friend, Bua.

well as preparing a guide for Lao farmers to avoid risks when entering into a farming contract with a large contractor.

The most personally rewarding assignment I was involved in was updating and improving export guides for how Lao artisans and merchants can successfully export goods to the United States and other international markets. Educating SMEs interested in entering the international marketplace allowed me to use my undergraduate international business degree to provide modern guidance on marketing and targeting consumers in combination with legal guidance in relation to international commercial transactions and IP rights. It is my hope that the many silk makers, craftspeople, farmers, and other entrepreneurs in Lao will use these guides to make their products available in international markets.

I was honored to be a member of the LUNA II team alongside my talented Lao colleagues. The progress and successes already achieved by the team assure me of the potential for Lao PDR to achieve competitiveness in the international marketplace, a goal I feel personally invested in after spending the summer with the friendly and welcoming Lao people.

I would like to say thank you for the amazing connections and opportunities that Professor Brand and the CILE office have presented me with during my first two years at Pitt Law. Also, I wish to especially thank Mark Walter for his continuing support of Pitt Law students and his help in making this internship a reality. 🍀



Speakers at the afternoon events on September 11, 2015: (front row, left to right) Vivian Curran, Matiangai Sirleaf, Richard Weisberg, Laura Pedraza-Farina, Mark Nordenberg; (middle row, left to right) Jack Graves, Harry Flechtner, Mike Madison, David Thaw; (back row, left to right) Paul Herrup, Ronald Brand, Jeffrey Kovar, and Pierluigi Perri

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of CILE kicked off on Thursday, September 10, 2015, with dinner and welcomes from William M. Carter Jr., dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and Ariel C. Armony, director of the University Center for International Studies. Ronald A. Brand, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Professor and Academic Director of CILE, provided a walk through the history of CILE. Presentations on the impact of CILE were delivered by Vjosa Osmani (LLM '05, SJD'15), a member of parliament in the Republic of Kosovo; Mark Walter (JD '98), managing director of the Trade Policy and Business Enabling Environment Practice at Nathan Associates in Washington, D.C.; and Max W. Laun (JD '88), vice president and general counsel at Alcoa Inc.

On Friday, a morning panel of CILE alumni shared reflections on the impact of CILE on their professional careers and advice on career planning with current Pitt Law students. The afternoon saw a full program, highlighting the global work of Pitt Law faculty and some of their colleagues around the world.

Chancellor Emeritus and former Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Mark A. Nordenberg, closed the formal program with a discussion of the growth of international programs at the School of Law during the 20 years of CILE and the importance of a global reach for the entire University of Pittsburgh.

Videos of each of the anniversary events and talks, and a slideshow reflection on 20 years of CILE, can be found on our anniversary Web page at law.pitt.edu/cile20.

Keynote address: "Legal Issues in Current U.S.-Cuba Relations"

Jeffrey Kovar, Assistant Legal Adviser for Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Pitt Law Faculty and Friends—A Survey of Recent Developments:

Cybersecurity and Privacy in the United States and European Union

- Professor David Thaw, University of Pittsburgh
- Professor Pierluigi Perri, University of Milan

Understanding Islamic Law in the Current International Legal Environment

- Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi, University of Pittsburgh
- Professor Mark Cammack, Southwestern Law School

Recent Developments in International Human Rights Law and Criminal Law

- Professor Matiangai Sirleaf, University of Pittsburgh
- Professor Jaya Ramji-Nogales, Temple University

Border Disputes: The (Difficult) Relationship between the U.N. Sales Convention and Domestic Law

- Professor Harry M. Flechtner, University of Pittsburgh
- Professor Jack Graves, Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

Innovation, IP and the Future of Knowledge Commons

- Professor Michael Madison, University of Pittsburgh
- Professor Laura Pedraza-Fariña, Northwestern University

Litigating International Human Rights Cases and Corporate Responsibility

- Professor Vivian Curran, University of Pittsburgh
- Professor Richard H. Weisberg, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Basics of International Litigation: Jurisdiction and the Recognition of Judgments

- Professor Ronald A. Brand, University of Pittsburgh
- Paul Herrup, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Foreign Litigation





CILE Founder and Academic Director Professor Ronald Brand, left, and CILE Advisory Board member Max Laun (JD '88), right, address guests at the anniversary dinner.



Jeffrey Kovar delivers the keynote address on September 11, 2015, launching an afternoon of presentations on issues in international and comparative law.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-17

Professor Curran Appointed Distinguished Professor

On June 20, 2016, The University of Pittsburgh honored Vivian Curran with a Distinguished Professorship in the School of Law. Her appointment will become effective on September 1, 2016. This honor is held by only a small number of the most accomplished faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, and Professor Curran is the first faculty member in the history of the School of Law to be appointed as a Distinguished Professor. This honor was awarded to Professor Curran based on her record of extraordinary, internationally recognized, scholarly attainment and her special contributions to the intellectual advancement of the School of Law and the entire University, which has included close involvement in the work of CILE.

Professor Curran has been a key member of the CILE team from the beginning. She created Pitt Law's path-breaking Languages for Lawyers program, initiated the English for Lawyers program,



Vivian Curran

and taught the Legal Writing course to the early classes of LLM students. She also participates in many CILE programs and events. She serves as vice president of the American Society of Comparative Law, and sits on the founding editorial board of American Journal of Comparative Law and on the editorial board of the American Journal of Comparative Law Studies in Comparative Law, both published by Cambridge University Press. Professor Curran is a member of the American Law Institute, the International Academy

of Comparative Law, and the Société de Législation Comparée. She also serves on the Delegates' Executive Committee of the American Council of Learned Societies. She was decorated in 2007 by the Republic of Austria for her work as the United States appointee to the Austrian General Settlement Fund Committee for Nazi-era property compensation, and in 2013 by the government of France for her services in promotion of the French language and culture in the United States. ✦



Pitt Law Excels in International Arbitration Moots

Pitt Wins Fifth LLM International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition

Pitt Law was victorious at the Fifth LLM International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition held at American University Washington College of Law on April 7 and 8, 2016. After scoring well enough in the opening rounds to reach the run-off rounds, Pitt's team of Gustavo Arrobo (Ecuador), Nevena Jevremovic (Bosnia), Glory Ohaekwusi (Nigeria), and James Ochieng (Kenya) spent the final day defeating teams from American University in the quarter finals, Georgetown in the semi-finals, and the University of Pennsylvania in the final round on the evening of April 8. This was Pitt's first year to compete in the event, which featured 25 teams from 18 law schools including American, Berkeley, Columbia, Denver, Duke, Fordham, Georgetown, Illinois, Northwestern, Penn, Penn State, Southern California, and Texas. 🍀



Gustavo Arrobo (LLM '16), James Ochieng (LLM 16), official Claudia Frutos-Peterson, Nevena Jevremovic (LLM '16), and Glory Ohaekwusi (LLM '16)

Pitt Team Advances to Sweet 16 in Paris International Arbitration Moot—in French

The Pitt Law team (coached by Professor Vivian Curran) consisting of Allison Hall, Class of 2017; Valerie Howell, Class of 2017; Annie O'Brien, Class of 2016; and Marisa Rodrigues, Class of 2017, was chosen from more than 80 teams to be one of 16 teams to advance to the second round of the Concours international d'arbitrage de Paris. This challenging competition is conducted entirely in French. Most other teams consist entirely of native French speakers, and Pitt Law's team is generally the only non-Canadian team from North America to participate in the competition. Had Pitt made it to the eight finalists, they would have been able to select two students to travel to Paris to compete in the finals. 🍀



Pictured from left to right are Annie O'Brien, Class of 2016; Valerie Howell, Class of 2017; Marisa Rodrigues, Class of 2017; Allison Hall, Class of 2017; and Professor Vivian Curran.



Pitt Law Vis Moot Team Advances to Round of 32

Professors Harry Flechtner and Ronald Brand accompanied Chase Ayers, Class of 2017; Danielle Bruno, Class of 2017; Ashley Hogan, Class of 2017; Gabrielle Morella, Class of 2017; and Taylor Staiger, Class of 2017, to Vienna for the 23rd Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, March 18–24, 2016.

After the initial rounds, Pitt was ranked 27th out of 311 teams from 67 countries. This moved them to the run-round of 64, where they moved on before being eliminated in the round of 32. The team also received an Honorable Mention for its Respondent's Memorandum. ♣



Pictured from left to right are Danielle Bruno, Class of 2017; Ashley Hogan, Class of 2017; Taylor Staiger, Class of 2017; Gabrielle Morella, Class of 2017; and Chase Ayers, Class of 2017.

CILE Partnerships and Student Opportunities Expand in China, France, and Germany

On April 5 and 6, 2016, CILE hosted a visiting delegation of law professors and administrators from Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an, China, to discuss areas of possible mutual collaboration. The delegation consisted of Dean Ding Shejiao, Vice Dean Yang Yunxia, Assistant Director Yin Cheng and Professor Na Li. The visit led to a Memorandum of Understanding and an October 2016 visit to NPU by Professors Ann Sinseimer and Teresa Brostoff to

teach English for Lawyers. CILE will host Ms. Zeng Yameng from NPU as a visiting scholar during the 2016–17 academic year. Future plans include opportunities for Pitt Law JD students to study at NPU beginning in fall 2017.

CILE has continued to make progress in arranging opportunities for Pitt Law JD students to study abroad, and is near conclusion of agreements that will allow study in France and Germany to become part of the Pitt Law JD program. ♣



Pictured from left to right are Assistant Director Cheng, Vice Dean Yunxia, Quiwei Chen (JD '16), Dean Shejiao, Dean Carter, Richard Thorpe, Professor Na Li, and Professor Brand.

Judge Donoghue Delivers 23rd McLean Lecture

On March 28, 2016, Judge Joan E. Donoghue of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered the 23rd McLean Lecture on World Law, speaking on "The International Court of Justice: Caught between Common Law and Civil Law Traditions." Judge Donoghue provided an insider's perspective on the ways in which the World Court's work accommodates elements of the common law and civil law traditions, both in the jurisprudence of the court and in the practical aspects of its operations. Prior to her election to the ICJ in 2010, Judge Donoghue began her legal career with the firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., before moving to the U.S. Department of State in 1984, where, in 2007, she became the principal deputy legal adviser. ♣



The Honorable Joan Donoghue delivers the McLean Lecture.

International Law Society 2016–17

President:	Ronald Read
Vice President:	Yelizaveta Kotova
Secretary:	Sarah Coblentz
Treasurer:	Danielle Bruno



Former Slovenian Consul General Speaks on Careers in Diplomacy and Business

On February 2, 2016, Jurcek Zmauc spoke on “Lawyers in Diplomacy and Business” at an event cosponsored by CILE and Pitt Law’s Innovation Practice Institute. His presentation drew on his experiences in a career that has ranged across legal practice, government service, international business, and law school teaching and administration. Zmauc is president of the Slovenian American Business Association and secretary of the Office for Slovenes Abroad of the Republic of Slovenia. He has been Slovenia’s Consul General in Austria and Cleveland, Ohio, as well as deputy minister and director of the Division of Southeast Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. He also taught civil law and international business law at the University of Maribor, and has served as director of its Center for International Cooperation. +

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Visiting Professor Zlatan Meškić Discusses Constitutional Developments in Bosnia

On February 11, 2016, Visiting Professor Zlatan Meškić spoke on “The Bosnian Constitutional Dilemma - from the Dayton Peace Agreement to the EU Membership,” discussing the complicated interplay between ethnic and multinational politics in Bosnia & Herzegovina, the constitutional legacy of the Dayton peace process, and the external pressures for constitutional change to facilitate Bosnia’s admission for membership in the European Union. Professor Meškić also taught the Introduction to European Union Law course in the spring term at Pitt Law. He is an associate professor of European Union law and vice dean for academic research at the University of Zenica Law Faculty. +

Ramati Speaks on Legal Rights and Social Change in Palestine

On February 25, 2016, Israeli lawyer and activist Nery Ramati spoke on the “Israeli Military Law as a Tool to Disable Social Change in Palestine,” providing an overview of the history of the legal systems and status of the Occupied Territories. He also discussed his work on behalf of Palestinian protestors and others who have been prosecuted under Israeli military law. Ramati is a partner in Gaby Lasky and Partners Law Office, a leading human rights firm in Israel specializing in freedom of expression and protest. He has represented Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights and anti-occupation activists in the military and civil courts since 2008. He has been a leader in raising global awareness of issues surrounding the treatment of Palestinian minors in the Israeli military court system. +



Jurcek Zmauc



Zlatan Meškić



Nery Ramati



LLM Students Deliver Annual Rule of Law Presentations

On February 4, 2016, and March 3, 2016, members of the 2016 LLM class delivered a series of presentations on legal and governmental issues affecting their home countries. This year's Rule of Law presentations continued a longstanding tradition of the LLM program, enhancing the education of our U.S. JD students by exposing them in a most direct and personal way to global perspectives on the law.

This year's presenters came from three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. The first session focused on Kosovo and featured Partin Pruthi (LLM '16), Engell Rexhepi (LLM '16), Kastriot Rexhepi (MSL '16), and Isuf Zejna (LLM '16). They described legal and constitutional developments in their young country. The second session covered issues affecting five different countries. Bashir Alghussein (LLM '16) discussed the development of the rule of law in Palestine; Rafal Jasim described efforts to reduce administrative corruption in Iraq; Nevena Jevremovic talked about a key constitutional issue in Bosnia and Herzegovina; James Ochieng examined steps to implement the 2010 constitution in Kenya; and Yevhenii Shatskyi explored legal ramifications of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. 🌐



Pictured from left to right are Class of 2016 LLM students Engel Rexhepi, Isuf Zejna, Kastriot Rexhepi, Partin Pruthi, and CILE Executive Director Richard Thorpe.



Pictured from left to right are Class of 2016 LLM students James Ochieng, Nevena Jevremovic, Yevhenii Shatskyi, Rafal Jasim, and Bashir Alghussein.

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Recipients for 2016–17

Christopher Shook
Korean (Asian Studies Center)

Zachary Uram
Portuguese (Global Studies Center)

Kyle Watson
Arabic (Global Studies Center)

Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship Recipients

Adam Boucek
U.S. Consulate General in Melbourne, Australia

Robert Cimmino
USAID Commercial Law Project, Pristina, Kosovo

Batkhoo Dashnyam
Gonzalez Penaherra, Quito, Ecuador

Valerie Merlina
Parliament of Kosovo, Pristina, Kosovo

Zachary Uram
Lombardi Aquilar Group, Panama City, Panama

CILE Summer Fellowship Recipients

Nashid Ali
Summer study with American University in The Hague, Netherlands

Ashley Hogan
Nathan Associates, Laos

Miracle Jones
Legal Aid Clinic of Eldoret, Eldoret, Kenya



Members of the LLM Class of 2017 and SJD students Mais Haddad and Wasfi Al-Sharaa at Fallingwater.

LLM Class of 2017

Flamur Abdullahu (Kosovo) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Pristina, Kosovo, in 2014. He was a participant in the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in 2012 and 2013 and was an arbitrator at the 2014 Vis Moot. He worked as an associate at the law firm of Bega & Associates in Pristina, Kosovo. He is the recipient of a fellowship from the Kosovo Transformational Leadership Program administered by World Learning for USAID.

Enas Alsaffadi (Palestine) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Al-Azhar University of Gaza, Palestine, in 2015. She was a 2015 participant in The U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative summer exchange program, and was active in the legal clinic of Al-Azhar University. She worked as a trainee in the Democratic Development Unit of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. She is the recipient of a scholarship from the Palestinian Rule of Law Program of the Open Society Foundations.

Khalida Alsharief (Saudi Arabia) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Dar Al-Hekma University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 2016. She was a member of the

Dar Al-Hekma team in the Al Maktoum Moot Court Competition in Dubai in 2015. She was an active participant in student government at Dar Al-Hekma and helped found a volunteer group for assistance to the needy. During her studies, she interned at the Yaseen Kayaat law firm. She is the recipient of a full scholarship from the Cultural Mission of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

Fahira Brodlija (Bosnia and Herzegovina) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Sarajevo in 2016, where she participated in the 2015 Vis Moot and was a coach for the 2016 Vis team. She is a cofounder and legal advisor to Global Aktivne, a nongovernmental organization dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls through education and sports. She is the recipient of a UCIS Fellowship, a Franklin West Housing Scholarship, and a Center for Russian and East European Studies scholarship.

Jaber Imsheiel (Cyprus) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Nicosia, Cyprus in 2016, where he was president of the law society. He was an intern with the Doha office of the Dentons law firm in the spring of 2014.

Anshuman Jaswal (India) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London in 2014. He graduated from

the Fellow Program in Management at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad in 2008, received an MBA from the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies in Mumbai, India, in 2001, and received his Bachelor of Sciences degree in economics from the University of London in 1997. He has worked as a senior analyst for the financial research firm Celent, a division of the Oliver Wyman consulting firm.

Maria Alejandra Kenna (Venezuela) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Universidad del Zulia in Venezuela in 1994. Before moving to the United States, she practiced family and labor law for five years in Maracaibo, Venezuela. She has worked as an international regulatory affairs specialist for one of the world's leading nutritional supplements retail chains, advising management on global regulatory trends and preparing necessary documents for the global registration and import of the company's products.

Oluwadara Omolaja (Nigeria) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, in 2013, and her Barrister at Law qualification from the Nigerian Law School in 2015. She worked as a legal practitioner at M.A. Banire & Associates in Ikeja in Lagos State, Nigeria, and before that, she interned with G. Elias & Co. in Lagos, Nigeria. She is the recipient of a Franklin West Housing Scholarship.



Jacopo Pischedda (Italy) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the Università di Bologna in 2006 and his Master of Laws degree from the Università di Bologna in 2008. He has worked as a junior lawyer for the Office of the Italian Attorney General in Venice, Italy, and as an attorney for law firms in Bologna, Italy; Seville, Spain; and Rome and Padua, Italy, as well as with an immigration services NGO in Washington, D.C.

Nika Rassadina (Ukraine) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) in 2014, and a Specialist of Laws degree from NaUKMA in 2015. She was a member of the 2013-15 NaUKMA Vis Moot teams and coached its 2016 team. During her studies she interned with Baker & McKenzie and with the Arbitrade Law Firm, and then worked as legal adviser to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. She is the recipient of an H. J. Heinz Fellowship, administered by Pitt's Global Studies Center, and of a UCIS Fellowship.

Ana Thais Safe Carneiro (Brazil) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Centro Universitario de Brasilia in 2001. She has worked as an attorney in private practice in Brasilia, specializing in civil procedure. She also has served as a lawyer of confidence to the Embassy of Switzerland in Brazil, active in extradition matters, adoptions, and other international legal matters.

Rishav Soni (India) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from The ICFAI University in Dehradun, India, in 2016. During his studies, he participated in his university's legal aid clinic and in several moot court competitions. He worked as an intern at the law firm of Parekh & Co. in Delhi, and worked with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs of India, Zeus Law Associates, and other law firms and NGOs.

Yuting Xu (China) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (SHUPL) in 2013, and then received a Master of Laws from SHUPL in 2016. She has worked as a research assistant for the Shanghai Key Project at SHUPL and as a teaching assistant. Her article on "Urban House Dismantlement Administrative Proceedings" was published in the *Modern Economic Information* journal in 2014. ☛

LLM Class of 2016 December Graduates

Beryl Fellous (France) received her Bachelor of Laws degree in 1996, a Master of Laws degree in 1998, and a specialized degree of Master of Laws in business and tax law in 2000, each from Université Panthéon Assas (Paris II). She worked as legal counsel in the firm of SCP Dubarry Le Douarin Veil in Paris from 2000 to 2002, with a focus on M&A and labor law matters. From 2002 to 2008, she was in-house legal counsel for corporate and M&A matters in the Paris office of Allianz Global Assistance. In 2008, she joined Alcoa Inc.

as its in-house legal counsel responsible for matters relating to the European operations of Alcoa's Power and Propulsion and Fastening Systems business units.

Rafal Sabah Jasim (Iraq) received her Bachelor of Laws degree in 2014 from the University of Baghdad, where she was a member of the Vis Moot team in 2013. She is the recipient of a full scholarship from the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research. ☛

2016-17 SJD Candidates

New SJD Students

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 under the supervision of Professor Haider Hamoudi. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree in 2004 and an LLM in International Law in 2008, both from the University of Damascus, 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. ☛

Oday Mahmoud (Iraq) is writing his dissertation on a comparative study of the electoral systems in Iraq and the United States and their respective compliance with international standards, under the supervision of Professor Haider Hamoudi. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1999, and a master's degree in public and administrative law in 2006, both from the University of Mosul. He received an LLM from Penn State in 2016. He was a deputy commissioner of the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq from 2008 through 2013, and has worked as a teaching assistant at the University of Mosul and at Al Iraqi University in Baghdad. He is the recipient of a full scholarship from

the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq. ☛

Doris Toyou (Cameroon) is writing her dissertation on a comparative study of the legal protections for private equity investors in the United States and Europe, under the supervision of Professor Douglas Branson. She received her master's degree in international economic law from the Pantheon-Sorbonne University in France in 1999, and her LLM from Boston University in 2003. She has worked as a legal analyst with JPMorgan Chase in New York City, and has also worked in legal, due diligence, and compliance positions with Sullivan & Cromwell, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, and others. ☛

Continuing SJD Students

Hisham Mahmoud Mohamad Ababneh (Jordan) is writing his dissertation on a comparative study of foreign investment laws and their application in Jordan and the United States, under the supervision of Professor Ronald Brand. He received his bachelor's degree in law from the University of Jordan in 2011 and his LLM degree from McGill University in 2012. He worked in the Amman, Jordan, offices of the law firms of Ababneh & Jarar, Aljazzy & Co. and Eversheds LLP. He is the recipient of a full scholarship from Petra University in Amman, Jordan. ☛



Abdullah Suliman F. Alaoudh (Saudi Arabia) is writing his dissertation on the role of religious institutions in post-revolutionary Arab countries and the transition to democracy, under the supervision of Professor Haider Hamoudi. He received his LLM degree from Pitt Law in 2011, and received his bachelor's degree in Islamic law from Alqassim University in 2005. He is the recipient of a full scholarship from the Cultural Mission of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

Wafsi H. Abdal Kareem Al-Sharaa (Iraq) is writing his dissertation on the use of criminal law in the fields of energy and environmental regulation, under the supervision of Professor Haider Hamoudi. He received his bachelor's degree in law from Shatt-El-Arab University College in 1998 and a master's degree in law from the University of Baghdad in 2001. He was 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.

Ohud Ali A. Alzahrani (Saudi Arabia) is writing her dissertation on the rights of orphaned children under international and Islamic law, under the supervision of Professor Sheila Velez-Martinez. She received her bachelor's degree in 2009 from Princess Norah Bint Abdul Rahman University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and her LLM degree in 2014 from Pace University School of Law. She is the recipient of a full scholarship from the Cultural Mission of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

Zvenyslava Iosipivna Opeida (Ukraine) is writing her dissertation on a comparative analysis of the law on subsidies in the World Trade Organization, the European Union and the United States, under the supervision of Professor Ronald Brand. She received her jurist's degree with honors in 1998 from Donetsk National University in Ukraine, and her LLM degree from the University of Illinois in 2001. She was a senior lecturer in the economics and law department of Donetsk State University and taught International Trade Law at Pitt Law during the spring term. ☀

2016-2017 Visiting Scholars

Recep Alpyagil (Turkey) is an associate professor of the Philosophy of Religion at Istanbul University in Turkey. His research while in residence with us will include a comparative study of the philosophy of Paul Ricoeur and Islamic philosophy. Professor Alpyagil's visit to Pitt Law comes as a result of his and our own Professor George Taylor's shared interest in the philosophy of Ricoeur. Professor Alpyagil has published and lectured widely in both English and Turkish. He received his doctorate in the Philosophy of Religion from Istanbul University in 2006, and his Bachelor of Science degree from Ataturk University in 1999. He will be in residence with CILE through September 2016.

Nan Nan (China) is a doctoral candidate at Wuhan University in China, where she is writing her doctoral dissertation on intellectual property law and the treatment of traditional and indigenous knowledge and cultures. Her research, while in residence with us, will explore the development of intellectual property protections for traditional knowledge in United States, European Union and international law. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Taiyuan University in 2008 and an LLM in Private International Law from Wuhan University in 2012. She will be in residence with CILE from September 2016 through September 2017.

Eduard Fosch Villaronga (Spain) is a doctoral candidate at CIRSIFID, Universita degli Studi di Bologna, Italy, where he is writing his PhD dissertation on the subject of Legal and Ethical Challenges

for Non-Medical Personal Care Robots. His research, while in residence with us, will include a comparative exploration of laws and regulations regarding robotics. He received his bachelor's degree in law from the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2012, a joint LLM from the Universite de Toulouse I and the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2012, and an MA in security, governance and IT law from the Autonomous University of Madrid in 2013. He is in residence with CILE through September 2016.

Zeng Yameng (China) is a graduate student in the School of Humanities, Economics, and Law at Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an, China. Her research, while in residence with us, will focus on the history and practice of U.S. trade investigations under Section 337, explore the means by which Chinese enterprises can reduce the number of such investigations, and explore mechanisms to promote cooperation between the United States and China in the areas of intellectual property and trade contracts. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from NPU in 2015. She will be in residence with CILE from August 2016 through February 2017.

Tommaso Zeccherini (Italy) is a student of law at Alma Mater Studiorum in Bologna, Italy. His research will focus on the subject of "data breach after the Schrems decision: beyond the safe harbor," consulting with Professors Ashley and Thaw. Zeccherini will be in residence from September through December 2016. ☀



LLM Class of 2016 at the White House



2015-16 LLM Awards and Honors



LLM Class of 2016

We are proud of our LLM students' record of accomplishment over this past year. In the article on the April 2016 LLM Arbitration Moot on page 16, we have already had the chance to brag about their victory over teams of LLM students from Georgetown, Penn, and elsewhere. But our LLM students also have stood out for their record of accomplishment here at home. Other than a pair of LLM-only courses, our LLM students take their classes with and are graded on the same curve with their JD student counterparts—and receive cum laude designations only if their GPAs meet the requirements for similar designations for JD students. Notwithstanding the potential obstacle of working in a second or third language, their awards this year show that they have thrived in our program. The CALI awards listed below indicate that the given LLM student received the top grade among all students, LLMS and JDs alike, in the listed class. ➦

Ali Haydar Kadhum Al-Dabbagh
(Iraq)
Cum Laude

Gustavo Javier Arrobo Moncayo
(Ecuador)
LLM International Commercial
Arbitration Moot Winner

Nevena Jevremovic
(Bosnia & Herzegovina)
Cum Laude
LLM International Commercial
Arbitration Moot Winner

Ewelina Kemp (Poland/U.S.)
CALI Award Spring Term—International
Sales Seminar (Flechtner)

James Peter Tugee Ochieng (Kenya)
CALI Award Fall Term—Contracts
(Hamoudi)
CALI Award Spring Term—Legal
Analysis and Writing (Brostoff)
LLM International Commercial
Arbitration Moot Winner
Magna Cum Laude
William H. Eckert Prize (the law
school's top prize for student writing)

Glory Chiamaka Ohaekwusi (Nigeria)
LLM International Commercial
Arbitration Moot Winner

Partin Pruthi (Kosovo)
Cum Laude
William Frederick Schulz Jr.
Legal History Award

Yevhenii Shatskyi (Ukraine)
CALI Award Fall Term—International
Human Rights (Kovalik)
Peggy Browning Fund Summer Fellow

Pitt Law Grads Help Recruit the Pitt Law LLMS of Tomorrow

The alumni and friends of Pitt Law and CILE can be our most effective ambassadors to prospective new LLM students. Whether by informally sharing your experiences of CILE and Pitt Law with your social contacts, or by volunteering to meet prospective students at recruitment fairs abroad, you can help CILE to reach out to the next generation of LLM students. Please contact CILE to find out more about how you can help our recruitment efforts. ➦



LLM alumna Dinda Saragih (LLM '15) meets with prospective students at the April 2016 EducationUSA LLM Fair in Jakarta.



Coming soon from
Oxford University Press:

CILE Studies Volume 6:
GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF
LAW AND INTERNATIONAL
DUE PROCESS,
Charles T. Kotuby Jr. and
Luke A. Sobota



JD STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Nashid Ali (Class of 2018) received a CILE Fellowship to fund his study abroad during the summer of 2016 in the American University program in The Hague, Netherlands.

Chase Ayers (Class of 2017), Danielle Bruno (Class of 2017), Ashley Hogan (Class of 2017), Gabrielle Morella (Class of 2017), and Taylor Staiger (Class of 2017) participated in the 2016 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria.

Adam Boucek (Class of 2017) received a Nordenberg Fellowship and a CILE Fellowship to fund his internship with the US Consulate General in Melbourne, Australia, during the summer of 2016.

Robert Cimmino (Class of 2018) received a Nordenberg Fellowship, a William F. Schulz Jr. Fellowship, and a CILE Fellowship to fund his internship with the USAID Commercial Law Project in Pristina, Kosovo, during the summer of 2016.

Batkhuu Dashnyam (Class of 2018) received a Nordenberg Fellowship and a CILE Fellowship to fund his internship with the law firm of Gonzalez Penaherra in Quito, Ecuador, during the summer of 2016.

Neil Devlin (Class of 2016), Benjamin Morrow (Class of 2016), David Murren (Class of 2016), and Lauren Sowko (Class of 2016) represented Pitt Law at the Jessup International Moot Court regional competition in Washington, D.C.

Ashley Hogan (Class of 2017) received a CILE Fellowship to fund her internship with Nathan Associates in Laos during the summer of 2016.

Miracle Jones (Class of 2018) received a CILE Fellowship and a William F. Schulz Jr. Fellowship to fund her internship with the Legal Aid Clinic of Eldoret in Eldoret, Kenya, during the summer of 2016.

Mate Jurkovic (Class of 2018) studied abroad during the summer of 2016 at the Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation, Lucerne, Switzerland.

Yelizaveta Kotova (Class of 2018) studied abroad during the summer of 2016 with the Duquesne University program in Brussels, Belgium, and in Cologne and Paris, France.

Valerie Merlina (Class of 2017) received a Nordenberg Fellowship and a William F. Schulz Jr. Fellowship to fund her internship with the Parliament of Kosovo in Pristina, Kosovo, during the summer of 2016. Dur-

ing the spring of 2016, she joined a delegation from the National Lawyers Guild for a visit to Cuba on the eve of President Obama's historic trip to that country.

Christopher Shook (Class of 2017) was awarded a 2016–17 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship from the University of Pittsburgh Asian Studies Center to study Korean.

Zachary Uram (Class of 2018) received a Nordenberg Fellowship to support his internship at the Lombardi Aquilar Group in Panama City, Panama, during the first half of the summer of 2016. He also was awarded the Rosenthal Fellowship by the Office of the United States Trade Representative, which supported his internship with the USTR during the second half of the summer of 2016. He also was awarded a 2016–17 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship from the University of Pittsburgh Global Studies Center to study Portuguese, and a Boren Fellowship which will support his study of law at a Brazilian law school in 2017.

Kyle Watson (Class of 2017) was awarded a 2016–17 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship from the University of Pittsburgh Global Studies Center to study Arabic. ♣



ALUMNI NEWS

Rick Grubb (JD '10) has joined the U.S. Department of State as a foreign affairs officer working in the area of national security strategy.

Moien Odeh (LLM '15) has become the first Israeli Arab to be selected as a contributor to the World Bank's yearly report on Women, Business, and the Law.

Tom Kraemer (JD '90) is practicing commercial law in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Ravi Reddy (JD '06) is working with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and recently participated in writing its annual report on civilian casualties in the conflict there.

Maria Nizhnik (LLM '03), now serving as the first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Antimonopoly Committee, was interviewed in February by Ukraine Today about recent changes to Ukraine's anti-trust legislation. Video of her interview (in English) is linked at <http://uatoday.tv/society/exclusive-interview-with-first-deputy-chairman-of-ukraine-rsquo-s-antimonopoly-committee-582301.html>.

Stephen Tan (JD '96) has joined K&L Gates as a partner in their office in Taipei, Taiwan.

Luke Dembosky (JD '94) has joined Debevoise & Plimpton as a cybersecurity

partner in their Washington, D.C. office.

Richard Kyle (JD '11) has joined BNY Mellon's legal department as counsel for asset servicing. ♣



Alumni Hall



Professor Jessie Allen participated in the third Adelaide Blackstone Symposium, *Blackstone and His Critics*, held at the University of Adelaide in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society Conference. At the conference, she presented her paper, “Blackstone: Expositor and Censor of Law both Made and Found,” and chaired another session.

Allen gave a talk on Dec. 7, 2015, titled “Critical Commentaries: Reading Blackstone for Fun and Provocation,” at University of Technology Sydney Law School, in Sydney, Australia.

Professor Elena Baylis was a discussant at the legal history workshop of the American Society of International Law Research Forum in October 2015. In March 2016, Baylis participated in a panel on “Practical Guidance for Constructive Engagement between International and Domestic Justice Practitioners” at the War Crimes Research Office 20th Anniversary Conference on Prosecuting Serious International Crimes: Exploring the Intersection between International and Domestic Justice Efforts. She was selected in 2016 as vice chair, Rule of Law, of the American Bar Association International Law Section, and as secretary of the International Criminal Law Interest Group of the American Society of International Law.

Professor Ronald A. Brand’s travels took him to The Hague, Bahrain, and Bosnia in October 2015. On Oct. 15–18, he led a session designed to prepare Middle East law school teams for the 2016 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. Students and professors in attendance were from law schools in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Tunis. Pitt Law alumna Janet Checkley (’14) assisted Brand in the training sessions. On Oct. 19, Brand lectured on U.S. Legal Education at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law. On Oct. 20, he spoke on “Private International Law in the United States and the European Union” at the same institution. On Oct. 21, he spoke on “Private International Law in the United States and the European Union”

in the class on Private International Law at the University of Zenica Faculty of Law, in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was a featured speaker in the conference on “Private International Law on Stage—National, European, and International Perspectives,” held at the University of Zenica Faculty of Law in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina on Oct. 23. His topic was “Progress and Status of the Choice of Court Convention in the United States.”

On Oct. 26–30, Brand participated as a member of the U.S. Delegation in the Working Group on Judgments of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, in The Hague, Netherlands, negotiating a draft convention on the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. On Nov. 6, he participated as a member of a panel on “Private International Law: The Year in Review” at the International Law Weekend hosted by the American Branch of the International Law Association in New York City, “A Significant Seven” developments in private international law.

On January 29, 2016, Brand spoke on “Arbitration or Litigation? Party Choice as a Political Matter” at the Penn State Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation Conference. On February 7–14, he traveled to Manama, Bahrain, where he provided training in oral argument skills for Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot teams from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia. He was assisted by Pitt Law alumna, Janet Checkley (JD ’14). Brand also provided training for lawyers, professors, and judges to serve as arbitrators for the Sixth Annual Middle East Vis Pre-Moot. The entire week of activities was co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Commercial Law Development Program, the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution, the Royal University for Women, and Pitt Law’s Center for International Legal Education.

On March 10–25, 2016, Brand and Professor Harry Flechtner accompanied the Pitt Law Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team to Vienna, Austria, for the 2016 Vis International Commercial

Arbitration Moot Competition. In Vienna, Pitt Law grads Janet Checkley (JD ’14), Catie Shawley (JD ’15), and Robert Gyenes (JD ’15) administered the Pitt Consortium pre-moot, and assisted the Pitt Consortium teams throughout the competition. The Consortium teams included Allame Tabatabai University, Tehran, Iran; University of Bahrain; University of Belgrade; Dar Al Hekma University, Saudi Arabia; East Sarajevo University, Bosnia & Herzegovina; Faculte des sciences juridiques politiques et sociales, Tunis, Tunisia; Iliria College, Pristina, Kosovo; University of Jordan;

Faculty International and Comparative Law Publications

Ronald A Brand, “Building on the Bergsten Legacy: The Vis Moot as a Platform for Legal Education,” 34 *Journal of Law and Commerce* 17 (2016)

Vivian Grosswald Curran, “Les nouveaux défis de la globalisation pour le droit comparé: baliser entre contre-courants,” in *Le Droit Compare au XXIe*, Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson, ed. (2015)

Vivian Grosswald Curran, “Le juge national américain et le droit de l’environnement,” in *Prendre la Responsabilité au Sérieux* (Alain Supiot & Mireille Delams-Marty, eds, 2015)

Vivian Grosswald Curran, “U. S. Discovery and Foreign Blocking Statutes,” 76 *Louisiana Law Review* 1141 (2016)

Haider Ala Hamoudi, “Lone Wolf” Terrorism and the Classical Jihad: On the Contingencies of Violent Islamic Extremism,” 11 *Florida International University Law Review* 19 (2015).

Haider Ala Hamoudi, “Sex and the Shari’a: Defining Gender Norms and Sexual Deviancy in Shi’i Islam,” 39 *Fordham International Law Journal* 25 (2015).

Matiangai Sirleaf, “Regionalism, Regime Complexes and International Criminal Justice in Africa,” 54 *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law* 699 (2016)



Kuwait International University; Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine; Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, Ukraine; University of Pittsburgh; University of Pristina, Kosovo; Qatar University, Doha; Sarajevo University, Bosnia & Herzegovina; UAE University; University of Zagreb, Croatia; and the University of Zenica, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

On May 23–27, 2016, Brand lectured on Contract Drafting Using Rules of Jurisdiction in the Summer School on Transnational Commercial Agreements, Litigation, and Arbitration, in Vicenza, Italy. The program was jointly sponsored by the University of Verona and Pitt Law's Center for International Legal Education. On June 1–10, 2016, he was a member of the U.S. Delegation in the Special Commission on Judgments of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, in The Hague, Netherlands, negotiating a convention on the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Professor Douglas Branson was an invited participant at the anti-corruption conference of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France, on June 14–15, 2016, where he spoke about asset protection trusts and bank secrecy laws and their roles in shielding the proceeds of corruption.

Professor Pat Chew On October 23, 2015, Professor Pat Chew was a featured speaker on a panel on comparative analysis of judicial decision making at the fall 2015 meeting of the ABA Section of International Law in Montreal, Canada. Chew delivered a presentation on an empirical study of Chinese arbitrations at the March 2016 Tri-School Colloquium of the University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia University, and Duquesne University. She was a copresenter on sex discrimination and its legal and health consequences for a panel at the Lat Crit Conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on May 19–21, 2016.

Professor Danshera Cords gave a lecture to the faculty at the Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, titled "Tax Administrators' Collection Powers: Do Procedural Limitations Improve Rev-

enue?" on May 11, 2016. She then gave a public lecture at the Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, titled "Taxpayer Motivations" on May 18, 2016.

Professor Vivian Curran delivered a talk on "When Law Commemorates" at the University of Pittsburgh interdisciplinary conference on History and Its Discontents: Commemoration in Italy and the Francophone World on October 30, 2015. On December 4, 2015, Professor Curran was a presenter at the launch for Christopher Warren's book *Literature and the Law of Nations: 1580–1680*. Curran's work on law and languages and her work on the Provost's Committee for the Year of the Humanities was the subject of a December 7, 2015, article in the Pitt Chronicle at <http://www.chronicle.pitt.edu/story/year-humanities-profile-loving-language-law>.

Curran spoke on February 17, 2016, at Wayne State University on the Dreyfus affair, a political scandal that divided France at the turn of the 20th century and is often seen as a modern symbol of injustice. On March 18, 2016, Curran delivered a presentation on "U.S. Discovery and Foreign Blocking Statutes" at Louisiana State University Law School during a conference to mark the career achievements of Professor Alain Levasseur. On March 19, 2016, Curran spoke on "A Life in Comparative Law," in the plenary session of the Young Comparativists' Fifth Annual Global Conference at Tulane University School of Law.

In April 2016, Curran made three presentations, one at Cardozo Law School and two others as a panelist and a discussant at the Council on European Studies. They were: "A Slice of Life in Vichy France," April 17, 2016, in New York and "Commemoration as a Form of European Resilience," Council on European Union Studies Annual Conference, April 16, 2016, in Philadelphia; and as discussant at a session on "Perspectives on EU Law," Council on European Union Studies Annual Conference, April 14, 2016. On May 24, 2016, Curran spoke on "La conquête de l'ubiquité" at the Collège de France in Paris, France. On May 30, 2016, Curran delivered the keynote address at the Juris Diversitas Conference on Unity and Diversity at Louisiana State

University Law School. Curran has been appointed to a four-year term as delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies on behalf of the American Society of Comparative Law.

On June 20, 2016, Curran was appointed a Distinguished Professor in the School of Law. (See the full story on page 15.)

Professor Haider Hamoudi spoke on "Mediating Modern Law and Medieval Fiqh: On the Strategic Juristic Omission of the Najaf Jurists, Center of Islam, Law and Modernity" at Durham University in the United Kingdom on August 18, 2015. On October 22, 2015, Hamoudi spoke via videoconference to the Florida International University College of Law on "Lone Wolf Terrorism and the Classical Jihad: On the Contingencies of Violent Islamic Extremism." On December 11, 2015, he spoke at the National University of Singapore on "The Ironies of Shi'i Law."

On February 9, 2016, Hamoudi spoke at the American Bar Association Professors' Corner via videoconference on "Islamic Law and Estate Planning for Muslim Clients." He also spoke on "Islamic Law Pedagogy" at the University of California, Santa Barbara, on February 20, 2016. Hamoudi spoke at the annual Symposium for Inter-Religious Dialogue hosted by the Center for Christian-Muslim Dialogue on March 9, 2016, at Duquesne University. The theme of this year's conference was "Abrahamic Religions and the Middle East," and Hamoudi spoke about Islamic law and international relations.

Hamoudi was a commenter for the panel on "Islam and the Modern State" at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies at Northwestern University on April 7–8, 2016. On April 12, 2016, Hamoudi spoke at the American Bar Association Professors' Corner via videoconference on "Real Estate and Islamic Finance." On April 23, 2016, he spoke on "Religious Conversion and Iraqi Courts: Promises and Perils" at Bayan Claremont Islamic University. Hamoudi was interviewed on the May 13, 2016, edition of NPR's *Planet Money* on the subject of Islamic retail banking in the United States. Hamoudi explained the manner in which much of the interest in banking, both on the regulatory side as well as the demand side, related more closely to



questions of Muslim identity than it does to strict compliance with Islamic law.

Professor Anthony Infanti gave the keynote address at the second annual conference of the Centre on Taxation and Governance at the University of Birmingham Business School in Birmingham, England. The conference theme was Taxation as a Social and Political Institution. Infanti's talk was titled "Tax Law and Politics: Seeing Self and Other in the Tax Mirror."

Professor Jules Lobel brought together numerous high-profile speakers and panelists from both the United States and abroad for a conference on "International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Solitary Confinement," held at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on April 15 and 16, 2016. The conference included leading neuroscientists, professors of medicine, psychologists, and former prisoners, who explored the medical, mental health, and neurological damage wrought by prolonged solitary confinement. European and American prison administrators and experts discussed alternatives to solitary confinement; litigators in Canada, Brazil, and the United States discussed legal and political strategies to challenge prolonged solitary confinement; and the current and prior UN Rapporteurs on Torture and other international experts examined the history and practice of solitary confinement, and discussed the current international efforts to end it. Other Pitt Law faculty participating as speakers or moderators included Professor Matiangai Sirleaf, Professor Jasmine Gonzales Rose, Professor David Harris, and Adjunct Professor Bret Grote.

Professor Michael Madison delivered talks on the subject of "Governing Medical Commons" (the topic of his upcoming book from Cambridge University Press) at the 8th Conference on Innovation and Communications Law, University of Eastern Finland (UEF) Law School, Joensuu, Finland, on May 25, 2016, and at the Centre for Information and Innovation Law (CIIR) of the University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on May 19, 2016. On May 20, he spoke on the subject of "Big Data and Commons Challenges for Researchers" at the University of Copenhagen conference on Legal Dimensions of

Big Data in the Health and Life Sciences. Professor Madison spoke on "Information Abundance and Knowledge Commons" at the Munich Summer Institute, held at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich, Germany, on Wednesday, June 22, 2016.

Professor Alan Meisel consulted with the leaders of the Academy of Health Care Management in Prague, Czech Republic, and gave a talk on "Autonomy and Paternalism in the Doctor-Patient Relationship in the United States" on June 16, 2016.

Professor Peter Oh On June 8, 2016, Professor Peter Oh and Professor Alan Dignam of the Queen Mary University of London School of Law presented their paper titled "Veil-Lifting" before the Law Department at the University of Oxford. On June 10, 2016, Oh and Dignam discussed their research in corporate disregard with a justice from the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

Professor Matiangai Sirleaf participated in the World Social Sciences Forum Conference on Transforming Global Relations for a Just World, which took place on September 13–16, 2015, in Durban, South Africa. She served as a panelist and presented on "The African Court and the Fight Against Gross Human Rights Abuses in Africa." On November 20 and 21, 2015, she participated in a conference to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials, titled the "Nuremberg Principles 70 Years Later: Contemporary Challenges."

Sirleaf presented her paper, "Regionalism, Regime Complexes, and International Criminal Justice in Africa" at Georgetown Law's International Law Colloquium before students and faculty on January 29, 2016. She spoke at Case Western Reserve University School of Law as part of the junior faculty exchange program this past February. She presented her article "Regionalism, Regime Complexes and International Criminal Justice in Africa" before the faculty. Sirleaf served as a panelist on a discussion at Duke's Keenan Institute for Ethics on February 18, 2016, addressing the power and limits of current human rights approaches to confronting mass atrocities in Africa, as well as the possibilities of alternative models.

Professor George Taylor traveled to Taiwan in November 2015, where he spoke on "Gadamer and Ricoeur: Critical Horizons for Contemporary Hermeneutics" and "The Contributions of Hermeneutics Through the Perspective of Legal Hermeneutics." He then traveled to the Philippines, where he spoke on "Practical Hermeneutics: The Legal Text and Beyond" and "Reading Ricoeur with the Methods of the Digital Humanities" (coauthored with Fernando Nascimento).

Professor David Thaw spoke on "Cybersecurity Stovepiping" during the Amsterdam Privacy Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on October 23–26, 2015. He spoke on "Ancient Worries and Modern Fears" during the Yale Law School Conference on Federalism(s) and Fundamental Rights—Europe and the United States Compared, in New Haven, Connecticut, on October 29–31, 2015. On December 22, 2015, Thaw spoke on "Redefining Cybersecurity: Risk Management for Global Issues in Cybersecurity" at the Hallym University of Graduate Studies in Seoul, South Korea. On March 2, 2016, he was awarded a Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence Faculty Research Grant to support his research on cybersecurity in the United States and the European Union. On April 12, 2016, Thaw delivered a virtual briefing on the US-EU Privacy Shield for the University of Pittsburgh European Studies Center.

Professor Rhonda Wassermann gave two presentations at an international conference on the resolution of mass disputes hosted by the University of Haifa Faculty of Law on November 26–27, 2015. One talk, titled "American Class Actions 101," provided an overview of American class action law and practice to an international audience. The other talk, titled "Transnational Class Actions in United States Courts," posited that recent changes in the American legal landscape enhance the risk that transnational class actions in U.S. courts will fail to achieve the goals of compensation, deterrence, and enforcement of the law. Wassermann will be a visiting professor of law at Harvard Law School for the fall 2016 term. ♣



University of Pittsburgh

School of Law

Center for International Legal Education

318 Barco Law Building

3900 Forbes Avenue

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