From the Director

By Professor Ronald A. Brand

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg
University Professor

As we enter CILE’s 20th year, we welcome another stellar group of LLM, SJD, and JD students to our programs and look forward to celebrating the completion of those 20 years in the fall of 2015. We also pause to look back, not only on the past year, but on the longer term success of a number of CILE programs. The feature article that follows reviews 15 years of CILE use of the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot as a platform for international legal education and development. We hope you will take the time to read it and reflect with us on the many countries, law schools, and students who have shared that experience with us; and to consider how the progress of that platform might be brought to bear on even more beneficial developments in the future.

Beyond the Vis Moot experience, we share updates on our partnerships around the globe, with special emphasis on what the past year has brought in our cooperation with Moi University School of Law in Eldoret, Kenya. All of these projects have brought opportunities for our students, and we invite you to consider their stories, in their words, which are included in this issue of CILE Notes.

On the back cover, you will note that we also look forward to providing an online version of our LLM program beginning in fall 2015. We already have completed much of the work for the online courses and are excited about this natural extension of CILE into the broader realm of legal education.

In December of 2013, we welcomed Brian Fraile (JD ’13) to the CILE staff as assistant director. Brian worked with CILE extensively as a student, including in Vis Moot training in Istanbul, Turkey, and Abu Dhabi, UAE, and spent fall 2013 teaching at Moi University School of Law as part of our partnership there. While a recent grad, he brings a wealth of experience and skills that have already provided significant benefits to our students.

The Vis Moot as a Platform and a Process for CILE Expansion of International Legal Education

A 1999 Center for International Legal Education (CILE) partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) resulted in a U.S. State Department grant-funded process that has developed into a unique CILE program of legal education. Fifteen years later, a process that began in Donetsk, Ukraine, has touched law students, professors, judges, and practicing lawyers in nearly 20 countries, and continues to grow.

The relationship created in 1999 with Ukraine’s Donetsk National University (DNU) Faculty of Law included training DNU professors and students for the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. The 21st Vis Moot, held in Vienna, Austria, in April 2014, brought together student teams from nearly 300 law schools from more than 70 countries to present written and oral arguments in a commercial dispute that involved the application of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) and the law of international arbitration.

At the 2014 Vis Moot, CILE hosted students and faculty from 17 Vis teams who engaged in friendly practice arguments prior to the moot and gathered for a Pitt Consortium dinner during the competition. That dinner brought together teams from Bahrain, Croatia, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Oman, the Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, and more.

A 2015 feature article on the development of Vis Moot and its impact on international legal education will open the next issue of CILE Notes.

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and Pittsburgh. All of those teams had, in some way, benefited from the CILE process of using the Vis Moot as a platform for international legal education. As Dr. Stefan Kroell, a director of the Moot and professor at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany, stated at this year’s Vis Moot opening ceremonies in the Vienna Konzerthaus, professors Ronald Brand and Harry Flechtner, working through CILE, have "brought more teams to the moot than anyone else... teaching worldwide and supporting teams worldwide" to advance the "moot spirit.”

CILE and Pitt Law were uniquely positioned when this process began in 1999 to use the Vis Moot as a legal education platform. Professor Flechtner is the leading U.S. scholar on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), having now edited the third and fourth editions of Uniform Law for International Sales under the 1980 United Nations Convention, originally authored by Professor John Honnold. Pitt Law’s Journal of Law and Commerce has regularly been one of the premier sources of scholarship and case law translations dealing with the CISG. Pitt Law and CILE have hosted important international conferences on the CISG since 1987. And, the CILE Studies series, published by Oxford University Press, has included important volumes on the CISG.

When CILE included the Vis Moot as part of the original grant activities with DNU, it resulted in one of the first Ukrainian teams in the competition in 2001. When additional U.S. State Department grants funded cooperation with the University of Belgrade, Serbia; Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, Ukraine; and the University of Pristina, Kosovo; CILE created Vis Moot teams at each of these schools as well. From two Pitt Consortium teams in 2001, to three in 2002, to 17 in 2014, CILE has continued to establish Vis Moot teams and work with law faculties to make the teams self-sustaining, resulting in long-term programs, long-term relationships, and long-term benefits.

Perhaps the best example of how the Vis Moot has provided a platform for growth and development at a single law school is found at the University of Belgrade. Professors Milena Djordjevic and Vladimir Pavić have coached some of the most successful Vis Moot teams. The students from those teams are now regularly the first graduates recruited by the major law firms in Belgrade. What is most impressive is that the University of Belgrade has become the home of a highly regarded arbitration conference and Vis pre-moot, which each year draws to Belgrade accomplished international scholars and arbitrators, as well as teams from more than 50 schools, who are on their way to Vienna.

The process CILE began with State Department support in Ukraine, Serbia, and Kosovo has now been extended in cooperation with the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. After a trip through the Gulf Region with CLDP staff in 2005, Professor Brand recommended using the Vis Moot to develop commercial law and arbitration expertise throughout the Middle East. This resulted in a CLDP contract with CILE to train a team from the University of Bahrain for the 2008 Vis Moot. This was followed with Sultan Qaboos University in Oman (2009), UAE University in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates (2010), the University of Qatar, in Doha (2011), and the Universities of Baghdad and Jordan (2012).

When critical mass was reached, CLDP and CILE partnered with the Bahrain Chamber of Dispute Resolution (BCDR) to hold the first Middle East Vis Pre-Moot in 2011. Originally scheduled for Manama, Bahrain, the event was moved to Vienna because of the events of the Arab Spring. Subsequent Middle East Pre-Moots have been held in Muscat, Oman; Abu Dhabi, UAE; and Doha, Qatar. The Pre-Moots have drawn together law schools from the Gulf Region to prepare their Vis Moot teams for the competition in Vienna, as well as to cooperate in curriculum development and outreach to the practicing bar. In 2014, the Pre-Moot included teams from Kabul University in Afghanistan, the University of Alexandria in Egypt, Al-Azriya University in Iraq, Kuwait University, the University of Qatar, Dar-Al-Hekma University in Saudi Arabia, and the Faculty of Legal, Political, and Social Sciences of Tunis, Tunisia. Each of these teams were joined in Vienna by teams from Birkritt University in the Palestinian Territories, the University of Jordan, and UAE University.

In 2014, Vis Moot teams from Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Palestinian Territories participated in the Vis competition. CLDP and CILE supported formation of the Afghan and Iraqi teams, with Pitt Law LLM graduates, Moein Odeh (LLM, 13) organizing and coaching the team from Birkritt University.

The Vis Moot platform, and the process developed by CILE to use that platform as a foundation for multiple legal education purposes, has added to the education of hundreds of students in more than 20 countries, resulted in curricular changes in transition country law schools, created a cadre of talented and well-trained arbitration lawyers throughout the Balkans and the Middle East, created new partnerships in legal education, and—most recently—began to influence the way judges and arbitrators in countries perceive international arbitration awards and the treaty obligation to recognize and enforce them.

Professor Brand will once again work with CLDP in training sessions held at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan, in October 2014 and February 2015. Mais Abousy, an attorney-advisor at CLDP who has taken on the CLDP responsibilities in the Middle East and oversees its growth to inclusion of the four annual Pre-Moots, has asked CILE and Professor Brand to help add a new dimension to the program. Following the initial fall training session for student teams, a two-day program will be held for Jordanian lawyers, law professors, and judges, at which they will be introduced to the Vis Moot process. This will prepare them to Pre-Moot arbitrators in February and train them to better use international arbitration in practice. Through this process, Jordanian judges should better understand and trust the international arbitration awards that they may be obligated to recognize and enforce under the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. One element of CILE’s work with transition country faculty and students on the Vis Moot is from Professor Brand’s perspective, the most important. Since 2007, Pitt Law students who have competed in the Vis Moot during the second year of their JD studies, have traveled and worked with him to train Middle East teams during their 3L years. While the Vis Moot is an incredible learning experience, and takes students far beyond what their non-moot counterparts experience in legal education, the opportunity to teach international commercial law, international arbitration, and legal writing and oral advocacy skills to students in other cultures takes Pitt Law students even further in their professional development.
Vis Moot teams
Kristine (Long) Carpenter (JD '11), UAE 2009–10: Mosimann (JD '09), and Katerina Elizabeth Hinkle (JD '09), Esther Oman 2008–09: Ossenova (JD '08) Kate Drabecki (JD '08) and Katerina CLDP include:

Istanbul, Turkey, October 2012

Doha 2013–14: Brian Fraile (JD '13), and Amelia Brett (JD '13), Eryn Correa

Istanbul/Abu Dhabi: 2012–13: Kaitlin (Young) Dewberry (JD '12), Mathias (JD '11)

Istanbul 2011–12: Richard Kyle (JD '11), and Amelia Smith (JD '14)

Istanbul/Abu Dhabi 2012–13: Amelia Brett (JD '13), Eryn Correa (JD '13), and Brian Fraile (JD '13)

Doha 2013–14: Janet Checkley (JD '14) and Krysta Smith (JD '14)

This process continues as well in 2014–15, with Janet Checkley (JD '14) scheduled to travel with Professor Brand to Amman, Jordan. The process will come full circle when, also in October 2014, Robert Gynnes (Class of 2015) and Mary Kate Shawley (Class of 2015) will join Katerina Ossenova (JD ’08), who is now an attorney-advisor at CLDP, to help train students from law schools throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

Pitt Law students also have benefitted from two courses that have resulted from CILE’s use of the Vis Moot as a platform for legal education. In 2010, Pitt Law partnered with the University of Zagreb in Croatia and Tozio Law Center in New York to create the Institute in International Commercial Law and Dispute Resolution, a four-week summer study program that takes place in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia. Students may earn both U.S. and European law school credit in the four-week program that begins with a week of basic international business transactions, follows with a week of international commercial law and a week of international arbitration, and ends with a week of hands-on simulation of an international commercial arbitration in which students present both written and oral submissions on behalf of their clients. The program is, effectively, a Vis Moot “boot camp,” and many students have gone on from the institute to be members of their law school Vis Moot teams. Students have attended from throughout the United States, as well as from other countries, including Australia, Bosnia, Brazil, Croatia, Guatemala, Italy, Kosovo, Oman, and Russia. The institute has presented a very special opportunity to engage in rigorous legal education in a location as pleasant and as beautiful as the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, proving one of CILE’s basic principles: that great thinking, with great people, in a great location, produces great results.

The second course that has resulted from CILE’s Vis Moot focus is in its second offering during the fall of 2014. When Ms. Abousy from CLDP, and Dr. Salih Saleh Alhashim, the Director General of Scholarships for the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education, suggested to Professor Brand in spring 2014 that the Ministry send former Iraqi Vis Moot students to Pitt Law for LLM and SJD degrees, they also discussed having those students return to teach international arbitration in Iraqi law schools. Professor Brand realized that this process required a special course in international arbitration. Thus, in fall 2014, the International Commercial Arbitration course at Pitt Law includes three categories of students. 1) Pitt JD students who have not participated in the Vis Moot will use the course to prepare for a competition for the 2015 Vis Moot team. Professors Brand and Flechtner will participate in preparing the students, using the 2015 Moot problem as a core element of the course, with every student preparing written memoranda and engaging in oral argument. 2) Pitt JD students who have had this experience in CILE’s cooperation with CLDP include:

Bahrain 2007-08: Kate Drabecki (JD ‘08) and Katerina Ossenova (JD ‘08)

Oman 2008–09: Elizabeth Hinkle (JD ’09), Esther Mosimann (JD ’09), and Katerina Ossenova (JD ‘08)

UAE 2009–10: Marc Coda (JD ’10), Rick Grubb (JD ’10), and Kerry Ann Stare (JD ’10)

Qatar 2010-11: Kristine (Long) Carpenter (JD ‘11), Richard Kyle (JD ‘11), and Amelia Mathias (JD ‘11)

Istanbul 2011–12: Katiein (Young) Dewberry (JD ’12), Kimberly (Stains) Kurt (JD ’12), and Sarah (Miley) Mueller (JD ’12)

Istanbul/Abu Dhabi 2012–13: Amelia Brett (JD ’13), Eryn Correa (JD ’13), and Brian Fraile (JD ’13)

Doha 2013–14: Janet Checkley (JD ’14) and Krysta Smith (JD ’14)

Finally, foreign LLM students (including the Iraqi students) who have participated in the Vis Moot while studying in their home countries will both help train other students and use the course to prepare for a full circle when, also in October 2014, Robert Gynnes (Class of 2015) and Mary Kate Shawley (Class of 2015) will join Katerina Ossenova (JD ’08), who is now an attorney-advisor at CLDP, to help train students from law schools throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

The Vis Moot as a Platform and a Process for CILE Expansion of International Legal Education

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CILE extends cooperative relationships in Iraq, Italy, and Kenya.

CILE has continued to expand its network of partnerships with foreign institutions and governments. During the 2013-14 academic year, CILE signed new agreements with Moi University School of Law, the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Cultural Development, and the University of Verona.

The December 2013 Moi-Pitt agreement builds on nearly 15 years of cooperation between the universities. Pitt provides assistance in the delivery of 600 computer tablets to Moi University first-year students in Kenya during the 2013-14 academic year. CILE formalized its pre-existing cooperation with the University of Verona Faculty of Law. This agreement forms the foundation for continued cooperation with the University of Verona, which includes the 2013 Verona Summer School in International Commercial Contracts, which was formally held in Ravenna, Italy, in cooperation with the University of Bologna. The summer school, organized by Verona Professor Marco Torsello, is for practicing lawyers and offers Pennsylvania lawyers the opportunity to earn two years of continuing legal education (CLE) credit in a single week—in a wonderful location.

Expanding the Pitt-Moi Partnership: Assisting Moi Students and Providing a Platform for Research on Legal Education

At Moi University School of Law in Eldoret, Kenya, located 300 kilometers north of Nairobi, the new law school is relatively small and students cannot afford to purchase books that would allow them to read material before class. In 2013-14, CILE assisted in the delivery of 600 computer tablets to Moi University School of Law, so that two first-year courses—Torts and Contracts—might involve material loaded onto the tablets, allowing students to prepare before class. The tablets were purchased at a special rate from Surtab, a Haitian manufacturer established by Pitt alum Ronald Brand and then considered and approved by the MUSOL Board. It involved the development of materials for two selected courses, Torts and Contracts, that would then be uploaded on the tablets for use by students. The tablets would continue to be used in first-year law courses, and also will be used to facilitate path-breaking research in legal education by Pitt Law’s Professor Kevin Ashley.

In early summer 2014, CILE also formalized its pre-existing cooperation with the University of Verona Faculty of Law. This agreement forms the foundation for continued cooperation with the University of Verona, which includes the 2013-14 Verona Summer School in International Commercial Contracts, which was formally held in Ravenna, Italy, in cooperation with the University of Bologna. The summer school, organized by Verona Professor Marco Torsello, is for practicing lawyers and offers Pennsylvania lawyers the opportunity to earn two years of continuing legal education (CLE) credit in a single week—in a wonderful location.

No Books? No Problem: Teaching with Tablets in Kenya

By Maurice Oduor, (LLM ’04)

Last year, the Moi University School of Law (MUSOL) embarked on a unique model of pedagogy in the training of future lawyers for Kenya. With the help of our long-time collaborator, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, we acquired more than 600 palm-sized tablet computers as part of a pilot project involving the use of technology in legal education. The tablet computers were sourced from SURTAB, a tech company based in Haiti.

The project was conceived by Professor Ronald Brand and then considered and approved by the MUSOL Board. It involved the development of materials for two selected courses, Torts and Contracts, that would then be uploaded on the tablets for use by students. The materials had to be created in a specific format compatible with, and readable from, the tablet. Pitt, through CILE, sponsored two JD students, Shelley Ostrowski (Class of 2015) and Marlene Van Es (Class of 2015), who spent part of their summer 2013

with us here at MUSOL, helping us to develop materials for the two courses. Marlene worked on Torts, and Shelley on Contracts. They also developed a protocol that could be used to create other courses in future. We fine-tuned and added to the materials in preparation for the teaching that commenced in the 2013 fall term.

Once we had the tabs, we issued them to first-year students. With respect to Torts, I loaded the materials onto the Moi University e-learning portal known as MUSOMI. I required the students to register and access all our learning materials for the course including the outline, assignments and cases. We did a demonstration in class on registration for and use of the platform. The materials were arranged thematically and allowed us to proceed sequentially from one topic to another. At the end of each topic, I issued a test or assignment that I graded.

I found the tabs to be a very convenient method of delivery. It goes without saying that with more than 400 students in any given class, and considering the economic situation of not only the University but our students as well, we have had the perennial problem of lack of reading and teaching resources. As a result, it has been extremely difficult to require students to do anything more than thorough reading beforehand, making it hard—unethical even—to call students to account in terms of preparing for class.

With the tabs, and despite the few teething issues we experienced, I noticed a vast improvement in the level and quality of classroom discussion—especially on the cases. Previously, I relied heavily on dictating notes to students in class, which not only was difficult but also unimpressive. With the tabs, all I did was prepare short topical slides, lead my class through them, and then had a deeper engagement with the materials that they had read before class.

A large class numbers have always made grading assignments a nightmarish tedium. They also meant that I could only issue a limited number of assignments at any given time. In MUSOL, it is a requirement that our students sit for at least two continuous assessment tests (CATs) in a course, constituting 30 percent of their final marks. With the tabs, I posted up to four assignments with very many questions. This meant that I was able to thoroughly test the students’ understanding of the topics. It was very effective the teaching had been in the entire term. I saved time and energy, not to mention the paper that would have been used for the questions and answers. As for grading, I had a much easier time because I was able to do this online. MUSOMI allows me as the instructor to access and grade my course assignments online. Students receive their marks immediately after the grading via e-mail.

For me, the potential in the tabs lies in not only encouraging faculty to develop and enhance their course materials, but also, and more importantly, in allowing students to engage more actively in the learning process. As I have always told my students, learning law is ultimately a self-directed enterprise calling on students to engage not only their cognitive skills, but also their analytical skills. This enhances their problem-solving skills because it requires them to research, dig deep into legal problems, and consider different permutations of possible solutions. This is not possible without the necessary resources such as legal texts. In a developing country such as ours, the significance of this latest collaborative initiative with Pitt cannot be overstated.

I should mention also that the tabs were an important factor during the accreditation process for the school last year. In Kenya, any university planning to offer a law degree must be accredited by the Council of Legal Education. One of the biggest challenges we faced previously was how to match the large number of students with the library space and reading materials. We explained to the council that the tabs would allow us to scale up the number of students by offering online access to legal databases. In granting us accreditation, the council noted that the tabs would help us address the question of library space and availability of books even as we continued with our library’s construction and expansion.
Researching the Development of Legal Argumentation Skills with Tablets in Kenya

Law school students in the U.S. and abroad could benefit if online argument diagramming can successfully help them learn the skills of written legal argumentation. When Professor Ronald Brand approached Pitt Law faculty for online educational content to be delivered via the tablet computers at Moi University School of Law, Professor Kevin Ashley and his team of LRDC researchers, including Intelligent Systems Program Graduate Student Researcher Mohammad Falaknaz, developed a learning module to teach legal argumentation skills. The module comprises nine lessons (e.g., Introduction to Planning a Legal Argument in Support of a Claim, Supporting Arguments Pro and Con with Legal Rules and Citations, Applying Precedential Rule to Facts with Argument by Analogy). The lessons focus on making arguments in a hypothetical scenario involving the duty to pay taxes developed by Pitt Law Professors Teresa Brostoff and Ann Slimbine. The lessons lead students to apply legal rules and cases involving Pennsylvania estate law, a pedagogically useful exercise for Kenyan law students because Kenya is also a common law jurisdiction. The lessons will be deployed in the 2015 spring term via the Moi Law School’s Moodle-based e-learning platform, MUSOMI, to 480 Moi students in three sections of the Tort course taught by Professor Maurice Otoule. The large number of students should allow objective assessment of whether and how well students learn with the argument diagramming approach. This work is supported by NSF award 1122504, “DIP: Teaching Writing and Argumentation with AI-Supported Diagramming and Peer Review.”

One Last International Experience—As Part of the Pitt-Moi Partnership

By Brian Fraile (JD ’13)

When I enrolled at Pitt Law, I had the vague notion that I wanted to study the fields of law that governed the international commerce, but I had no idea what that meant, or the myriad possibilities that the school could provide to enhance my learning outside the classroom. During my three years of law school, I was fortunate to have countless trips supported by CILE to distant places such as Abu Dhabi, Brussels, Croatia, and Vienna. As my third year of law school was winding down, I still hadn’t quite put my wanderlust behind me. Little did I know, there was one last experience that would present itself to me before I had to move on with my career and life outside law school.

Professor Brand, through CILE’s partnership with Moi University School of Law in Eldoret, Kenya, presented me with the unique opportunity to take a visiting lectureship at Moi for the fall term after my graduation. Having spent a summer slaving away with bar exam prep, I did not hesitate to accept this one last opportunity to see a new corner of the world and meet an incredible group of new friends.

Less than a week after finishing my bar exams, and having taken a brief moment to relax, I boarded a plane to Kenya to embark on a new adventure. After several connections, and a four hour bumpy bus ride from Nairobi, I was warmly welcomed to the small town of Eldoret by Dean Henry Lugulu and Senior Lecturer Maurice Otoule (LLM ’04). The faculty and staff at Moi were incredibly helpful in getting me settled in and accustomed to the East African lifestyle.

Despite the friendliness of everyone I met, I was intimidated about what it would be like to teach Legal Analysis and Writing to three classes that totaled almost 500 first-year law students. My apprehensions hadn’t been more unwarranted. The students I had were some of the most friendly and attentive students I had ever met. Despite being in their first semester out of secondary school, everyone in my classes was eager and willing to take on the ambitious course plan that I had laid out for them.

As the semester flew by, I was shocked to see how easily and excitedly the students followed along with the same materials that I and my first-year classmates at Pitt had struggled with three years earlier. When the semester came to a close, I was confident that they had absorbed everything I had attempted to teach them, all despite my quick-paced teaching style and complete lack of conversational Swahili. My impression of their understanding was only reinforced when I spent my final week in Kenya grading the 500 hand-written essays that they completed during their final exam.

Looking back now, I fondly remember the many impressive and intelligent students and staff I met during my time in Kenya. Having moved on from using the British system as the position of CILE assistant director, I only hope that I can eventually make it back to Eldoret to reunite with the friends I made while in Africa and continue to reinforce the strong partnership between Pitt Law and Moi University.

Intentions, Insights, and Inspiration in Kenya

By Emily Kinkead

Traveling to Kenya was never my intention. When I was an undergrad, I never did a study abroad and it was my greatest regret, despite four otherwise wonderful years bustling with activities. I knew I wanted to spend the first summer of law school remedying my lament. Like most students, however, my mind was occupied with dreams of internships in Europe or Australia, spending the weekends taking trains to everywhere country I could, or lounging on the beach and snorkeling. Oh, the possibilities. Then the question came that crashed me back into reality: “What do you want to do with your law degree and how does an internship abroad help you achieve those goals?”

Well, gee, I hadn’t really considered that. I just wanted to go abroad. That and how I was introduced to the Legal Aid Centre of Eldoret (LACE) in Eldoret, Kenya. LACE is a pro bono law office that was born out of the recognition by a Kenyan judge that it was not enough to treat people living with HIV/AIDS to give them basic medical treatments. PLWHA also suffered a significant stigma in society that could lead to denial of their property rights, inheritance, child support, or even their basic human rights. PLWHA had substantial concrete consequences that could result through legal avenues. LACE is thus, based out of Moi University Teaching and Referral Hospital and has since expanded its services from PLWHA and their families to also serve victims of sexual, gender, and domestic violence.

I was graciously awarded both a Nordersen Fellow-ship and the Judge Genievie Bleu Nationality Room Scholarship, so I packed my bags and headed off to Kenya. I would live in Eldoret for two months, basically alone. It is, however, important that I mention my Botswana housemate who liked to barbeque Mariah Carey at 9 a.m. and sing along at the top of his lungs. Being otherwise on my own, though, I threw myself into Kenya—new things, new food, new people, and traveling every place I could.

I was able to observe so many differences between the Kenyan judicial system and the system in the United States. In Kenya, no one specializes in law because while there are more than 40 million people living in Kenya, there are only about 10,000 attorneys and only about 6,000 of those are actively practicing.

Kenya, in using the British system, has no jury trials. The courts have no present scheduled so all plaintiffs and defendants must arrive at 9 a.m., when court begins on their court date, and wait until their case is called. This could be all day. Kenya has a separate, religious court for Muslim citizens that decides civil matters like divorce or child support. The magistrates of these courts rarely have any legal background. Case files are almost exclusively handwritten.

I never did a study abroad but I have traveled to Kenya, in using the British system, has no jury trials. The courts have no present scheduled so all plaintiffs and defendants must arrive at 9 a.m., when court begins on their court date, and wait until their case is called. This could be all day. Kenya has a separate, religious court for Muslim citizens that decides civil matters like divorce or child support. The magistrates of these courts rarely have any legal background. Case files are almost exclusively handwritten.

What I found more striking than the differences were the similarities. There is court backlog, but the people were resilient in their pursuit of justice. There is corruption and bribery but there also is hope for reform. There is victim-blaming, but there is outrage at such tactics. There is theft, assault, rape, and murder. Children are abused and neglected. But there are people dedicating their lives to make sure not only that people are brought to justice, but that those people are treated fairly by the justice system.

My time at LACE exposed me to the best and worst of Kenya. Our countries are so different and yet so immeasurably similar. I gained insights and inspiration regarding problems in the United States by observing Kenyan solutions. My life is forever altered because of the people I met and the experiences I had there. I never intended to go to Kenya, but you know what they say about intentions.
Big Law in a Small Country

By Robert Gyenes (Class of 2015)

Before arriving at Pitt Law, what I thought I could do with a law degree was quite limited. If I go to Pittsburgh, I’ll have to work in Pittsburgh, right? Well, now I stand corrected—this summer’s internship showed me how naïve that thought was. I am first and foremost grateful to CILE and the LLM program connections of Pitt Law, without which this summer would have never happened. I met Iva Grgić (LLM ’14) at a CILE event more than a year ago, and we quickly became friends. It turned out we had mutual interests: I was looking for a way to work in the Balkans and, as a Croatian law student, Iva had already worked for a few firms in Zagreb. She introduced me to her employer, added my name, and soon I was interviewing with a number of Croatian firms.

This summer, I was a legal intern for the Zagreb office of the Hungarian law firm CILE, and I worked in their Zagreb office. The firm itself is Austrian-based with about 350 attorneys in a dozen offices across Central and Eastern Europe. The Zagreb office has about 30 attorneys, many of whom must switch between English, Croatian, and German several times a day.

As the only foreign intern in the last few years, I didn’t know what to expect. But as I arrived, I was nothing less than astonished at how well developed their internship program was. I was paired with mentors who quickly involved me in a great variety of projects. My entire summer was filled with interesting and substantive work. I researched and drafted non-compete clauses, distribution agreements, and even spent a few days doing a legal audit of the entire office under EU law. Because Croatia has only been in the EU for one year, the legal landscape in the nation is changing, and many of my projects involved utilization of the new EU regulations by foreign-owned businesses.

This surprising aspect was how the work was simultaneously so familiar and so different. I learned about mergers and acquisitions and intellectual property in the United States at Pitt, but working on such projects under EU law and civil law was something entirely new. This internship gave me the hands-on experience—and I have to say confidence—to do legal work on matters which I would have never come across in law school.

Another interesting aspect was the role this small office played in the Croatian legal landscape. Because Croatia is such a small market, and given the Rakita law firm’s small reputation within Europe, many high-profile legal issues came through this office. Many of the clients were foreign corporations, some with long-standing footprints in the country. After a while, it seemed that every big news story in Croatia somehow involved the work of Wolf Theiss, and that made every project seem more important. It also opened my eyes to what globalization, the EU, and international law mean in practice. In such a small country, it’s easier to see the interaction between corporations and governments across borders. This summer I felt like a business class was added to my legal education.

My internship was extremely valuable in allowing me to strengthen my legal experience in the Balkans while gaining skills and experience which are directly transferable to a U.S. firm. I was able to work on high profile mergers and acquisitions and other corporate work which I would only be able to do at a select number of firms back home. This summer has been both unexpected and eye-opening, and I am grateful to Pitt Law’s LLMs and CILE for allowing me to broaden my legal prospects in ways I never thought imaginable.

In Kosovo: The Cutting Edge of Contract Law

By Christopher Shook (Class of 2016)

Ask any expat to describe international development, and chances are they will mention just how rewarding the work is. In a way, this phrase recalls a certainty: that the one who goes to aid earns the dearest of lessons, while those who are to receive give generously. Thanks to the University of Pittsburgh’s Nordenberg Fellowship, this summer I had the opportunity to intern at the USAID Kosovo Contract Law Enforcement Program with Checchi and Company Consulting. When researching international internships, it became clear that Pitt Law’s strong ties to Pristina, Kosovo, would provide the best chance to make a meaningful contribution. In working alongside Pitt Law alumna Zana Berisha (LLM ’10) and Diella Rugova (LLM ’13) at the Contract Law Enforcement Program, I gained exposure to the fascinating intricacies of the legal climate in Kosovo. The program sought to assist the newborn nation in its continuing recovery and to advance commercial legal reforms. Our team was responsible for such issues as improving the enforcement of judicial judgments, and developing the framework of contract and commercial law. In my favorite project during the internship, I was tasked with crafting a series of memos on Kosovo administrative law procedures for creditors and debtors. It was exciting to know that my analysis would help influence new legal regimes on property law and enforcement procedure, with the potential to support U.S. Embassy personnel or even senior diplomatic staff.

The Kosovo legal system presented a stimulating blend of civil law and common law approaches, as experts and development organizations from the United States, Germany, and other European nations vied to make the greatest impact.

For me, courses such as Legislation and Regulation and an ad hoc knowledge of comparative law were extremely valuable in understanding the context of our program’s endeavors in Kosovo. The cross-functional projects challenged me to understand not only the nuances of political economy; but also innovative practices seen only at the cutting edge of international business law. I am grateful to have been part of the “critical mass” of Pitt Law’s legacy in Kosovo and the Balkans. My internship experience in Pristina was overwhelmingly positive and made possible thanks to the dedication and support of Brian Fraile, Gina Huggins, and Professor Ronald Brand. In living in a new part of the world, meeting diverse people, and working on engaging issues, this summer greatly advanced my personal and professional goals. I left Kosovo invigorated, but cautiously optimistic. I know there remains a lot of work to do amidst uncertainty about the country’s future. To that end, I highly encourage fellow students who find themselves curious about international law to make use of the many resources provided by CILE and to pursue an internship abroad—particularly in Kosovo.

A Summer at the Mexican Film Institute

By Nicholas Tomsho (Class of 2016)

This summer, I received a Nordenberg Summer Fellowship from CILE to work as a legal intern with the Instituto Mexicano de Cinematografía (the Mexican Film Institute, or IMCINE) in Mexico City. The institute is a federal governmental organization charged with fostering Mexico’s national film industry by providing assistance to Mexican filmmakers in funding, production, postproduction, promotion, and legal support. My position was with the Department of International Events and Programs, which primarily facilitates the screening and promotion of Mexican films at international film festivals and their distribution in foreign markets.

This internship was not arranged through an existing internship abroad program. I reached out to IMCINE by e-mail and phone with the help of CILE staff who was offered full-time placement. This did not include any assistance with housing or transportation. I arranged to stay with a host family via homestaybooking.com and purchased a Metrobus card once in the city for transportation.

My primary internship duty was to review and draft new licensing agreements to distribute the Institute’s coproduced films outside of Mexico. These contracts were primarily intended to contribute to a screening of a then-unreleased documentary in the final stages of postproduction and a public screening of exhibition of 2014 short films. I am currently working with Stephanie Dangel, executive director of Pitt Law’s Nordenberg Fellowship, to interest the Three Rivers Film Festival in IMCINE productions to be screened this year.

While the working environment was informal, I was able to keep up-to-date with contract negotiation processes and to see which of my suggestions and edits were kept in the subsequent drafts that were sent to clients.

During my off time, I enjoyed exploring Mexico City and took several weekend day trips to archaeological sites in the surrounding area. After my internship was over, I flew to Cancun and spent the final weekend exploring Mayan and Tulum archaeological zones.
Getting to Court in Ethiopia

By Ruth Guyasa (Class of 2016)

My summer internship at Demimise Management Consultants, a law firm in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was an experience in overcoming the difficulties of a developing country. While I had expected a smooth and relatively easy entry into Ethiopian legal practice, the reality was quite different. While my Amharic language skills are good, and Amharic is the working language of the courts in Ethiopia, I was not fully prepared to be handed the Ethiopian Code of Civil Procedure, Civil Code, and Commercial Code on the first day and be able to work easily with them. The current codes are over 50 years old, with the Civil Procedure Code based on English common law and everything else (substantive law) based on French law.

I spent the first few weeks in the office just familiarizing myself with the codes. Luckily, there were several attorneys at work who helped me with Amharic legal codes. The senior partners on a multinational case together, and worked along with French law.

Ruth Guyasa at Lake Langano, in Ethiopia

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When we finally reached the courthouse, we saw a building that was very run down and just plain dangerous. Right next to it is a nice new building guarded by the federal police, and I was told it is to become the new courthouse. Inside the building, more than one hundred people were chaoticly scattered in front of different doors. The senior attorney walked up to a window and asked which courtroom we were to be in, and was told to wait in line to find out. This took another 15 minutes or so. Once it was a medium-sized courtroom, with bench seats filled with people. In the front two rows, there were several attorneys seated wearing their gowns and waiting for their cases to be called.

The judge looked to be in his mid-20s, and was surrounded by piles of legal folders. However, in Ethiopia, judges are appointed straight out of college (law school is just a bachelor’s degree) without any experience. Unlike the judges, most of the attorneys are quite experienced. The result is a fair degree of anomosity or misunderstanding in the attorney-judge relationship. We listened as several other cases were called, the parties appeared, the judge evaluated the dossier, and the parties were given another date to appear. Nothing seemed to get done, and the frustration was apparent in the courtroom. At almost one o’clock, our case had not been called, and the judge was ready for lunch. We were told to return in an hour. When we returned to the courthouse in an hour, we were told there was no electricity and we had to come back the next day.

This was really frustrating considering that it was still daylight there and there were several windows in the courtroom. The judge was ready for lunch. We were told there was no electricity and we had to come back the next day.

I was lucky enough to be a part of this activity from its very beginning, right through the U.S.-African Leaders Summit. I started out simply sitting at a desk doing research and writing up my findings, then, I was asked to facilitate and conduct meetings with members of Congress on Capitol Hill about AGOA and its implications for workers; finally, I found myself aiding in the creation of the joint recommendations with the AFL-CIO, helping to facilitate and coordinate the visit of almost 40 trade union leaders from all over Africa for participation in the summit. I was even afforded the opportunity to create and chair a panel of international labor activists for a CSO Summit held in conjunction with the official White House events. What started as a somewhat vague research assignment about a trade law I had never even heard of, thus followed one of the most unpredictable and unlikely paths imaginable. It was an absolute joy to be a part of, and the entire undertaking by the Solidarity Center was an effort to which I was proud to contribute at every step along the way.

From My Desk to the African Leaders’ Summit

By Janet Checkley, (JD ’14)

My experience working as an intern at the Solidarity Center in Washington, D.C., one of the units of the Solidarity Center, a labor advocate with partner organizations, coproduced by the AFL-CIO and the Solidarity Center, pub- lished and distributed widely in the run-up to the U.S.-African Leaders Summit; 2) an official side panel titled Promoting Decent Work, held during the summit and created through a partnership with the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and the Bureau of International Labor Affairs; and 3) a joint statement between the AFL-CIO and the International Trade Union Confederation-Africa (ITUC-Africa), describing their partnership in regard to development and progress in Africa and particularly with respect to improving AGOA.

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A Semester with the Department of State and the Vis Moot
By Krysta Smith (JD ’14)

I spent my last semester at Pitt Law as an extern in Washington, D.C., through Pitt Law’s Semester in D.C. Program. For four months, I worked in the Office of Private International Law, which is part of the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State. My externship was an extremely educational and beneficial experience that thoroughly complemented my legal education. I conducted extensive research on international commercial mediation, online dispute resolution, recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, and various other private international law subjects. I had the opportunity to attend public meetings and conference calls with experts in the field from around the country.

I also participated in the UNCITRAL Arbitration and Conciliation Working Group Meeting at the United Nations in New York, where the Transparency Convention was completed. This was my second UNCITRAL Working Group experience. In May of 2013, I attended the Online Dispute Resolution Working Group Session in New York as a member of the CILE observer delegation. The opportunity to attend two different Working Group Meetings gave me insight into how different groups of people work and how the various stages in the process of international negotiations are completed.

In addition to my externship in Washington, D.C., I also had hands-on experience working with teams in the Pitt Law Consortium for the 21st Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (the Vis Moot). With my colleague, Janet Checkley, we advised three teams who were participating in the Vis Moot throughout the school year. In the fall, we corresponded directly with the teams from Iraq, Egypt, and Palestine, assisting them in formulating arguments and drafting their memoranda.

My most rewarding experience came in the spring of this year, when I attended the Fourth Willem C. Vis Middle East Pre-Moot as an advisor. Once in Qatar, I had the opportunity to have a hands-on role in the education of the students by presenting various presentations on oral argument and the Vis Moot more generally. I quickly realized that our role was much larger than we had imagined. The students were so willing to learn and absorb any information we had to share. It was such a humbling and rewarding experience. These students have so much potential and are so bright; I honestly believe they will change the world.

In April, my work with the students continued during the Vis Moot in Vienna, Austria. Janet and I organized and facilitated the Pitt Law Consortium Practice Rounds held at the offices of Baker & McKenzie. During the moot, I had the responsibility and privilege to attend countless arguments by our teams, and to provide support and feedback to assist their learning process throughout the Vis Moot. I can truly say that, through CILE, I received more than I ever could have hoped for from my legal education. I had the opportunity to assist their learning process through CILE, I received more than I ever could have hoped for from my legal education.

Stephan Zimmerman
Discusses Challenges World Bank Faces with Fighting Corruption

On September 24, 2013, Stephen Zimmerman, director of operations for the World Bank Integrity Vice Presidency, spoke at the School of Law on challenges facing the World Bank in fighting corruption. The event was organized by the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy and cosponsored by CILE.

Aandahl and Martin-Nagle Headline Pitt Law International Women of Distinction Series

Two Pitt Law alumnae returned to the School of Law during the fall of 2013 to speak with students about their paths to international careers in law in CILE programs cosponsored by the International Law Society and Pitt Law Women’s Association. On September 30, Nicole (Bietland) Aandahl (JD ’91) reviewed her career in nuclear energy and aerospace industries and government. Aandahl, who is now deputy chief administrative officer and assistant corporate secretary for EADS North America, has built an extensive career in national security, export control, and nonproliferation law and policy in both government and industry. Before joining the U.S. defense industry, Aandahl worked for the U.S. Department of Defense and Energy. She served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy (OSD/P) as assistant for nonproliferation and counter-proliferation policy. Prior to joining OSD/P, Aandahl served as a foreign affairs specialist in the Office of Export Control Policy and Cooperation at the National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, where she specialized in nuclear export controls and nonproliferation, regional nuclear proliferation export control policies, and technology security.

At the time of her talk, Aandahl served as deputy chief administrative officer and assistant corporate secretary at EADS North America. Prior to that appointment, Aandahl served as chief of staff to the CEO. Aandahl began her career with EADS North America in the Trade and Export Department as a licensing and compliance officer and later as acting director of compliance. In early 2014, Aandahl joined Hilton Worldwide as their assistant corporate secretary.

On October 15, Renee Martin-Nagle (JD ’84), now with the Environmental Law Institute at George Washington University, shared her journey from a single-parent law student to the aerospace industry, and back to legal education. For 25 years Martin-Nagle served as U.S. general counsel for European aircraft manufacturers. During the first four years, she was the sole in-house lawyer and corporate secretary for both Aereospaltte Helicopter Corporation and Areospalatte General Aviation, before moving to Airbus America in 1990. She retired from Airbus Americas in 2011 as general counsel, chief compliance officer, head of environmental affairs, corporate secretary, and a member of the board of directors. For 23 of her 25 years in aviation, she was the only female executive. While in aviation, Martin-Nagle was quite active in industry groups, serving as chair of the ABA Forum on Air and Space Law, legal counsel to the Aero Club of Washington, board member and secretary of Women in Aviation, and advisory board member of the International Aviation Women’s Association. Since 2011, Martin-Nagle has been pursuing independent, pro bono research and writing as a visiting scholar at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C., while also honing journalistic skills as a free-lancer writer with OOSKAnews, a global water publication. With OOSKAnews, Martin-Nagle has been the official chronicler of water conferences sponsored by the governments of Germany and Abu Dhabi, and also has been conducting interviews with global water VIPs for publication by the Singapore Public Utilities Board.
Nuala Mole Teaches Special Course and Lectures on European Human Rights

Nuala Mole, a human rights lawyer and advocate who founded the AIRE Centre, a human rights and advocacy organization in 1993, taught a special intensive course in European Human Rights in October 2013. Her course covered the new institutional framework for human rights in Europe; the European Convention on Human Rights in the Western Balkans; European human rights for commercial lawyers; and hot topics in European human rights litigation. The last category included recent cases on immigration and asylum, extradition, extraordinary rendition, prisoner rights, and extra-territoriality and military operations. On October 17, she lectured to the public on “European Human Rights for Commercial Lawyers.”

Mole has conducted training for the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and the AIRE Centre for judges, public officials, lawyers, and NGOs in 40 of the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe. She has argued before the ICC in a mock international criminal court trial. She has also taught a special course at the University of Pennsylvania on “Negotiating in Civil Conflict.”

Rule of Law Series Highlights Pitt Law LLM Presentations of Home Country Legal Issues

On February 4, 2014, and March 4, 2014, members of the 2014 LLM class continued the tradition of educating the law school community about rule of law challenges in their home countries. This year’s series covered recent issues in Ukraine, Tunisia, Palestine, and Kenya.

On February 4, Taras Shablii (LLM ’14) and Zvenyslava Opeida, SJD candidate, both Ukrainian nationals, discussed recent developments regarding the Euromaidan movement and the concerns facing the sitting government and the Ukrainian people. The presentation provided a fresh perspective on the civil unrest and a better understanding of the sentiments of the Ukrainian populace during ongoing developments.

On March 4, a second set of LLM students presented issues from Tunisia, Palestine, and Kenya. Jhene Ferchichi (LLM ’14) discussed the newly ratified Constitution of Tunisia, Khalil Alwazir (LLM ’14) presented issues regarding the Arab-Israeli Conflict Negotiation and how they relate to Palestine’s bid for independence, and Nicholas Wambua Ngumbi (LLM ’14) discussed the International Criminal Court trials of Kenya’s president, Uhuru Kenyatta, and deputy president, William Ruto.

CILE and Global Solutions Pittsburgh Host High School Moot Court

The Fifth Annual High School Moot International Criminal Court (ICC) Competition was held at the School of Law on April 11 and 12, 2014. Cosponsored by CILE and Global Solutions Pittsburgh, the event drew 28 students from four schools to present arguments before the ICC in a mock proceeding. The competition gives high school students an introduction to the work of the ICC and exposes them to how important international human rights issues are dealt with in the international criminal justice context. The problem for the competition was written by Pitt Law 2L, Robert Gyenes.

Stone Returns as Assistant Director of National Intelligence for 21st McLean Lecture

On March 31, 2013, CILE hosted the 21st Annual McLean Lecture on World Law, with Corin R. Stone (JD ‘98), the assistant director of national intelligence for policy and strategy in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), speaking on “National Security and Intelligence in the 21st Century.” Stone oversees the formulation and implementation of intelligence community policy and strategy on the full range of intelligence issues. She also is the ODNI lead for the closure and disposition of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay naval base and provides leadership for ODNI and IC information sharing initiatives.

Before joining ODNI, Stone was an attorney adviser in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State. She served in Iraq, first as an associate general counsel in the Coalition Provisional Authority and then as the first legal adviser to U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte and the new U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. While at the State Department, she also worked as an attorney adviser for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, as the special assistant to Legal Adviser William H. Taft IV, and in the State Department’s Legal Office, where she handled international claims and investment disputes and represented the U.S. government before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal in The Hague. The McLean Lecture was cosponsored by Global Solutions Pittsburgh and Sheppard, German, Kelly, PC.
Conflicts in a Conflict is Fifth Volume of the CILE Studies Series Published by Oxford University Press

On May 28, 2014, Oxford University Press released the fifth volume in the CILE Studies series, Conflicts in a Conflict: A Conflict of Laws Case Study on Israel and the Palestinian Territories, by Professor Michael Karayanni, the Bruce W. Wayne Chair in International Law at the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, provides an in-depth look at conflict of laws issues in conflict territories. The book outlines and analyzes the legal doctrines instructing the Israeli courts in private and civil disputes involving the Occupied Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, since 1967 until the present day.

Professor Curran is Made Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques

On June 3, 2014, Pitt Law Professor Vivian Curran was made a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms) by the government of France. The award, originally founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1808, recognizes distinguished academics and figures in French culture and education. It was bestowed on Curran by the Consul General of France.

Instrumental in promoting the teaching of law courses in foreign languages, Curran instituted the Languages for Lawyers program at Pitt Law, a course designed to facilitate communication between lawyers and foreign clients and to teach foreign languages in a legal context. Curran’s class, teaching French in a legal context, was the first of its kind in the country. Cultural exchange is a key component of Curran’s instruction and a critical element for an increasingly globalized world. For the past eight years, Curran has worked with a group of French and American judges at the Collège de France on the internationalization of law.

In addition to her many English-language publications, Curran publishes frequently in French law journals—work that was recognized with her election in 2013 to the Société Française de Législation Comparée (French Society of Comparative Legislation). She was also decorated in 2007 with one of the highest honors in the Republic of Austria for her work as the United States appointee to the Austrian General Settlement Fund Committee for Nazi-era property compensation.

Professor Curran Offers Unique International Arbitration Seminar in French

Professor Vivian Curran has for three years offered her International Arbitration Seminar with all instruction in the French language. The course has a dual goal: to teach international commercial arbitration while also improving the French language abilities of students. Professor Curran has developed a French-English glossary of arbitration terms to assist students in their reading of cases. The course is given in French, with attention to students’ varying linguistic levels. Through texts written by French legal writers, the course also introduces the civil-law system that prevails throughout continental Europe. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a moot court run by Sciences Po in Paris, and to write a memorandum for the moot instead of a traditional seminar paper. Students in the course have done an outstanding job, each year progressing from among more than 30 initial teams to be one of 16 semi-finalist teams. In many years, Pitt Law has provided the only non-Canadian North American team in the competition. The seminar also has helped students to find summer internships and permanent positions at major international law firms.

Ali Hayder Al Dabbagh (Iraq) earned a bachelor of laws from Baghdad University School of Law in 2014. He competed in the Willem C. Vis Commercial Arbitration Moot Court and the Middle East Pre-Moot for two years with the University of Baghdad and went on to serve the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education as a coach for the Vis Moot. Al Dabbagh has also completed an internship with Al Tamimi & Co. in Baghdad. He is the recipient of a full scholarship from the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research.

Ammar Almuuræe (Saudi Arabia) received his bachelor’s degree in law from Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. He worked as a trainee lawyer in Saudi Arabia and then relocated to Pittsburgh in order to improve his English language skills. Almuuræe is the recipient of a fully funded scholarship from the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Maria Cintra Benitez Nunez (Argentina) received her bachelor of laws from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2007 with orientation in Notarial Law and obtained a specialty degree in the Practice of Notarial Law from Colegio de Escrivanos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires in 2012. She worked for four years as notarial assistant in several lawyer-notary firms drafting contracts. She also worked as a technical notarial assistant at the Argentine Consulate in Los Angeles, California, during 2009–10. She also worked as head of clerk assistants for the lawyer-notary Diogo B. Walsh for two years.

Artem Hrytsak (Ukraine) received his bachelor of laws with honors from National University Yaroslav the Wise Law Academy of Ukraine in 2013. He worked as a legal intern for Transparency International, the Anti-Monopoly Committee of Ukraine, and the Noerr International Law Firm. Hrytsak has published a variety of papers dealing with corporate law and anti-trust issues in Ukraine and has served as a representative of Ukraine at the World Forum for Democracy. He is the recipient of CILE scholarship and a Franklin West housing scholarship.

Anastasia Konina (Russia) graduated with cum laude for both a bachelor of laws and master of laws from Moscow State Institute of International Relations. She published “Application of the EU Competition Legislation to the Mergers and Acquisitions of Companies” in the Moscow Journal of Legal Science. She has worked as a senior legal counsel and as head of the foreign subsidiaries division of Norilsk Nickel, a mining and metallurgical company. Konina is the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship.

Fjolla Krasniqi (Kosovo) received her bachelor of laws from the University of
Pristina Faculty of Law in 2013. She served as a legal assistant for the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce where she worked closely with the Permanent Tribunal of Arbitration. Krasniqi is the recipient of a fellowship from World Learning as a part of the Kosovo Transitional Leadership Program.

Volodymyr Rog (Ukraine) received his bachelor of laws from National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in 2010 and an LLM from Central European University in 2011. He was a participant in the Willem C. Vis Commercial Arbitration Moot Court in 2013 and 2014 and has worked as an associate at the law firm of Spenser & Kauffman. Rog is the recipient of a tuition scholarship from the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) and a Franklin West housing scholarship.

Natalia Valencia Mejia (Colombia) received her bachelor of laws from Fundación Universidad del Norte Law School in Barranquilla, Colombia, in 2008. She received a specialization in commercial law from the same institution in 2009. Valencia Mejia has served as an external legal advisor to a variety of public and private organizations. She is the recipient of a tuition scholarship from the University Center for International Studies (UCIS).

Dao Xiang (China) received his bachelor of laws with a minor in international politics from Renmin University of China in 2014. He has worked as a legal intern at Global Law Office, assisting on topics including investment disputes and real estate transactions.

SAVE THE DATE
Plan to join us in Pittsburgh on September 11, 2015 for a special celebration of the 20th anniversary of CILE.

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship Recipients 2014–15
Andrew Coyne (Class of 2015) – Hindi (summer FLAS) (Global Studies Center)
Casey Martinez (Class of 2015) – Portuguese (Center for Latin American Studies)

Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship Recipients
Ruth Guyasa (Class of 2016) – Demisie Management Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd., Ethiopia
Emily Kinkhead (Class of 2016) – Legal Aid Centre of Eldoret (LACE), Kenya
Christopher Shook (Class of 2016) – USAID Kosovo Contract Law Enforcement Program, Kosovo
Nicholas Tomsho (Class of 2015) – Instituto Mexicano de Cinematografia (IMCINE), Mexico

SAVE THE DATE
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Elina Aleynikova (JD ’14) studied abroad during the spring semester of 2014 at University of Cergy-Pontoise in Paris, France.

Khalil Alwazir (LLM ’14), Scott Fellmeth (Class of 2015), Matthew McCullough (Class of 2015), and Denise Attar (Class of 2015) participated in the 2014 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. Iva Grgic (LLM ’14) served as coach.

Kevin Betancourt (Class of 2015) received an Alcoa Fellowship to participate in the Duquesne University summer program in Cologne, Germany. While in Germany, Betancourt completed an internship with Openhoff & Partners in Cologne.

Morgan Bonekovic (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zagorac, Croatia.

Andrew Coyne (Class of 2015), Robert Gyenes (Class of 2015), Michael Micsky (Class of 2015), and Catie Shawley (Class of 2015) participated in the 2014 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria.

Danielle Evans (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zagorac, Croatia.

Andrew Coyne (Class of 2015) received a summer 2014 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship from the University of Pittsburgh Global Studies Center to study Hindi. Coyne also completed the Pitt Program in India during summer 2014.

The LLM Class of 2014

Andrew Coyne (Class of 2015)

Danielle Evans (Class of 2016)
Ryan Ewing (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Noreet Flood (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Ruth Guyasa (Class of 2016) received a Nordenberg Fellowship to do a 2014 summer internship at Demissie Management Consulting Services in Pristina, Kosovo.

Anitha Jayasuriya (LLM ’04) founded a new law firm named Aequo.

Daniil Fedorchuk (LLM ’01) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Michelle Beckers (JD ’03) has moved to a tech company as managing director of technology at HP in Nederland.

Noreet Flood (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Lauran Sowko (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Emily Kinkead (Class of 2016) received a 2014–15 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship from the University of Pittsburgh Center for Latin American Studies to study Portuguese.

Drew Roberts (Class of 2015) studied abroad during the 2013–14 academic year at Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Michael Roberts (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Alison Sacriponte (Class of 2015) studied abroad during the 2013–14 academic year at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain.

Jade Salyards (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Lauren Sowko (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Daniil Fedorchuk (LLM ’01) founded a new law firm named Aequo.

Renee Martin-Nagle (JD ’84) is now at the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Anthony Dubois-Martin (LLM ’98) is now at Hilton Worldwide (Hilton HQ) as the company’s assistant corporate secretary.

Daniil Fedorchuk (LLM ’01) joined the law firm of Gide Loyrette Noel in Kyiv, Ukraine, on January 08, 2014.

Victor Mosoti (LLM ’01) is now at the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Mariya Nikishin (LLM ’03) has moved from the Kyiv, Ukraine, firm of Vasili Kisil & Partners with several colleagues to start a new law firm named Arcus.

Michelle Beckers (JD ’03) is working in-house for a tech company as managing counsel for all international-related matters.

Lauren Becker (JD ’08) began her new position as an attorney in the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., in June 2014.

Liel Brunner (JD ’08) has moved from her position at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to work for the Global Network Initiative as facilitator for the Telecommunications Industry Dialogue, a group of international telcos that addresses freedom of expression and privacy in the context of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. She also co-taught a year-long human rights fact-finding practicum course at Georgetown Law, which involved taking a group of students to the Dominican Republic to research and write a report on statelessness and the rights of children of Haitian descent. Brunner is now cochair of the American Society of Comparative Law’s New Professionals Group, and, most importantly, mother to her new second son, Eamon.

William Fisher (JD ’10) is working as in-house counsel for AES/EPC, a U.S.-subsidiary of a Spanish multinational energy technology and construction company, Abengoa. His team currently has projects in the United States, Mexico, and Chile.


Marie Brown (JD ’12) moved to Houston, Texas, in September 2013, where she is working as a legal advisor for the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review at the Houston Immigration Court.

Iryna Dasevich (LLM ’12) interned at an immigration law firm in Pittsburgh after graduation. She then accepted a position with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Vermont in March 2013.

Abeer Hashayka (LLM ’12) began work at Save the Children International in 2014. She has been a judge at the Jessup National Rounds in Palestine for the past two years. She now has a fellowship with the UN at their headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Megan Crouch (JD ’11) is continuing to work at the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE).}

Mohammad Elsamam (LLM ’13) earned his second master’s degree in private law from Ain-Shams University in Cairo, Egypt. He then spent three months (February–May 2014) at the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C., during a fellowship supporting foreign judges.

Moien Odeh (LLM ’13) began volunteering with the Association for the Promotion of International Humanitarian Law in 2014.

Kelsey Ward (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Joshua Yawney (Class of 2015) studied abroad during the 2013–14 academic year at University of Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain.

Emily Kinkead (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Lauren Sowko (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Lauran Sowko (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.

Daniil Fedorchuk (LLM ’01) founded a new law firm named Aequo.

Renee Martin-Nagle (JD ’84) founded a new law firm named Aequo.

Emily Kinkead (Class of 2016) received an Alcoa Fellowship to study abroad at Pitt’s 2014 Summer Institute of International Commercial Law & Dispute Resolution in Zagreb and Zadar, Croatia.
Faculty International and Comparative Law Publications continued from page 22

Professor Kevin Ashley presented an invited paper titled “Applying Argument Extraction to Improve Legal Information Retrieval” at the weekend conference on Frontiers and Connections between Argumentation Theory and Natural Language Processing, held in July 2014 in the Centro Universitario di Bertinoro, Italy, a hilltop fortress dating back to more than 1,000 years. Also in July 2014, Ashley spoke on “Toward Integrating Computational Models and Legal Texts (or will IBM Debater beat us to it?)” at the Thirteenth International Conference on Substantive Law, International, National, and Comparative Law Practice (Subtech 2014) at the University of Vienna Law School.

Professor Elena Baylis presented her paper, “What International Laws Know: Improving the Effectiveness of Post-Conflict Justice,” at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago on April 3, 2014. She also served as a discussant for a panel about international courts.

Professor Ronald Brand spoke on “Making U.S. Law on Judgments Recognition: A Three-Dimensional Chess Game” at a symposium on transnational forum shopping at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California, on September 19, 2013. His presentation was part of a panel on “Responsible Enforcement of Foreign Judgments,” which also included John Bellinger, former legal advisor to the Secretary of State, and Professor Linda Silberman of New York University and Steve Burack of the University of Pennsylvania. Brand spoke on “Contract Drafting From Rules on Jurisdiction and Choice of Forum in Europe” at the 2013 International Law Weekend-Midwest, held at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 20, 2013. Also on the panel was Pitt Law grad Charles T. Kobuta Jr. (JD ’01), who is now an partner at the Jones Day office in Washington, D.C. On October 7–11, 2013, Brand traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, to train students from Al-Iraqia University School of Law, Baghdad, Iraq, in preparation for participation in the 2014 Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition. The training sessions were funded by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of the U.S. Department of Commerce and continued with distance support for the Iraqia University Vis Team provided by Pitt Law LL.M. students Janet Checkley and Krysta Smith. The three days of training were followed by the Fourth Annual Middle East Vis Pre-Moot. The week of activities was co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Commercial Law Development Program, the BahRAIN Chamber for Dispute Resolution, Qatar University, and Pitt Law’s Center for International Legal Education.

On March 11, 2014, Brand lectured on “Kosovo Accession to the International Law,” at the workshop Kosovo as a Member of the International Community – Accession to International Organizations, at the University of Graz, Austria, on March 21, 2014. On March 2–6, 2014, Brand traveled to Doha, Qatar, where he provided three days of training in oral argument skills for Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot participants. Brand also served as a discussant for a panel on “Recent Scholarship on the U.N. Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG)” at a panel at the University of Graz and the University of Pristina Faculties of Law. Participants included the deputy prime minister of Kosovo, and president of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo.

On April 3–18, 2014, Brand and Professor Harry Flechtnier accompanied four Pitt Law Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team to Vienna for the 2013 Vis Competition. The Pitt team consisted of Robert Gynnes, a 3L student at the University of Graz and the University of Pristina Faculties of Law. Participants included the deputy prime minister of Kosovo, and president of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo.

On March 10–14, 2014, Brand taught an international law course to the students in the LLM in International Law program at the University of Ghent, Belgium. While in Belgium, Brand also presented the Foreign Chair Lecture at the University of Ghent Faculty of Law on “Protecting Consumers in International Transactions: Why EU Consumer Protection Rules Should Be Replaced with Rules from the ‘Titanic of Worst Decisions’ by the U.S. Supreme Court.” Brand spoke on “Kosovo Accession to International Organizations: Private International Law,” at the workshop Kosovo as a Member of the International Community – Accession to International Organizations, at the University of Graz, Austria, on March 21, 2014. On March 2–6, 2014, Brand traveled to Doha, Qatar, where he provided three days of training in oral argument skills for Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot participants. Brand also served as a discussant for a panel on “Recent Scholarship on the U.N. Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG)” at a panel at the University of Graz and the University of Pristina Faculties of Law. Participants included the deputy prime minister of Kosovo, and president of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo.

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Hamburg Law Faculty and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Private Social Law in Hamburg, Germany, awarded an honorary doctorate to 228 American professors and 38 international professors.

Professor Harry Flechtner lectures to faculty and students at the University of Zagreb (Croatia).

Faculty Activities

Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi was interviewed on the Craig Fahlte Show on WDET in Detroit, Michigan, on September 4, 2013, regarding legal developments in the Arab world following the Arab Spring. On September 3, 2014, Hamoudi gave a paper on legal representation in the construction making efforts following the Arab Spring at a Wayne State Law School program on “The Future of Arab Reform Movements.” Also speaking at the event was Professor Takam Matsuo of the John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University and Professor Mark Tessler of the University of Michigan. In September, Hamoudi presented a draft paper at an International Rule of Law workshop sponsored by the Human Rights Program of Harvard Law School. The paper was published in The International Rule of Movement – A Crisis of Legitimacy and the Way Forward, edited by David Marshall and published by Harvard University Press.

On January 23, 2014, Hamoudi spoke at Pitt Law about his book, Negotiating in Civil Conflict: Constitutional Construction and Imperfect Bargaining in Iraq, recently published with the University of Chicago Press. On May 3, 2014, Hamoudi spoke at the NYU School of Law on constituting making in Iraq, at a panel entitled “The Struggle for Iraq’s Future.” Hamoudi was appointed the 2014 Kraemer Scholar in Residential Islamic Studies at William and Mary School of Law for a period in mid-March 2014. He gave several public presentations on Islamic law in the greater Williamsburg community as well as at the law school. Hamoudi was the keynote speaker at the annual banquet of the Council of American Islamic Relations, Pittsburgh chapter, on March 29, 2014. He discussed the challenges and opportunities facing Muslims in the United States in the post-9/11 era and the ways in which Muslim Americans can increase their visibility as a respected minority group. On April 4, Hamoudi presented a paper at a workshop at one of the largest Shi’a seminars in the World of Islam Foundation, located in Birmingham, England. The workshop was about the nature of legal responsibility under Islamic law. Professor Hamoudi’s paper contrasted different conceptions of maturity with Islamic and state paradigms. On June 2, 2014, Hamoudi spoke on a panel at the New York Conference on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), with Professors Robert Gleave (University of Exeter, UK) and Kecia Ali (Boston University) as part of the Harvard Institute of Global Law and Policy conference on Heterodox Approaches to Islamic Law and Policy. The conference brought together established and rising scholars from both disciplines, including history, political science, anthropology, economics, and other social sciences to share critical and comparative methodologies and approaches to Islamic law and jurisprudence.

Professor David Harris discussed the use of predictive policing in the United States with Deutsche Welle Germany’s international broadcaster on October 2, 2013. Predictive policing aims to help police anticipate crimes by using data on crime patterns and using algorithms that turn the data into blueprints for neighborhood patrols, checkpoints, and asset protection. Harris said that without safeguards, predictive policing could lead to racial profiling. On October 28, Harris was interviewed by Germany’s ARD Television on the use of video and body worn video cameras by police in the United States. A federal judge in New York has ordered the city’s police department to conduct pilot studies of the use of body worn video cameras and Harris has written the only law review article on the use of these devices by police. His interview will become part of a documentary on American police and their use of technology. On February 14, 2014, Harris participated in a virtual panel at the University of Pittsburgh’s European Union Center of Excellence. The discussion, “Spy Games: Technology & Trust in the Transatlantic Relationship,” was part of the Carnegie Corporation’s Europe series. Other panelists were Pia Bourgeten, Friedrich Ebert Foun- dation Representative to the United States and Canada; Annerget Bendik, German Institute for International and Security Affairs; Anthony Glees, professor of politics and director of the Centre for the Study of Intelligence Studies, University of Buckingham; and Ami Pedahzur, professor of government at the University of Texas-Austin. On March 13, 2014, Harris spoke at the Universite de Bourgogne’s School of Law in Dijon, France, about his book, Failed Evidence: Why Law Enforcement Resists Science, to 75 fourth and fifth year students, in a special session hosted by the school.

Professor Tony Infanti presented his report (co-written with Bernard Moens of PwC) in March 2014 on qualification of taxable entities and treaty pro- tection at the Joint Meeting of the U.S. and Canadian Branches of the Interna- tional Fiscal Association in Toronto, Canada. On March 18, 2014, Infanti served as commentator for a presenta- tion by Professor David Paternotte of the Free University of Brussels, titled “Same-Sex Marriage: From Europe to the Global Arena.” The presentation was sponsored by the Gender, Sexual- ity, and Women’s Studies Program, the European Union, and Pitt’s European Union Center of Excellence. In May 2014, Infanti was co-U.S. national reporter for the International Fiscal Association’s 2014 Congress, held on the campus of the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich, Germany.

Professor Charles Jalloh was interviewed on the Africa 54 program hosted by Vincent Makori for Voice of America TV in Washington, D.C., on September 6, 2013. He discussed the implications of Kenya’s parliamentary vote urging the government to withdraw from the treaty that established the International Criminal Court (ICC). He explained that, contrary to what Kenyan politicians have been leading the people to believe, withdrawal from the treaty that has so far been endorsed by all African countries (including Kenya and South African states) would not affect the ICC’s pending crimes against humanity prose- cutions of President Uhuru Kenyatta and Vice President William Ruto. On September 26, 2013, Jalloh spoke on two separate panels on the relationship between the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court and on the future of international criminal law in Africa at an interdisci- plinary conference convened by the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

On November 21, 2013, Jalloh spoke on the first-ever interactive panel among the 122 member states of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The special segment was requested by the African Union and titled “Indict- ment of Sitting Heads of State and Government and its Consequences on Peace and Stability and Reconciliation.” Thirty-six countries participated. Other panelists were Ambassador Rolf Einar Filip of Norway; Diynhe Daar, UN Union Commission acting legal coun- sel; Honorable Githu Muigai, attorney general of Kenya; and Professor Cherif Bassoumi, chairman of the Democratic Initiative Committee of the 1998 diplomatic conference which established the ICC. The moderator was the first president of the assembly, H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra’al Hussein (Jordan’s ambassador to the United Nations).

Professor Sheila I. Vélez Martínez was a guest columnist in Jamaica’s The Gleaner on August 13, 2013, comment- ing on the death of a 16-year-old transsexual teen.

Professor Michael Madison presented a paper titled “Managing Corruption at the IP Governance by Private Collective Entities Conference at the Center for Innovation and Information Law at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, on March 6–7, 2014. From June 30 to July 10, 2014, Madison taught Philo- sophical Foundations of Intellectual Property at the George Washington University Summer Intellectual Property Program, located at the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center and the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich, Germany. Madison is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Second Thematic Conference on Knowledge Commons organized by the International Association for the Study of Commons. The committee’s work was completed during the spring of 2014, with a conference to take place at New York University in September 2014.

Professor Jasmine Gonzales Rose spoke at the International Women in Film & Television Summit that took place in Pittsburgh on May 16–18, 2014. The summit brought together enter- tainment professionals from around the world, including Twilight Director Catherine Hardwick and CNN Anchor Martin Savidge. Gonzales Rose partici- pated in a panel following the screening of Gideon’s Army, an award-winning documentary about three courageous public defenders working to ensure justice in the South.
Introducing Pitt Law’s Online LLM Option

Pitt Law is currently accepting applications for the online, part-time LLM option, which begins in August 2015, in addition to its traditional residential LLM offerings.

Students in the online course option will take 8 classes over two academic years to complete an LLM with a focus on International Commercial Law. Courses will be taught by Pitt Law’s world-renowned faculty and will be delivered via an online learning platform. Students may add an optional two-week residential session in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

For More Information

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