

cile notes

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION

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Approaching a Quarter Century



By Ronald A. Brand
Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg
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This fall we enrolled our 25th class of LLM students and began our 25th year of programing under the Center for International Legal Education (CILE). Such a milestone is occasion both for reflection on what has transpired and for charting the course ahead.

For me personally, it has been a wonderful journey. I have met some of the most dedicated, focused, and personable students anyone could imagine. I have had the opportunity to see those students become lawyers, and to see those lawyers become contributors to the rule of law around the globe. That is a rewarding and humbling experience.

I have also had the opportunity to work with an excellent cadre of faculty members at Pitt Law. My colleagues have broadened my horizons, carried the Pitt Law experience and expertise to the world, and helped change the lives of our students for the better.

I have worked with a wonderful staff, both within CILE and throughout the law school. I have watched as dedicated individuals have advised, directed, and supported students in their passion for international careers. I have been a figurehead for an office that has seen a remarkably small staff make a significantly big impact.

I believe the Center for International Legal Education makes Pitt Law a great place for JD students who want to build an international career, for LLM students from abroad who want to prepare to make a difference upon their return home, and for SJD students who are preparing for an academic career. I really do believe that, at CILE, we are “changing the world, one law student at a time.”

“My 24 years with CILE convince me that the people who can change the current environment are available, and that many of them have come through our doors. **There is reason for faith in the future**, and I have seen it here at Pitt Law.

In the 24 years of CILE, I have seen the sustained leading role of Pitt Law in advancing scholarship about and understanding of the UN Sales Convention (CISG). That role is highlighted in a special article which follows—noting in particular the contribution of Professor Emeritus Harry Flechtner. I have seen our students and alumni work tirelessly to train students in Ukraine, the Balkans, and throughout the Middle East for the Vis Moot, contributing to the lives of individuals along the way and to the development of law school curricula in more than 20 countries. I have seen our students become major contributors in government, academia, and the private sector in ways that advance the rule of law and make life better for others. Those are rewards few can claim from a career, and I am humbled to have been a part of this process; and looking forward to even more of it.

Over those 24 years, we have seen changes that challenge just what we do and how we do it. A recent email from one of our LLM graduates sadly captures part of that change:

I have been following the political situation in the U.S. (out of interest, but also nostalgia at times) and I am saddened by what I see. It seems that all the values and virtue which I saw in the U.S. as I was growing up in a corrupt and hopeless society are now fading away in these public displays of loud, ignorant, opportunistic and destructive behavior. The images I see on the news now are not a reflection of the America I experienced—the welcoming and safe land of opportunities, which helped build my confidence to continue

fighting in my own country. I hope the new generations of Pitt LLM students will still be able to enjoy the academic and personal growth provided by Pitt Law, despite the challenging political climate.

My 24 years with CILE convince me that the people who can change the current environment are available, and that many of them have come through our doors. There is reason for faith in the future, and I have seen it here at Pitt Law.

The pages that follow demonstrate the impact of a Pitt Law education across the globe and within the walls of the Barco Law Building. Please take the time to read what our students have written, and what we have written about them.

As I close this message, I want to acknowledge two people in particular who have made an enormous contribution at CILE and are moving on to do other work. Austin Lebo stepped down as CILE program administrator in May in order to move into the private sector. Austin was the consummate combination of student counselor, event planner, and office coordinator. He made life easier for everyone around him. He is already missed. Rick Thorpe will be stepping down later this fall from the position of CILE executive director. Rick has been masterful at the details and relationships that made CILE effective and efficient. He created new programs and kept us on track with University policies and procedures. We welcome Emilie Schlauch to the program administrator position as the new fall term begins, and we are working to find the other person who will help CILE continue to make a difference in the lives of our students as we move forward. ■

CILE notes Fall 2019

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CISG Matters: A Treaty, Pitt Law, and Professor Flechtner

A 2019 Conference

On March 22 and 23, 2019, CILE hosted an international conference on “The CISG at Middle Age.” The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) is a treaty creating uniform international sales law for its more than 90 contracting states. The conference brought together the world’s leading scholars on the CISG, including a number of Pitt Law grads.

The conference was structured around three topics:

- “The Past of the CISG: Its Successes and Failures” honored the memory of Professor Peter Schechtriem and his suggestion that the CISG could provide “an International Lingua Franca.”
- “The Present of the CISG: Is Uniform Interpretation Possible?” honored the memory of Professor John Honnold and his exhortation toward “Resisting the Homeward Trend.”
- “The Future of the CISG: Have we come to Praise it or Bury it?” brought comments on how the CISG will develop (or not) in the future.

On Friday evening, Pitt Emeritus Professor Harry Flechtner was the keynote speaker at the conference dinner. He put together the entire program in a talk titled “The Past, Present and Future of the CISG (and Other Uniform Commercial Law Initiatives).”

The conference provided the opportunity to consider whether the widespread state ratification of the CISG indicates success in international law development, or whether the common practice of opting out of the CISG in private contracts demonstrates that its impact has been limited at best. In addition to Professor Flechtner, the conference speakers included: Ronald Brand (University of Pittsburgh), Petra Butler (Victoria University Wellington), Janet Checkley (Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy), Susanna Cook (Cohen & Grigsby), John Coyle (University of North Carolina), Milena Djordjevic (University of Belgrade), Johan Erauw (University of Ghent), Henry Gabriel (Elon University), Nevena Jevremovic (International Association of Contract and Commercial Management), Joseph Gulino (Diaz, Reus & Targ), Stefan Kröll (Bucerius University), Ulrich Magnus (University of Hamburg), Francesco Mazotta (Editor, International Contract Manual), Chiara Giavannucci Orlandi (University of Bologna), Vjosa Osmani (University of Pristina), Francesca Ragno (University of Verona), Ingeborg Schwenzer (University of Basel), Nina Tepeš (University of Zagreb), Marco Torsello (University of Verona), and Mark Walter (DAI Inc).

The conference also provided the opportunity to honor Professor Flechtner on his retirement from Pitt Law. He was designated a *Fellow Honoris Causa* of the Center for International Legal Education, becoming only the fourth recipient of that honor in CILE’s 24 years.



Professor Harry Flechtner delivers the keynote address at the conference.



A group portrait of the conference speakers and moderators

Earlier Conferences and Publications

Pitt Law and CILE have been involved in scholarship on the CISG from its beginning. Pitt first hosted a symposium on the CISG in October of 1987, a mere 10 months after U.S. ratification of the Convention, and two months before the CISG's entry into force. This was followed in 1997 with a symposium celebrating Ten Years of the U.N. Sales Convention; in 2003 with a symposium on "The Draft UNCITRAL Digest and Beyond," which detailed and supported publication of the first *UNCITRAL Digest on CISG Case Law*; and in November 2005, with a symposium on "Drafting Contracts Under the CISG." The first two of these conferences resulted in symposium issue publications in Pitt Law's *Journal of Law and Commerce*, and the latter two resulted in books in the *CILE Studies series* published first by West Publishing and then by Oxford University Press. The papers from the 2019 symposium will again be published in the *Journal of Law and Commerce*.

Our Students and Alumni

Pitt Law students and alumni have been active participants in Pitt Law's contributions to the promotion of the CISG as well. A significant group of the speakers at the 2019 conference received either the JD or the LLM degree from Pitt Law. Students who now and in the past have edited our

Journal of Law and Commerce have played an important role as editors, publishers, and authors of CISG scholarship. They also have participated for more than 20 years in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna.

Carrying CISG to the World

CILE and its academic director, Professor Ronald Brand, have helped expand global knowledge of the CISG—and participation in the Vis Moot—with U.S. State Department and Commerce Department support, in the Balkans and in the Middle East. Each year for 17 years, Professor Brand and Pitt Law students and graduates (see the 2014 issue of *CILE Notes*) have traveled to the Middle East twice a year to train Vis Moot teams from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Myanmar, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates. These programs have developed law school curricula in the countries involved and have helped identify the next generation of top legal scholars in the region. They also have identified strong candidates for Pitt Law's LLM program for foreign law graduates—a group that has helped carry on the tradition of CISG scholarship at Pitt Law and in their home countries.

The Role of Professor Emeritus Harry Flechtner

Most notable in terms of the relationship between the CISG and Pitt Law has been the work of Professor Emeritus Harry Flechtner. Flechtner is the author of the leading U.S. treatise on the CISG, in which he has continued the work of the late Professor John Honnold. He was also the person chosen by UNCITRAL to lead the production of the second *UNCITRAL Digest on CISG Case Law*, which was published and distributed in 2012 as a special issue of Pitt Law's *Journal of Law and Commerce*. In part because of Flechtner's role in the CISG, and his role as faculty adviser to the *Journal*, the *Journal* has regularly been noted as being one of the world's principal sources of CISG scholarship.

Professor Flechtner's most unique contribution to the understanding of the CISG, however, has come through his mastery of the three-minute musical exposition on international commercial law, complete with footnotes. Yes, his *CISG Song* can be found at cisgsong.info. And, for more than a decade, Flechtner has been the highlight of the opening night ceremonies at the Vienna Vis Moot, where he solos at the Vienna Konzerthaus, to a standing-room-only crowd that never fails to provide a standing ovation. One need only to google Harry Flechtner and the Vis Moot to find numerous YouTube videos of his masterful performances.

(continued from page 3)



Professor Flechtner (far right) with Elizabeth Taylor and the other members of the 2018 Vis team



Professor Flechtner confers with Kaitlin (Young) Dewberry, Kimberly (Stains) Karr, and Patrick Yingling.



2010 Vis Moot team members Richard Kyle, McKean Evans, Kristine (Long) Carpenter, Professor Flechtner, and Amelia Mathias

Testimonials to a Career with Impact

With his retirement in 2018 (which was followed nonetheless by a teaching gig at Pitt Law in the spring of 2019), Professor Flechtner leaves a major hole in the Pitt Law tradition with the CISG and the Vis Moot. The following comments, from students who have benefited from his Vis Moot coaching and from Vice Dean Haider Ala Hamoudi, demonstrate his impact:

Elizabeth Taylor (JD '19)

Professor Flechtner is a brilliant scholar, a wonderful entertainer, and an all-around great human. He knew just what to say to each team member to motivate us to learn as much as we could and to give the performance of a lifetime at Vis, and also knew just what to say (or not say) to each of us after we were eliminated in the round of 32. Those who are fortunate enough to travel with, and learn from, Professor Flechtner are lucky indeed.

Kristine (Long) Carpenter (JD '11)

The year that my team did the Vis Moot also coincided with the year that Professor Flechtner's daughter was getting married in Germany. She had purchased her wedding dress in the U.S., but it was up to Professor Flechtner to transport it safely to Vienna. Over the course of a week and a half, our team shepherded a wedding dress from Pittsburgh, New York, Belgrade, Zagreb, and finally Vienna. I remember at every point in our journey that we would take stock of all of our luggage, the Vis binder (so important!), the Honnold/Flechtner volume, and one wedding dress. It was a testament to his impact on our team that we all felt personally invested in safely getting this dress to his daughter. To me, this series of moments captures Professor Flechtner perfectly. He has always been the most supportive, kindest, and all around biggest cheerleader of his kids (both, biological and the hundreds of students he has mentored along the way). To those of us who had the honor of learning from Professor Flechtner, we are all better lawyers and people for it. He taught us how to think like commercial lawyers, but I will carry with me his lessons of humility, kindness and how to find joy in stressful moments.

Jennifer Bright Tinker (JD '97)

Professor Flechtner was easily one of my favorite instructors at Pitt. I had no clue what the Vis was, but he kept talking about springtime in Vienna during Contracts. I am so thankful for the opportunity the Vis gave me to expand my knowledge and understanding of the broader concept of law. It surely influenced my passion for international justice and helping the disenfranchised, which became my calling. I also really miss the guitar, the songs, and the juggling.

Kimberly (Stains) Karr (JD '12)

At the Vis Moot in Vienna, we ran into a team from Brazil. When they heard us address Professor Flechtner, they asked if it was “the” Professor Flechtner who was the definitive expert on the CISG. They were very excited to learn that it was, and I believe they asked for a photo with him. It was like traveling with a rock star!

Professor Flechtner is one of the best parts of the Vis moot experience. As a coach, he constantly sees the potential of each student. As a performer, he puts on the best show of the opening ceremony and sets the tone for the entire moot. And as a person, he is one of the kindest and most understanding people in an often stressful environment.

Nicholas Weltz, Class of 2020

What stands out the most about Prof. Flechtner is how much he cares. His compassion and deep concern for the well-being of others always shows. There are simple moments where he'll pose for a picture with a fan of his CISG song. And more heavy moments where he gives a tear-filled hug to a competitor who just learned they didn't make the elimination rounds. The Vis moot is so often stressful and difficult, but Professor Flechtner is there as a calming force, a shoulder to cry on, and a good friend.

Drew Roberts (JD '15)

The week of the Vis Moot sees Vienna awash with law students from around the world buzzing about, easily identifiable by the Vis Moot lanyards draped around their necks. And perhaps the highlight of the competition for many of those students is the opportunity to stop Professor Flechtner on the street to ask for a picture. It made me incredibly proud as a Pitt Law student to see firsthand how revered Professor Flechtner is in this community of students, academics, and practitioners—for both his musical and analytical prowess—that complete strangers would stop our group to ask for proof that they met the one and only Harry Flechtner.

A Tribute from Vice Dean Haider Ala Hamoudi



I remember the first email I received from Harry Flechtner in the fall of 2006, just as I was going onto the academic market. Harry was by then world-renowned in the area

of international commercial law, to such an extent that when I informed my colleagues in the Middle East of the places where I was considering starting my career as a professor, nearly all favored the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and specifically named Harry as the reason. Accordingly, when I first reached out to Harry, who served on the Pitt Law Appointments Committee when I was undertaking my job search, I did so with no small amount of trepidation.

I was only a fellow in New York, after all, looking for an academic post, with barely three research articles to my name, seeking to correspond with someone whose work was known quite literally around the globe. It took my nearly three hours to prepare the two paragraph email, which I thought managed the perfect balance of academic sobriety and earnestness of purpose that was needed in order to gain the attention of the great Harry Flechtner. “Dear Professor Flechtner,” the note began, “I am writing in connection with my interest in pursuit of a position with your august law school. I understand that you serve on its Appointments Committee, and I am a devotee and

close reader of all of your work.” The email continued from there, largely along the same lines.

What came back, less than a day later was quite startling to me. “Haider! Call me Harry! You're actually on our interview list already. It'll be great to meet in DC but on your interest in international commercial law, make sure you reach out to our Center for International Legal Education Director, Ron Brand, a fantastic scholar, an excellent teacher, and an all-around great guy.”

This exchange, in a nutshell, well encapsulated who Harry Flechtner is, and what he did for Pitt Law over the years. On an academic level, his work was unparalleled. One could not write competently about the Convention for the International Sale of Goods without engaging with his work. Nobody understood the CISG, neither in its conception, nor in its application in jurisdictions across the globe, in the way that he did. His work was nuanced, deep, and truly comparative in the sense that it revealed profound insights through thoughtful analysis across jurisdictions.

Combined with this academic seriousness and work of the highest caliber was the personality of a kind, humble, self-effacing Midwesterner (indeed, a fellow Ohioan) who never flaunted his many achievements, never spoke in self-aggrandizement, and never took credit for anything when it could safely be given to others. I have known



few people in our times who manage high achievement with deep and sincere humility and kindness, and none of them manage it as well as Harry.

As if this were not enough, Harry was an incredible teacher; indeed, one of the best Pitt Law has ever had. He was a frequent winner of the teaching award the students extend each year to their favorite professor, and no small number of Pittsburgh attorneys have told me of the many ways in which Harry Flechtner has changed their lives. They are obviously not alone.

Students speak effusively of Harry's singing abilities (most commonly on display on an annual basis in Vienna during the Willem C. Vis competition), as well as his uncanny capacity to juggle. But the juggling that Harry manages that has never ceased to amaze me is of a different sort. Not pots, pans, or bowling pins, but a scholar, a teacher, a public servant, a loving father to Emily and Andrew and devoted husband to Joan. If only the rest of us could manage so much, the world would be a much better place.

On behalf of Pitt Law, thank you Harry for your many years of service. ■

A Year of Studying Law at the Sorbonne

By Christopher Anderson,
Class of 2020

This past year I had the honor of being one of the first two students from Pitt Law to participate in our new exchange program with the Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne. While the program is designed with 3Ls in mind, the international internship I did during my 1L summer and my past experience living in France enabled me to tackle the challenge a year earlier than planned.

My year in Paris gave me the opportunity to see a totally different legal system in action. The LLM class visited each of the three courts in France that together fill the role of the Supreme Court in the United States. We attended oral arguments at the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg and at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Also in Strasbourg, we had meetings at the European Parliament before going to Brussels to visit the Council of the European Union and the Commission. During the annual heritage days, I toured both the National Assembly and the Senate. I witnessed the French government's forced reaction to the sustained protests of the Gilets Jaunes; the EU parliamentary elections—the second-largest electoral exercise on the planet—which charted a new course for Europe; and the constantly looming Brexit looming. What a year!

But my 2L year abroad wasn't all field trips and site visits. The LLM program I completed at the Sorbonne was titled "French Law, EU Law, & International Business Law." Exploring the inner-workings of the French civil law system was one of the main themes in my classes on contracts, corporations, business law, and administrative law. The other half of my classes focused on European Union law where I studied the founding treaties, the rules that create the European single market, and the EU version of antitrust (competition law). I also audited two classes, one on the policy and finance of the French Ministry of Culture, and the other on French and international maritime law. All of my course work was taught in French, and my professors were a mix of successful practitioners and major contributors to the academic literature.

One especially unique aspect of studying at the Sorbonne is the history. The Roman baths were just around the corner. The university's roots go back 800 years, and some of my classes were in a building that has housed the law school since before the 1789 revolution. One of my classrooms was where Marie Curie taught her first class as the first woman professor at the Sorbonne. UNESCO was founded in the auditorium down the hall. When classes were cancelled due to protests, or the cathedral nearly burned down, this history helped me keep things in perspective.



I rounded out my time in Paris with a three-month internship at a boutique law firm called Friehe Associés. Being part of a small team with one partner and two associates meant that I participated in everything from the initial contact with clients, to research, memo drafting, and attending court hearings. The main focus of our practice was advising on compliance with Europe's General Data Protection Regulation. Working with this cutting-edge law was exciting because it is the model for similar legislation under consideration in the United States and because courts and administrative authorities have yet to decide some of the issues we were analyzing. I also got experience with litigation, employment law, divorce, identity theft, telecommunications, blockchain, cannabis law, and helping a Pennsylvania-based company set up a subsidiary in France. It was a fantastic way to hone my legal skills while taking my French up to a professional level.

I expect these experiences to reverberate throughout my career. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a unique cooperation agreement with the dynamic French region of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, foreign investment is on the rise in France generally, and the EU remains a global economic powerhouse. In this context, I see a future role in facilitating trans-Atlantic business and cultural exchanges. Whether I return to France after graduation to take the Paris bar or base my career closer to home is still up in the air. But

wherever I end up, my ability to navigate different legal systems, language barriers, and cultures should pay off in the long-term.

Throughout the entire process, I received valuable support from Professor Curran, CILE, Pitt Law's Professional Development Office, and the registrar's office. I look forward to joining this support team for future Pitt students at the Sorbonne. ■

“One of my classrooms was where Marie Curie taught her first class as the first woman professor at the Sorbonne. UNESCO was founded in the auditorium down the hall. When classes were cancelled due to protests, or the cathedral nearly burned down, **this history helped me keep things in perspective.**”

Christopher Anderson

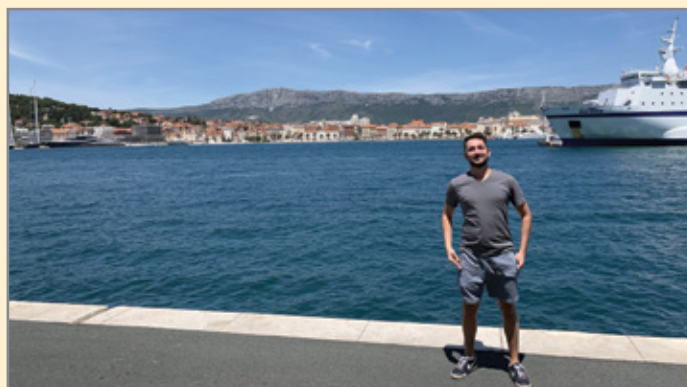
A Transactional Internship in the Heart of Croatia

By **Matthew DeMaio**,
Class of 2020

This past summer, I had the great fortune of working at CMS Zagreb in the capital city of Croatia. CMS is one of the world's largest law firms with 4800 attorneys practicing in 74 offices. As a member of the corporate team, I assisted our clients in transactions ranging from regional mergers and acquisitions to international investments involving millions of Euros. The experience was phenomenal. I was tasked with some of the same assignments the lawyers themselves were doing. From reviewing shareholder agreements ensuring our client's interests were adequately represented to drafting client letters on recent EU case law developments, I gained transactional experience not available to second-year law students in the United States.

Of course, I did some traveling while in Croatia. I attended a court hearing on Korčula, a small island dotted with olive trees and vineyards. The court was only accessible by Roman-built stone pathways, faded by centuries of the Adriatic's salty breeze. Attorneys, waiting for their hearings, would have a cup of coffee outside the court entrance—just 20 feet from the sea.

On a personal trip, I visited the 3,000-year-old coastal city of Zadar. Strategically crucial for controlling the Adriatic, the city bears the mark of its importance through architecture. Croatian



Matthew Demaio during a mid-internship visit to Split, Croatia

flags fly next to the old Roman forum, while the Venetian-built gates serve as a reminder of hundreds of years of war. In fact, the Roman forum was first discovered and excavated only after the Allies bombed the Nazi-occupied city during World War II.

My time in Zagreb was marked by the wonderful people working at CMS Zagreb. Self-described as possessing the “Balkan mindset,” my coworkers were always willing to have lunch, a coffee, or a pivo (beer). CMS Zagreb is lucky to have some of the smartest and kindest people I have ever met. I thank Iva Grgic, Marija Zrno, and CILE for helping create what was both the professional and personal experience of a lifetime. Hvala! ■

Human Rights Study in Lucerne

By **Rebecca Lerman**,
Class of 2021

Rebecca Peters and I had the shaping opportunity to attend the Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation this summer. We traveled to Lucerne, Switzerland, to spend three immersive weeks studying and learning from the people, places, and organizations around us.

The Lucerne Academy provided a wide range of topics covering this year's theme, human rights and business. I had the privilege of learning from prestigious professors from all over the world and studying alongside peers from nine continents.

Professor Felipe Gómez Isa provided a closer look into the systemic and historical injustices suffered by indigenous peoples. A class discussion around Iciar Bollaín's film, *También la Lluvia* exposed the effects of past abuses on today's inequalities and structural discrimination. Through a case study of Myanmar/Burma, Professor Yee Mon Htun shared the racial and ethnic discrimination of indigenous people and struggles to rebuild a democracy after military dictatorship. Lectures were elevated by Professor Yee Mon Htun's personal identity and experiences as a native to Myanmar returning home after immigrating to Canada.

Professor Heselhaus and Judge Helen Keller provided a helpful framework to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). As a student from the United States, I had little understanding of the workings of the ECtHR. Professor Heselhaus provided an introduction to the legal reasoning of the ECtHR, which was especially helpful for our moot court. It was a unique and unforgettable experience to learn from Judge Keller, who provided insight into the ECtHR that went beyond any book.



Rebecca Lerman with fellow students in Switzerland

Ultimately, it was learning from my peers, in both formal classroom interactions and impromptu talks in the flat, that made this experience unlike any other learning environment. Each of my peers, and now friends, brought unique and diverse perspectives that grew me into a better human rights advocate and hopefully one day, lawyer.

As a first-time moot court participant, I was nervous to embark on writing a memorial and delivering a pleading in a short period of time. However, with the support of our Moot Court expert and coach, I not only felt prepared to stand in front of five justices to give my arguments, but confident. I brought home new research, writing, and communication skills.

Day trips to Strasbourg and Geneva were part of my favorite moments of the academy. In Strasbourg, we visited the European Council and the European Court of Human Rights. The visits brought to life the teachings in Professor Heselhaus and Judge Keller. In Geneva, we toured the United Nations. In our free time, I visited the Red Cross Museum. There, I interacted with exhibits on family separation, natural disasters, human rights and dignity, and prisons. At the museum, I purchased a t-shirt with “We're all human” printed across the chest. To me, this encompasses not only my day in Geneva but my entire experience in Lucerne with the academy. ■

Three Extraordinary Weeks in Switzerland

By Rebecca Peters,
Class of 2021

The Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation is a three-week program comprised of classes, excursions and a moot court competition. Professors, judges, lawyers and human rights activists shared their knowledge and experience with 14 students from nine countries. The theme of the 2019 program was human rights and business.

All of the students took part in Option 1 of the Academy, which included four out of the five classes offered as well as the moot court competition. The program began with a mandatory introductory class taught by Professor Sebastian Heselhaus. The introductory class covered the structural, theoretical and practical framework of human rights litigation at the European Court of Human Rights. Professor Felipe Gomez Isa from the University of Duesto in Spain taught a class focused on Indigenous Peoples' Rights. Centering mostly on Latin America, Prof. Gomez Isa provided detailed insight into the moving pieces that result in human rights violations, how human rights evolve over time and how we as lawyers can be more inclusive of historically marginalized and oppressed people. The class in Human Rights Litigation, taught by Helen Keller, the judge for Switzerland on the European Court of Human Rights, focused on the structure and delivery of arguments, the various approaches to human rights litigation, and several contested issues in the court at the moment. Finally, Professor Yee Htun from Harvard taught a case study class on the current, and longest standing, armed conflict in Myanmar/Burma. Her personal experience with the human rights violations in the country, in addition to in-class problem solving and brainstorming, made the class a standout learning experience. The courses and curriculum were an excellent opportunity to hear a vast array of personal experiences and to learn from differing career paths.

During our time at the Academy, we took excursions to Strasbourg, France, and Geneva, Switzerland. In Strasbourg, we toured the

Council of Europe and the European Parliament. In Geneva, we toured the Palais des Nations, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Each of these visits featured a lecturer on the history, practicality, benefits, and difficulties of each institution. The excursions were the biggest draw in considering a summer school. As a student in the United States, it is not possible to take a train up to Geneva to speak with a top researcher for the UNHCR, nor is it possible to sit in on hearings at the European Parliament. Having a judge from the ECHR as a professor made the entire experience come together.

The moot court competition was the most challenging and rewarding part of the Academy. I had never participated in a moot court before, and had only done an oral argument once as part of a writing class. My colleagues, on the other hand, were well-versed in moot court competitions, having previously competed in several international human rights moot court competitions, and even winning some of them. Having the opportunity to work alongside them, ask questions, and learn how to operate in an international courtroom was an invaluable experience. The first day of the competition, each team presented their arguments twice to a panel of five judges and the finalists were announced at dinner that evening. The last day of the Academy was the final round, where one state team and one applicant team argued and the winners were announced at the closing ceremony. I am grateful to say that because of my encouraging and helpful colleagues, my partner and I won the moot court competition.

This summer school reassured me of my passion for international human rights, provided me with unbeatable professors, and exposed me to an area of litigation I would have never seen if I had not travelled abroad. ■



The 2019 cohort of the Lucerne Academy

Legislation and International Law in Kosovo

Nicholas Weltz,
Class of 2020

I came to Pristina after meeting Vjosa Osmani in Vienna while helping the Pitt Law Vis Moot Team. Dr. Osmani is a member of the Kosovo Assembly, the head of the Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission, a Pitt Law alumnus, an international law professor, and possibly a future prime minister of Kosovo. As we had a beer in a Viennese restaurant, she invited me to come work for her in Kosovo. Thanks to the funding I received from the Pitt Law Center for International Legal Education, I was able to say yes and flew off to Pristina, Kosovo, in late May.

A guidebook I read before coming to Kosovo warned that "Pristina is not a city you fall in love with at first sight." In fact, it has been called the ugliest capital in Europe by the BBC, and even your average Pristinian won't defend its looks. Nonetheless, there's a vibrancy to the place that you notice quickly. Cafés and bars are filled at all times of the day and night. The food is both extremely cheap and delicious. The smallest pretext, such as the Independence Day of a country 4,000 miles away, the opening of an art gallery, or a documentary film festival, prompts packed street festivals, fireworks, and celebrations.

I had little idea what the job would entail. What I ended up working on was incredible. I proposed multiple resolutions relating to the possibility of Kosovo getting jurisdiction at the International Court of Justice. I researched international transitional justice and made political and legal recommendations that the Foreign Affairs Commission took into account when building a truth commission that may lead to an international criminal tribunal to punish those who committed crimes during the Kosovo War. I did research on the progress that Kosovo has made on European integration since the war. I made recommendations on a law establishing Kosovo cultural centers. And I made recommendations for approaching and interacting with International organizations and countries that have yet to recognize Kosovo as an independent state.

The contribution I made that I am most proud of is a proposal being considered by the Foreign Affairs Commission that would give Kosovo the ability to bring an action in the International Court



Nicholas Weltz in Pristina, Kosovo

of Justice despite not having UN membership. UN membership is typically a necessary first step to access the court. However, it is also possible under the ICJ Statute for a non-UN country to access the court by issuing a declaration of acceptance of the ICJ's jurisdiction. Although winning on the merits of a possible case in the ICJ would be difficult, to say the least, Kosovo would likely win on the jurisdictional issue which would still be a huge victory.

Kosovo is a small place but a fascinating one for international law. People in Kosovo understand international law better than most countries. In the grocery stores, each item has a flag next to it indicating where it came from. In the newspapers, they celebrate anniversaries of International Court of Justice decisions and discuss the procedures of international criminal courts in detail. Polls show that Kosovars have nuanced views about the importance of gaining international recognition to gain statehood. With the effects of international trade and international courts, and the intricacies of customary international law of statehood being a part of everyday life, working with international law in Kosovo was eye opening.

Thanks to funding from CILE, I was able to get hands on experience with international law and politics and expand my view of how International law can affect a country and a people. ■



Self-driving Cars and the Law

On October 9, 2018, Visiting Professor Marco Gardini delivered a presentation on “Driverless Cars and Ancient Roman Torts: Alfenus’ Mule and the Moral Machine.” Gardini is an adjunct professor of Roman law at the University of Parma in Italy. He received his law degree from the University of Parma in 1994, and his LLM degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1997. From 1998 to 2001, he worked on the research project THEMIS on Artificial Intelligence and Law. He was a visiting professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law during fall 2018 and taught the course Comparative Legal Cultures, his second stay as a visiting professor at Pitt Law (the first being in 2008). His general research interests include legal theory and artificial intelligence and law. ■



Visiting Professor Marco Gardini

Building Bonds with Our Colleagues in China

During the second week of October 2018, CILE Executive Director Richard Thorpe visited Pitt Law’s partner schools in Ningbo and Xi’an, China. Thorpe met with students and faculty at the law school of Ningbo University, where he was hosted by Professor Hugo He and several of the students who attended the inaugural 2018 U.S. Law and Legal English program. (Our story about the 2019 program can be found on page 13.) Thorpe then traveled to Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) as Pitt’s representative to NPU’s Partners Week and 50th anniversary celebration. ■



Richard Thorpe meets with prospective students in Xi’an.

Pitt Law LLMs are Finalists in National Arbitration Moot

Pitt Law sent two teams to the 2019 International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Washington D.C., held on March 28–30, 2019. The team composed of Pitt Law LLM students Andris Dimants and Dmytro Omelchak advanced through a field of 19 teams of LLM students from across the United States to make the finals. While falling in a closely fought battle with Georgetown, team member Dimants was awarded the title of best oralist. Pitt Law was nobly represented as well by the second of its two participating teams, consisting of LLM students Amer Abu-Sham, Alija Genjac, and Khawla Mraydi. The two teams were coached by CILE Executive Director Richard Thorpe. ■



LLM Moot finalists Andris Dimants and Dmytro Omelchak

Introducing Students to the Practice of Transnational Litigation

On January 16, 2019, attorneys Scott Fairley and Ruzbeh Hosseini of the Toronto, Canada, firm, Cambridge LLP, spoke on “Public Policy and Law-making for Transnational Litigation at The Hague.” Fairley and Hosseini focus their practice on public and private international law, international business and trade law, and international commercial arbitration. ■



Scott Fairley (left) and Ruzbeh Hosseini (right)



Wes Rist addresses Pitt Law students

Preparing Students for a Career in International Law

On November 1, 2018, Wes Rist (JD ’05), deputy executive director at the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and a former CILE assistant director, returned to Pitt Law to speak to students on “Pursuing a Career in International Law.” Rist is the author of ASIL’s *Careers in International Law*, a practical guide to pursuing the practice of international law. He discussed steps that students can take while still in law school to stand out in the search for an international law position. Topics covered included targeted job searching, résumé drafting, managing one’s professional contacts, identifying appropriate international experiences, and pursuing valuable volunteer and professional membership opportunities. ■

European Law and Autonomous Systems

On March 4, 2019, Professor Georg Borges, PhD, delivered a presentation on “Liability for Autonomous Systems: A European Perspective.” Dr. Borges, a professor at Saarland University, discussed whether national legal systems currently offer adequate liability rules for autonomous systems, such as self-driving cars. Dr. Borges argued that the current liability regime contains gaps with regard to damage caused by autonomous systems, and discussed potential solutions. ■

Another Strong Performance at the Jessup Moot

The Pitt Law Jessup team put in a strong showing at the 2019 Mid-Atlantic Regional rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. Pitt ranked 5th out of the 19 teams competing in the preliminary rounds, moving on to defeat Georgetown in the quarter-finals before losing in a split decision to George Washington University in the semifinals. Team member Robbie Cimmino (JD '19) was recognized as one of the top 10 oralists in the regional rounds. The other members of the team were Nicholas Bencsics, Class of 2020, Nicholas Weltz, Class of 2020, and Elizabeth Taylor (JD '19). The team was coached by LLM alumna and SJD candidate Iva Grgic and by CILE Executive Director Richard Thorpe. ■



Pictured from left to right are Jessup team members Nicholas Bencsics, Class of 2020, Nicholas Weltz, Class of 2020, Elizabeth Taylor (JD '19), coach Iva Grgic, and Robbie Cimmino (JD '19).

Health Challenges and International Law

On April 12, 2019, CILE cosponsored a workshop organized by Professor Matiangai Sirleaf on "Global Health Inequities and Infectious Diseases." The workshop featured two keynote speakers. Nahid Bhadella, medical director, Special Pathogens Unit, Boston Medical Center, and assistant professor, Boston University School of Medicine, spoke on "How We Can Leverage the Global Health Security Agenda to Combat All Neglected Infectious Diseases." Scott Burris, professor of law at Temple University Law School, spoke on "A Strategic Approach to Spreading Healthy Law." ■



Peter Trooboff presents the 26th McLean Lecture.

Peter Trooboff Delivers 26th Annual McLean Lecture on World Law

On April 1, 2019, attorney Peter Trooboff spoke on "Lessons from a Life in International Legal Practice" at this year's McLean Lecture on World Law. Trooboff's presentation was introduced by former U.S. diplomat Elizabeth Shackleford (JD '06), as well as Dean Amy Wildermuth and CILE Academic Director Ronald Brand. Trooboff is senior counsel in the Washington, D.C. office of Covington & Burling LLP, with nearly half a century of experience as an international lawyer. He has practiced in the field of international trade and investment and has advised, written about, and lectured internationally on issues relating to transnational litigation. He has helped draft U.S. legislation on international legal issues and been a member of U.S. delegations to treaty negotiations. He has served since 1991 as the American member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law, as president of the American Society of International Law, and as a member of the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of International Law*. Trooboff has assisted governments and private multinational clients with regulatory, compliance, investigation, and enforcement issues arising under U.S. foreign trade controls including those administered by the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, State, and Energy. He also has served both as arbitrator and as party counsel in international investment arbitrations. ■

International War Crimes: The Investigator's Perspective

On April 4, 2019, Pitt Law LLM student John Cencich delivered a presentation on "Investigating International War Crimes," in which he drew on his work as an investigator with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague where he led one of the largest international criminal investigations since the Second World War, resulting in an indictment of the first sitting head-of-state in history for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including persecution, extermination, murder, sexual assault, and torture. Dr. Cencich, a professor at California University of Pennsylvania, is a criminologist and criminal investigations specialist who has spent the past 17 years in academia serving as a tenured full professor, department chair, and dean. He is the architect of the first professional Doctor of Criminal Justice degree in the United States and serves as both the director of the Pennsylvania Center for Investigative and Forensic Sciences and Criminal Justice graduate programs Dr. Cencich's teaching, research, and service includes violent crime analysis, cold-case investigations, and international criminal justice. He is the author of *The Devil's Garden: A War Crimes Investigator's Story* (2013: Potomac Books, Washington, D.C.). ■



LLM student and former war crimes investigator John Cencich



Pitt Law Scores at Number 15 at the Vis Moot

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This year's Pitt Law team at the Willem Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot consisted of Paige Alderson (JD '19), Allison Bustin, Class of 2020, Audrey Cillo (JD '19), and Nadine Hafaitha (LLM '19). Hafaitha was unable to travel with her teammates to Vienna due to the Austrian government's failure to grant her a visa, but she continued to provide significant research assistance from Pittsburgh. The Pitt Law team's general round scores ranked them at number 15 out of the 373 teams in this year's competition. They advanced to the round of 64, where they fell to the University of Bielefeld, Germany. Audrey Cillo received an Honorable Mention for Best Oralist.

Pitt Law's impact on the Vis Moot extended beyond its own team. During the two days prior to the competition, Pitt Law faculty, students, and alumni worked with the Pitt consortium of Vis Moot teams established and/or trained by Pitt Law affiliates. This year, the consortium included teams from Bahrain, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Qatar, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, the UAE, and Ukraine. From that group, five teams made the round of 64 (Pitt; Zenica, Bosnia; Belgrade, Serbia; Dar Al Hekma, Saudi Arabia; and Pristina, Kosovo). This was the first year a Middle East team has made the round of 64. Zenica made it to the final four, before being defeated by Ottawa.

Five students on consortium teams received Best Oralist Honorable Mentions, and one consortium team received an Honorable Mention for the Respondent's Memo.

Janet Checkley (JD '14) and Liz Taylor (JD '19) were funded by the U.S. Commerce Department Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) to travel to Vienna to assist all of the Pitt consortium teams throughout the competition, and to administer the Pitt consortium pre-moot preceding the competition. Robbie Cimmino (JD '19), and Nick Weltz, Class of 2020 – joint degree, also traveled to Vienna to provide assistance and to arbitrate during the moot. Professor Brand was chosen by the Moot directors to present the Michael Sher Spirit of the Moot award to a team from the University of Lagos, which overcame great difficulties just getting to the moot.

Professor Emeritus Harry Flechtner sang three songs at the opening ceremonies at the Vienna Konzerthaus and received a standing ovation from a packed house. A video of his performance is available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ebKWNW4NQmqkUwopIG2tYaBB1quSc-ul/view>, and includes a new song at the 10:55 mark which he premiered with backing vocals from three Pitt Law grads [Janet Checkley (JD '14), Nika Rassidina (LLM '17), and Arnela Maglic (LLM '18).] ■



The 2019 Pitt Law Vis Moot team and coaches in Vienna, Austria (Nadine Hafaitha not pictured; see story for details)



Pictured from left to right are Harry Flechtner, Nika Rassadina, Arnela Maglic, and Janet Checkley.



Help Recruit the Pitt Law LLMs of Tomorrow

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.



Professor Brand signs the Final Act for the Hague Judgments Convention.

Completing 27 Years of Treaty Negotiations: A New Hague Judgments Convention

From June 18 through July 2, 2019, Professor Ronald A. Brand, CILE’s academic director, participated as a member of the U.S. Delegation in the Twenty-Second Diplomatic Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. The session concluded with the signing of the Final Act, which concluded the 2019 Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters. Brand has participated in the Hague negotiations on jurisdiction and judgments as a member of the U.S. delegation since 1993, including the conclusion of the 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements. He was a member of the working group that prepared the original working draft of the Hague Judgments Convention, participated in the Special Commissions leading up to the Diplomatic Session, and was a member of the Drafting Committee for the Diplomatic Session. The Final Act was signed at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, on July 2, 2019. Brand’s work on the treaty negotiations has been the focus of much of his scholarly work, including the major treatise on *The 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements*, co-authored with Paul Herrup of the U.S. Department of Justice and published by Cambridge University Press. ■

Verona-Pitt Summer School Covers Law and Technology



Nevena Jevremovic presents at the Verona Summer School.

The cooperation between CILE and the University of Verona School of Law continued in 2019 with the annual Summer School in Verona on May 30–June 1. This year, the program reflected the recent establishment of the Center of Excellence in Law, Technology, and Society at the University of Verona. The director of that center, Professor Marco Torsello, was again the program coordinator, arranging an impressive three-day program that included presentations on Artificial

Intelligence and Intellectual Property Rights; Blockchains and Smart Contracts; Big Data, Data Trading, and Data Protection; A Comparative US/EU Approach to Transnational IP Disputes; Online Dispute Resolution; Emerging Technologies and Dispute Resolution; Transnational Data Protection and the Right to be Forgotten; and A Comparative US/EU Approach to Transnational Copyright Disputes. Presenting on these topics were Professor Ronald A. Brand, University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Professor Tim W. Dornis, Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany; Nevena Jevremovic (LLM ’16), International Association for Contract and Commercial Management, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Professor Tyler Ochoa, Santa Clara University School of Law; and Professor Marco Torsello, University of Verona School of Law. Pennsylvania lawyers participating in the course were able to obtain up to 14 Continuing Legal Education credits. ■

LLMs Share Home Jurisdiction Perspectives on the Law

On April 9, 2019, CILE’s Rule of Law presentation continued a long-standing tradition in which Pitt Law LLM students talk to the Pitt Law community about the legal systems and rule of law challenges of their home countries. The LLM speakers at this session

were Andris Dimants (Latvia), who spoke on “Liability and Forum Shopping under the CMR Convention,” and Khawla Mraydi (Tunisia), who discussed “Freedom of Expression in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia.” ■

CILE Cosponsors Second U.S. Law and Legal English Program

From July 8 through August 2, 2019, CILE and Pitt’s English Language Institute welcomed 10 students from Ningbo University in China to the second summer of the Program in U.S. Law and Legal English. Program participants received intensive English language training in the morning and attended afternoon presentations on U.S. law and legal practice. In addition, they were introduced to the many attractions at

Pitt, in Pittsburgh, and around our region. Excursions and activities included a day trip to Niagara Falls, an overnight excursion to Washington, D.C., a cruise on Pittsburgh’s three rivers, and visits to a local court, a law firm, a Pirates game, Fallingwater, and much more. The program was made possible in part by start-up funds provided by the Chancellor’s Pitt Seed award program. ■



Students of the 2019 U.S. Law and Legal English Program

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Recipients for 2019–20

Allison Bustin

European Studies Center (Portuguese)

Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship Recipients

Matthew Demaio

CMS Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Alexandria K. Smith

CMS Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Nicholas C. Weltz

Parliament of Kosovo, Pristina, Kosovo

CILE Summer Fellowship Recipients

Matthew Demaio

Internship
CMS Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Rebecca Lerman

Study Abroad
Lucerne Academy for Human Rights

Rebecca Peters

Study Abroad
Lucerne Academy for Human Rights

Nicholas C. Weltz

Internship
Parliament of Kosovo, Pristina, Kosovo

LLM Class of 2019 Academic Honors

Pascal Pierre Cloppenburg

Cum Laude

Nadine Hafaiha

CALI Award (Int'l Commercial Arbitration)

Antoine Reco

Magna Cum Laude
Faculty Award for Excellence in Legal
Scholarship
CALI Award (Int'l Business Transactions)
CALI Award (Transnational Lit. in Practice)



Some members of the LLM Class of 2020 at Fallingwater

LLM Class of 2020

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

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

Nourhene Chtourou (Tunisia) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the Faculte de Droit et des Sciences Juridiques de Tunis at Carthage University in Tunis, Tunisia, in 2017, and her Master of Laws from the same university in 2019. She has worked as an intern for the Ferchiou & Associés law firm in Tunis and was admitted to the bar of Tunisia in 2018. She was a member of her university's team in the 2019 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. She is a recipient of the 2019–20 Franklin West Housing Scholarship.


Agathe Ferrari (France) received her Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws 1 degrees from the University of Paris I—Pantheon Sorbonne in 2017 and 2018 respectively, and is studying in the Sorbonne's Master of Laws program in Economic Law and the Master of Laws 2

program in Business and Tax Law. She has worked as a legal intern at the Paris Court of Appeal and in the French Ministry of Health. She was selected by the Sorbonne to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law for the 2019–20 academic year.

Fatjona Hoti-Hajdini (Kosovo) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Prishtina, Kosovo, in 2018, and an LLM from Humboldt University in 2019. During her studies in Kosovo, she received an Erasmus+ scholarship to attend a semester of classes at the Faculty of Law and Business of the University of Hogskolen Sorost in Norway. She was a member of the University of Prishtina's team at the 2018 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. She has worked as a legal assistant for the Economic Bank of Kosovo. Hoto-Hajdini is a recipient of the 2019–20 Franklin West Housing Scholarship.

Boutros Imad (Lebanon) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon, in 2019. During his studies there, he received an Erasmus scholarship to study for a semester at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. He was a member of his University's team at the 2019 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. He worked as an intern with the Parliament of Lebanon during the summer of 2018. He is the recipient of a Heinz Fellowship for the 2019–20 academic year.

Yanis Klumpp (Germany/France) received his Bachelor of Laws degree and Master of Laws 1 degree in 2019 in a joint program of the University of Cologne and the University of Paris 1/ Pantheon-Sorbonne in French and German law. He has worked as an intern in the law firms of Hertslett, Wolfer & Heintz in Paris and Osborne Clarke in Cologne. He was selected by the Sorbonne



to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law for the 2019–20 academic year.

Yaroslav Pavliuk (Ukraine) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv, in 2019. He was a member of his University's team at the 2019 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, and also competed in the ELSA WTO Law Competition and the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. He has worked as a summer associate for the AVELLUM law firm in Kyiv, and as an intern with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Parliament of Ukraine.

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

Andreas Schnell (Germany) is a student in the Faculty of Law of the University of Augsburg, Germany. He has worked as an intern with the Augsburg Administrative Court, and as a volunteer tutor for young refugees with Diakonisches Werk Augsburg. He was selected by the University of Augsburg to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law for the 2019–20 academic year.

Yara Zarir (Palestine) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Birzeit University of Ramallah, Palestine, in 2018. She competed in the Nuremberg International Law Moot Court Competition in 2018–19, and in the Philip Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in 2017–18. She has worked in the Institute of Law at Birzeit University, participating in research on the judicial sector in Palestine. Ms. Zarir is a recipient of an Open Society Foundation Palestinian Rule of Law fellowship for the 2019–20 academic year. ■

Class of 2019, December Graduate

John Cencich (United States) received his Master of Laws degree from Kent Law School in Canterbury, England, in 2002, and a Doctor of Juridical Sciences degree in international human rights law from the University of Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, Indiana, in 2008. He is a professor

of criminology at California University of Pennsylvania, and previously worked as an international war crimes investigator for the UN Office of the Prosecutor in The Hague, Netherlands. He also has worked as a special agent for the Commonwealth of Virginia. His publications include his book *The Devil's Garden: A War Crime Investigator's Story*. ■

SJD Students, 2019–20

New SJD Student

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

Continuing SJD Students

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

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

Iva Grgic (Croatia) is writing her dissertation on the law of contract farming. Her dissertation advisor is Professor Ronald Brand. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, in 2013, and her LLM degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2014. Before returning to Pitt Law, she worked in

Zagreb as an associate with Bardek, Lisac, Mušec, Skoko in cooperation with CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz. Her work experience includes a post-LLM degree internship with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, and internships with Law Office Lipovscaj and with Wolf Theiss, both in Zagreb. She was the coach of Pitt Law's 2015 Jessup Moot team, which won first place honors for its memorial submissions, as well as the 2019 Jessup Moot team (see story on page 11).

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

Vincent Mutai (Kenya) is writing his dissertation on the law of parallel importation of pharmaceutical products into the East Africa Community Common Market. His dissertation advisor is Professor Ronald Brand. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, in 2000; his LLM from Pitt Law in 2003; and an MBA from Point Park University in Pittsburgh in 2006. He has been the head of the Department of Commercial Law at Moi University School of Law, acting university/corporation secretary for Moi University, and is a founding director of the Legal Aid Clinic of Eldoret (LACE) and director of the National Legal Aid Service of Kenya.

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

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. Her dissertation advisor is Professor Douglas Branson. She received her master's degree in international economic law from the University of Paris I-Panthéon/Sorbonne in 1999, and her LL.M. from Boston University in 2003. She has worked as a legal analyst with JPMorgan Chase in New York, N.Y., and has also worked in legal, due diligence, and compliance positions with Sullivan & Cromwell, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, and others. ■

Visiting Scholars, 2019-20

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

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

Faezeh Manteghi (Iran) is a PhD candidate in Criminal Law and Criminology at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the University of Tehran, Iran. Her research focuses on the role of Islamist groups in the codification of criminal law in Muslim-majority countries. She received her Bachelor of Laws and her Master of Criminal Law and Criminology degrees from the University of Tehran in 2012 and 2014 respectively. She will be in residence with CILE from through February 2020.

Guansheng Yang (China) is a doctoral candidate at the China University of Political Science & Law in Beijing, China. His research will focus on the enforcement of international mediated settlement agreements. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the Southwest University of Political Science & Law in Chongqing, China,

and his Master of Laws degree from Sun Yat-sen University School of Law in Guangzhou, China, in 2017. He will be in residence with CILE through October 2019. ■

International Law Society Officers 2019-20

President: Nick Weltz

Vice President: Leanne Winkels

Business Manager: Luke Lockhart

Secretary & Archivist: Ashley Rundell & Nadia Brooks

International Engagement Coordinator: Chris Anderson

Moot Court Coordinator: Brittany De Hoyos

Programming Directors: Alexandria Smith & Kayla Minor

LLM Community Coordinator: Austin Koltonowski

Student Activities

Amer Abu-Sham (LLM '19) was a member of one of Pitt Law's two teams at the 2019 International Commercial Arbitration Moot at American University in Washington, D.C.

Paige Alderson (JD '19) was a member of the Pitt Law team for the 2019 Willem Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Christopher Anderson, Class of 2020, studied at the University of Paris I/Panthéon-Sorbonne for the 2018-19 academic year as a participant in the exchange program between Pitt Law and Paris I.

Nicholas Bencsics, Class of 2020, was a member of the Pitt Law team in the 2019 Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition.

Allison Bustin, Class of 2020, was a member of the Pitt Law team for the 2019 Willem Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. She was awarded a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship by Pitt's European Studies Center for the 2019-20 academic year in order to study Portuguese.

Audrey Cillo (JD '19) was a member of the Pitt Law team for the 2019 Willem Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Robbie Cimmino (JD '19) was a member of the Pitt Law team in the 2019 Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition

and received an Honorable Mention as an oralist in the Mid-Atlantic Regional rounds. In spring 2019, he assisted in the pre-moot held in Vienna for teams from schools in the Pitt Consortium.

Matthew DeMaio, Class of 2020, worked as an intern at CMS Zagreb in Zagreb, Croatia, with his internship financed in part by a Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship and a CILE scholarship.

Andris Dimants (LLM '19) was a member of one of Pitt Law's teams at the 2019 International Commercial Arbitration Moot at American University in Washington, D.C., where he and teammate Dmytro Omelchak advanced to the final round. Dimants was awarded Best Oralist for his performance in the competition.

Alija Genjac (LLM '19) was a member of one of Pitt Law's two teams at the 2019 International Commercial Arbitration Moot at American University in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Lerman, Class of 2021, studied at the Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation in Switzerland during the summer of 2019, with support from a CILE scholarship.

Khawla Mraydi (LLM '19) was a member of one of Pitt Law's two teams at the 2019 International Commercial Arbitration Moot at American University in Washington, D.C.

Dmytro Omelchak (LLM '19) was a member of one of Pitt Law's teams at the 2019 International Commercial Arbitration Moot at American University in Washington, D.C., where he and teammate Andris Dimants advanced to the final round.

Rebecca Peters, Class of 2021, studied at the Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation in Switzerland during the summer of 2019, with support from a CILE scholarship.

Alexandria Smith, Class of 2021, worked during the summer of 2019 as an intern at CMS Zagreb in Croatia, with her internship financed in part by a Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship.

Elizabeth Taylor (JD '19) was a member of the Pitt Law team in the 2019 Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition.

Nicolas Weltz, Class of 2020, was a member of the Pitt Law team in the 2019 Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition. In spring 2019, he assisted in the pre-moot held in Vienna for teams from schools in the Pitt consortium. During the summer of 2019, he worked as an intern at the Parliament of Kosovo for Dr. Vjosa Osmani, a member of the legislature and an alumna of both the LL.M. and SJD programs at Pitt Law. His internship was supported in part by a Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship and a CILE scholarship. ■

Alumni Ambassadors Recruit the Next Generation of Pitt Law LLMs


During the past academic year, our alumni in Tirana, Sarajevo, and Kyiv made presentations and attended recruitment fairs on behalf of Pitt Law and CILE, sharing their experiences in Pittsburgh with prospective LLM applicants. Fahira Brodlija met with prospective students in Sarajevo; Artem Hrystak, Marta Shchavurska, and Yevhenii Shatskyi represented Pitt Law at a Kyiv alumni fair sponsored by EducationUSA; and Jari Taho presented the Pitt Law LLM program to students in Tirana, Albania. If you are a Pitt Law alum working or studying abroad, please contact CILE to learn how you can help us locate and recruit the LLM classes of tomorrow.

Gustavo Arrobo (LLM '16) was recognized for a second year in a row as a Legal 500 Next Generation Lawyer in Energy and Natural Resources. In addition to his legal practice at Gonzalez Penaherrera & Asociados, he is a professor at the Universidad de las Américas.

Ines Heuchert (néé Litzenberger) (LLM '06) is senior counsel—antitrust advisory at Daimler AG in Stuttgart, Germany.

Alison Sacriponte (JD '15) is legal counsel at Team CMP in Barcelona, Spain.

Stephan Tan (JD '96) retired from K&L Gates, and joined the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, as a Visiting Fellow of Foreign Policy.



BECOME AN LLM INTERNSHIP SPONSOR

If your law firm or organization would be interested in hosting a Pitt Law LLM as an intern, please contact CILE by e-mail at cile@pitt.edu or by phone at 412-648-7023 for more information. ■



Oday Mahmood Joins Our SJD Alumni

Oday Mahmood (Iraq) successfully defended his dissertation in May 2019, becoming the ninth graduate of the Pitt Law Doctor of Juridical Sciences (SJD) program. His dissertation is titled "The Basis for Judicial Review in the Federal Supreme Court in Iraq: Mediating Between Democracy and Human Rights Through Islam's Settled Rulings." Dr. Mahmood's dissertation advisor was Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi, and the other members of his committee were Professor Jesse A. Allen of the School of Law and Professor Jeanette Jouili of Pitt's Department of Religious Studies. ■

Faculty International and Comparative Law Publications

Ronald A. Brand, *INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS FUNDAMENTALS* (2d ed., Wolters Kluwer 2019), and *INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS FUNDAMENTALS - DOCUMENTS* (2d ed., Wolters Kluwer 2019)

Ronald A. Brand, *Recognition of Foreign Judgments in China: The Liu Case and the "Belt and Road" Initiative*, 37 *JOURNAL OF LAW AND COMMERCE* 29 (2018)

Ronald A. Brand, *Teaching Arbitration*, *CAMBRIDGE COMPENDIUM OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT ARBITRATION* (Andrea Bjorkland, Franco Ferrari, and Stefan Kröll, Editors, 2019)

Ronald A. Brand, *Enforcement of Foreign Money Judgments in the United States: In Search of Uniformity and International Acceptance*, in *RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN JUDGMENTS*, chapter 5 (Linda J. Silberman and Franco Ferrari, eds., Edward Elgar Publishing 2017) (reprinted from the *Notre Dame Law Review*)

Pat Chew, *A Case of Motivated Cultural Cognition: China's Normative Arbitration of International Business Disputes*, 51 *THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER* 469 (2018)

Vivian Curran, *U.S. Discovery in a Transnational and Digital Age and the Increasing Need for Comparative Analysis*, 51 *AKRON LAW REVIEW* 857 (2017)

Vivian Curran, *The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act's Evolving Genocide Exception*, 23 *UCLA J. OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & FOREIGN AFFAIRS* (2019).

Peter B. Oh (with Alan Dignam), *Disregarding the Salomon Principle: An Empirical Analysis, 1885-2014*, 39 *OXFORD J. LEGAL STUD.* 16 (2019).

Matiangai Sirleaf, *Responsibility for Epidemics*, 97 *TEXAS LAW REVIEW* __ (2018).

FACULTY ACTIVITIES



Professor Jessie

Allen presented her paper, "Performing Justice," at Melbourne Law School's Institute for International Law and Humanities (ILAH) in Melbourne, Australia, on

September 19, 2018. She then delivered her paper, "Skeptical Sorcery," at an international interdisciplinary conference held at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia, on September 21-22, 2018. The conference, "After the Rule: Interpretation in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspective," explored "alternative ways of dwelling with law," drawing on, among other things, religious, anthropological, and economic perspectives.



Professor Kevin Ashley

presented at the Technical University of Munich Department of Informatics an invited talk, "Semantic Analysis of Legal Texts: Challenges and Opportuni-

ties." He also gave two invited talks at the Doctoral Research Group in "Digital Law" at the University of Heidelberg Faculty of Law and the University of Ulm: "Modeling Case-Based Legal Reasoning," at Ulm and, "Artificial Intelligence and Legal Practice," at Heidelberg. He delivered an invited talk on "Legal Liability of Autonomous Systems and Implications for Norms-based Systems: An Overview" at the Dagstuhl Seminar on Normative Multi-Agent Systems, and a keynote address entitled, "Applying Text Analytics in the Legal Domain: Possibilities and Problems," at the Conference on Legal Aspects of Data Science, Tilburg University in the Netherlands. Finally, at the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, Ashley presented a talk on, "Legal Text Analytics or How Law Meets AI; Opportunities and Challenges."

Ashley presented research seminars and invited talks at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology including, "Computationally Modeling Case-Based Legal Reasoning," at the Institute of Theoretical Informatics and, "Argumentation with Value Judgments; An Example of Hypothetical Reasoning," and, "Introducing Legal Hypotheses and Hypothetical Reasoning," at the Institute of Philosophy with support from the German Academic Exchange Service. He presented an invited talk entitled, "Legal Text Analytics: Opportunities and Challenges, Where Law and AI Meet," at the Second International Congress of Law, Government & Technology, organized by University of Brasilia, and an expanded version of this talk at the Faculty of Law of the University of Sao Paulo in late September 2018.



Professor Elena Baylis

presented her work-in-progress, "Pluralist Hybrid Courts," at an International Law Colloquium at St. John's University School of Law on October 24, 2018.

This paper will be published as a chapter in the Oxford Research Handbook on Global Legal Pluralism (Paul Schiff Berman, ed., Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2018). Baylis spoke at the 70th Anniversary Celebration Symposium on the Role and Contribution of the International Law Commission to the Development of International Law, which was held at Florida International University College of Law on October 26-27, 2018. Baylis participated in a panel concerning the ILC's future role and the changing landscape of international law.



Professor Ronald A.

Brand spoke on a panel discussing Anticipatory Measures, Pre-Award, and Pre-Judgment Strategies at the Second Annual Enforcement of Arbitration

Awards Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands on September 21, 2018. He covered anticipatory measures under U.S. law in support of arbitration. Other members of the panel spoke on the law of the U.K., the Netherlands, and Switzerland. The program was organized by Juris Conferences LLC, Omni Bridgeway, Baker McKenzie, and Skadden.

Brand led a three-day training session for professors and coaches of Vis International Arbitration Moot teams from law schools from throughout the Middle East on October 25-27. The program was held at the Carthage University Faculty of Legal, Political, and Social Sciences of Tunis. Professors and coaches attending were from law schools from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia. Pitt Law alumna Janet Checkley, '14, and Pitt Law 3L student, Elizabeth Taylor assisted Brand in the training sessions.

Brand moderated and spoke on a panel on "Private International Law Matters" at the Annual International Law Weekend held in New York City and sponsored by the American Branch of the International Law Association on October 19, 2018. Brand also served as a Member of the ABILA Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting.

Brand spoke on "New Challenges in the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments" at the November 15, 2018, symposium on The Continuing Relevance of Private International Law and Its Challenges at the New York University School of Law Center

for Transnational Litigation, Arbitration, and Commercial Law. The papers from the program will be published in a book by the same name with Franco Ferrari and Diego Fernandez Arroyo as editors.

Brand presented a January 2019 training session for students and lawyers on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods at the Center for International Commercial Dispute Resolution (CICDR) of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, in Beirut, Lebanon. Brand also served on a panel on the development of centers at law schools. Both presentations were part of the inauguration of CICDR. In February 2019, Brand spoke at a Roundtable on Advocacy in Civil and Common Law Systems as part of the ICC-YAF conference, "Nuts and Bolts of International Arbitration: Advocacy in International Arbitration," in Jounieh, Lebanon.

Brand was a Center for Transnational Litigation, Arbitration and Commercial Law Scholar-in-Residence at NYU Law School during the month of February 2019. On February 25, he spoke at NYU on "The Draft Hague Convention on the recognition and enforcement of judgments: Light at the End of the Tunnel?," with Mr. David Goddard, Chair of the Diplomatic Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

In March 2019, Brand helped coordinate and spoke at the 1st Annual Research Symposium on International Commercial Arbitration at the Royal University for Women in Bahrain. Brand spoke on "Understanding Forum Differences for International Commercial Dispute Resolution." During this stay in Bahrain, Brand also led three days of student training, an Arbitrators' Roundtable, and the 8th Annual Middle East Vis International Arbitration Pre-Moot. Assisting Brand in training were Janet Checkley, '14, and Elizabeth Taylor (Class of 2019). The Pre-Moot included 17 teams from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Tunis, and the United Arab Emirates. Noora Al-Shamlin, '08, (LLM) was a Pre-Moot arbitrator. Brand was an arbitrator in the final round, for which the winning team received the Ronald A. Brand award (a designation given to the award by CLDP).

Brand served as the organizer and a panelist at the CILE Conference on "The CISG at Middle Age," held at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on March 22-23, 2019. The Conference brought together 22 CISG experts from throughout the world, including 8 Pitt Law graduates. Brand spoke on "The CISG: Applicable Law and Applicable Forums."

Brand served as the Center for International Legal Education (CILE) co-director of

the Summer School in Transnational Commercial Law & Technology at the University of Verona School of Law in Verona, Italy, on May 30-June 1, 2019. Brand also lectured on Online Dispute Resolution in the program. The Summer School was jointly sponsored by the University of Verona and CILE.

Over the past year, Brand was elected a member of the International Association of Procedural Law, was named a Member of the Editorial Board of *Naukovi Zapyski*, the *Law Review of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*, Kyiv, Ukraine, and was named a Member of the Advisory Board for the Center for International Commercial Dispute Resolution at Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Beirut, Lebanon.



Professor Pat Chew

had two recent articles, including her most recent from the *International Lawyer*, featured by the *ABA Journal* on Dispute Resolution in its Research

Highlights column.



Professor Vivian Curran

organized, introduced, and chaired a session, “Remembering Patrick Glenn,” at the 20th annual Congress of the International Academy of

Comparative Law in July in Fukuoka, Japan, to commemorate both the life and work of Glenn, one of the great comparatists of the 20th century. Curran edited a special issue of the *American Journal of Comparative Law* with her colleague, Franklin A. Gevurtz, which has been published at volume 66. The complete *AJCL* supplement issue containing the American reports to the Fukuoka Congress is available online at https://academic.oup.com/ajcl/issue/66/suppl_1.

Curran gave a presentation on “A Critique of Comparative Law” at the Sixth Annual roundtable of Comparative Constitutional Law, Montpelier, VA, on October 7-8, 2018. She also spoke about being a Privileged Insider/Outsider in Comparative Law at Washington and Lee Law School, Lexington, VA.

Curran spoke about “Competing European Narratives of the Past and Governance Issues of the Present,” at a symposium on Comparative Governance in Europe at the University of Pittsburgh to honor retiring Professor Alberta Sbragia on November 9, 2018. She also chaired a session on “Comparative Federalism” at the same symposium.

Curran was elected to a six-year term as a Vice-President of the International Academy of Comparative Law. She also

was elected to a two-year term as Honorary President of the American Society of Comparative Law. She also joined the Sorbonne as a foreign correspondent of UMR 8103 Institut des Sciences Juridique et Philosophique de la Sorbonne and as a member of its Legal and Philosophical Sciences Institute’s Center of Comparative Law and Internationalization of Law.



Professor Josh Galperin

delivered an invited talk entitled, “Why Food Law?” on food law and policy to an interdisciplinary symposium hosted by the University of Sao Paulo on

June 12-13, 2018. Galperin was appointed as an associate editor of the *British Ecological Society’s* interdisciplinary journal *People and Nature*, becoming the first and only law professor or lawyer as an editor of the journal. On February 27, 2019, Galperin presented his paper “Policy Hypocrisy and Value Sincerity: A Food Law Case Study” in Singapore to the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore and the Asia Pacific Center for Environmental Law.



Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi

spoke at the Villanova Law Review’s Norman J. Shachoy Symposium in February 2019, on the resonances between the conception of

law contained in the shari’a and the rabbinic idea of law expressed in halakhah. His talk explored the resulting comparable tensions between state law on the one hand, and religious law, on the other, in both the Islamic and Jewish legal traditions.

Hamoudi was quoted in an article in the *Houston Chronicle* about the limited availability of lawyers with expertise on how to draft Islamic wills. He pointed to a variety of obstacles, including anti-shari’a legislation, suspicion of Muslims and Islamic law, limited understanding of the importance of the process among the lay Muslim community, and a lack of focus on the subject within the bar. Hamoudi concluded, “Ultimately this is going to be a niche business, and we should have a broader set of Muslim and non-Muslim lawyers familiar with it.”



Professor Michael Madison

spoke on “Governing University Knowledge Commons” at the University of Haifa Faculty of Law’s Center for Cyber Law and Policy in

Haifa, Israel on May 17.



Professor Matiangai Sirleaf

presented her draft, “Responsibility for Combating Highly-Infectious Diseases,” as part of a panel focusing on Globalization and International Justice, at the

Third World Approaches to International Law Conference held at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law on July 19-21, 2018. Sirleaf presented her emerging idea, “Disposable Bodies of Color: Experimental Trials & the Racial Economy of Treatment,” at the University of Colorado Law School before a workshop on International Law & Racial Justice held on August 3-4, 2018.

Sirleaf presented her draft, “Responsibility for Combating Highly-Infectious Diseases,” at the 12th Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop & Writing Retreat in July 2018. Her paper was selected for an intensive session and was paired with an editor from the *Yale Law Journal*.

Sirleaf gave a keynote speech at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, on September 21, 2018. The conference was entitled, “20 Years Since the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: The Status of International Rule of Law, and Access to International Criminal Justice in Africa.” Sirleaf spoke on Regionalizing International Criminal Justice.

Sirleaf was invited to participate in a closed workshop at UCLA in March 2019 with 46 scholars to dialogue on issues of shared concern under the theme Race, Empire and International Law. The workshop brought together scholars in the areas of Third World approaches to international law and Critical Race Theory. Sirleaf also was invited to participate as a plenary panelist at UCLA’s Critical Perspectives on Race and Human Rights: Transnational Re-Imaginations in March 2019. She spoke as part of a panel on Race, Socio-Economic Inequality, and Human Rights.

Sirleaf was awarded the Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Award for 2019 by the University of Pittsburgh. This award annually recognizes outstanding scholarly accomplishments of faculty. Junior Scholar Awardees include faculty members who, by virtue of the exceptional quality of their early contributions, have demonstrated great potential as scholars and have achieved some international standing. ■



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