

JULY 2014

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the Harris Institute e-Newsletter



WHITNEY R. HARRIS
WORLD LAW INSTITUTE

Fulfilling the Dictates of Public Conscience: Moving Forward with a Convention on Crimes Against Humanity

On May 16-17, 2014, the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute convened an historic meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on the question of whether and how to elaborate the world's first comprehensive convention addressing the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. The meeting brought together members of the UN International Law Commission and legal experts from around the world to discuss the core elements of a possible new convention, the key provisions it would need to prevent impunity for the commission of atrocity crimes, provisions needed for inter-state cooperation and institutional mechanisms, and the political prospects for adoption of a well-crafted convention.

The experts' meeting was a vital next step after more than five years of work. Directed by Professor Leila Sadat and an International Steering Committee, the *Crimes Against Humanity Initiative* was launched in 2008 to study the need for a global crimes against humanity convention and to draft a model treaty. The work of the Initiative was published in an award-winning volume, *Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (Cambridge 2011), and the 2013 paperback edition contains the English, French, and Spanish versions of the *Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity*.

The experts' meeting was designed to build upon the International Law Commission decision in 2013 to place the topic of a global crimes against humanity convention on its Long-Term Programme of Work.



Supported by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the meeting took place at the scenic Villa Moynier, the residence of Gustave Moynier, the first President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as the venue for the drafting of the first Geneva Convention of 1864, nearly 150 years prior.



The meeting included a keynote address by Ambassador Patricia O' Brien from the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, Geneva, and closing remarks by Ambassador Hans Corell, former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations and *Crimes Against Humanity Initiative* Steering Committee Member.

For more information, including event photos, please visit the [CAH Geneva Experts' Meeting](#) website.

UPCOMING EVENTS**AUGUST 24-27, 2014**

8th Annual IHL Dialogs
**The New World (Dis)Order:
 IHL in an Uncertain World**
 Chautauqua, NY

AUGUST 28, 2014

Bertrand du Marais,
 Université Paris Ouest
 Nanterre La Défense

SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

**Constitutional Implications of
 the Financial Crisis in Europe**
 Gonçalo Matias, Catholic
 University of Portugal

OCTOBER 13, 2014

**Fires, Fuel and the Fate of
 3 Billion: The State of the
 Energy Impoverished**
 Gautam Yadama,
 Washington University
 Brown School of Social Work

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

**LGBT Rights in International
 & Comparative Law: Progress
 and Contestation**
 Larry R. Helfer, Duke
 University School of Law

APRIL 2-3, 2015

**Global Perspectives on
 Colorism Conference**

OTHER SPRING EVENTS

Stephanie Farrior, Vermont
 Law School

**Roundtable on International
 Commercial Arbitration**

Recap of Speakers from Spring 2014

The Modern Challenges of International Law

by Ambassador David Scheffer

On February 11, 2014, Ambassador David Scheffer, Mayer Brown/Robert A. Helman Professor of Law at Northwestern University School of Law, delivered a lecture at Washington University School of Law on “The Modern Challenges of International Law.” He explored several issues including the Responsibility to Protect principle, the need for a better formula to fund international justice, his protocol to help track and arrest fugitives of the International Criminal Court, and corporate tax avoidance.

Scheffer formerly served as the first U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues in addition to a number of other

appointments and currently directs the Center for International Human Rights.

His recent book, *All the Missing Souls*, was featured at a book signing and reception following his lecture. The event was co-sponsored by Washington University’s International Law Society.

For more information, please read the [Press Release](#).



China’s First Encounter with the Modern Company

by Professor Madeleine Zelin



William C. Jones Lecture. Zelin is the Dean Lung Professor of Chinese Studies and Professor of History at Columbia

University and an expert in modern Chinese history. Her lecture discussed the concept of the “company” and its development during the Qing period. Co-sponsored by East Asian Languages and Cultures, the William C. Jones Lecture Series honors the late Professor William Jones and his important contributions in the areas of Chinese and comparative law.

for the 7th Annual

University and an expert in modern Chinese history. Her lecture discussed the concept of the “company” and its development during the Qing period. Co-sponsored by East Asian Languages and Cultures, the William C. Jones Lecture Series honors the late Professor William Jones and his important contributions in the areas of Chinese and comparative law.

For more information, visit the [William C. Jones Lecture Series](#) website.

Rule of Law, Criminal Justice, and the United States in Afghanistan

by Karen Hall

On April 3, 2014, Karen Hall, Team Leader for Rule of Law Issues in Afghanistan at the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, spoke about the “Rule of Law, Criminal Justice, and the United States in Afghanistan” at Washington University School of Law.

In her engaging lecture, Hall discussed Afghanistan’s justice system, the meaning of “rule of law,” rule-of-law reform, and job opportunities at the State

Department. The lecture was sponsored by Washington University Law’s Criminal Law Society, International Law Society, and the Harris Institute. For more information, [click here](#).



Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Team Reaches Quarter-Finals

Congratulations to Washington University School of Law's Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Team! After successfully defending the Southern Regional Championship, the team reached the quarter-finals of the International Rounds in Washington, D.C. This is the farthest the team has ever advanced and its success is well-deserved. Washington University also received the Alona E. Evans Award for the Best Memorial at the International Rounds.



Hannah Zhao and Erin Griebel. Professor Leila Sadat provided valuable insights as the team's faculty advisor.

Team members included Ted Reilly, Ashley Hammett, Benjamin Cohen, Sydney Tonsfeldt, and Ryan Baebler. Gilbert C. Sison skillfully coached the team with help from assistant coaches

For more information, please read the [Press Release](#) and visit Washington University's [Jessup Moot Court Team](#) website.

Students Contribute to International Law Projects

Over the course of the 2013-2014 academic year, Washington University law students contributed to the Harris Institute's international law projects in various capacities. Nine students during fall 2013 and seven students during spring 2014 participated in the Crimes Against Humanity Research Project. The Project involves studying and analyzing current crimes against humanity issues at the International Criminal Court.

Three students participated in the ICC Legal Tools Project throughout the year, where they researched national legislation and case law and contributed to an important international criminal law database.

Additionally, several students served as Harris Institute Student Fellows, assisting in the day-to-day activities of the Institute and providing legal research.



The Harris Institute Launches the *Languages at Lunch* Program

During spring 2014, the Harris Institute launched the Languages at Lunch Program by organizing conversation tables in Spanish, French, and Chinese.

The tables provided a fun and informal environment for those looking for an opportunity to practice their language skills at the law school.

Each table was led by a faculty member or a JSD student fluent in the relevant language. Topics of conversation ranged from current events to music videos to foreign legal systems. The tables were open to all levels of proficiency. Participants included beginners and native speakers alike who were

encouraged to listen and chat during the lunch sessions, which were co-sponsored by the China Law Society, International Law Society, and SBA Diversity Committee.

For more information about the conversation tables, please visit the [Languages at Lunch](#) website.



Farewell from 2013-2014 Harris Institute Fellow Evelyn Chuang



As the 2013-2014 Harris Institute Fellow, I sharpened my legal skills, managed and coordinated research projects, and built relationships with law school faculty

and students. I also helped plan very interesting lectures and conferences, including an experts' meeting on crimes against humanity in Geneva, Switzerland. These exciting experiences have allowed me to grow professionally while working in a field I care deeply about.

I am grateful to Professor Leila Sadat, the Harris Institute Director, for her guidance and mentorship throughout the year. I would also like to thank Bethel Mandefro, the Harris Institute Coordinator, for her constant assistance and friendship. I am truly fortunate for the opportunity to

study at and then work for Washington University School of Law, an exceptional institution with a strong sense of values and community.

I will be working for the Missouri State Public Defender in St. Louis County and am positive that I will continue to build on the skills I acquired as the Harris Institute Fellow in this next position.

Thanks for everything and goodbye!



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