



# International Legal Education Abroad and LL.M. Administrator's Conference

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**12:10PM – 12:25PM**

***Welcome Remarks***

**Jeff Wang**; Vice Provost for Global and Immersive Studies (American University)

**Padideh Ala'i**; Director of International and Comparative Legal Studies (American University Washington College of Law)

Professor Padideh Ala'i is the Director of International and Comparative Legal Studies and Faculty Director of the International Legal Studies Program. In this role, she promotes, represents, and coordinates the law school's renowned international programs that have been consistently ranked among some of the most prestigious programs in the United States. She specializes in international economic law, law of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and comparative legal traditions. She teaches international trade law and comparative law. Professor Ala'i's scholarship has concentrated on the history of free trade, transparency obligations of the WTO and their implications on internal domestic transparency, universalizing the administrative state through the multilateral trading system, as well as good governance and evolution of international anti-corruption norms.

Professor Ala'i is also the Director of the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program at WCL, a Fulbright program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The Program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from developing countries to the U.S for 10 months of non-degree study and professional development in the general field of law and human rights. In addition, since 2014, she has led the interdisciplinary Trade, Investment and Development Program (TID) that provides resources to students interested in linkage between trade and other disciplines such as intellectual property, environment, investment, labor and human rights.

Professor Ala'i received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1988. Prior to joining the faculty of WCL, from 1988-1997, she was in private practice, representing governments from developing countries, as well as foreign companies in the United States.

**12:30PM – 1:30PM**

***The Path Forward***

*The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on the field of international education. Student mobility was halted and academic collaboration stymied. The uncertainty around vaccines, variants, and the resumption of travel made planning for the future difficult — some might say impossible. Yet out of this challenging period has come fresh ideas, new approaches, and innovation. While the global public-health crisis underscored the vulnerabilities of international education and exchange, it also may have left the field more sustainable, in the multiple senses of the word. In this talk, I'll look at the impact of Covid on international education and on international educators themselves — and at what could lie ahead.*

**Karin Fischer; Senior Writer (The Chronicle of Higher Education)**

Karin Fischer is a correspondent for The Chronicle of Higher Education, where she writes about international education, colleges and the economy, and other topics. She also publishes a popular weekly newsletter on global education, *Latitudes*. Her reporting has appeared in The New York Times, EdSource, and the Washington Monthly. She is a research associate at the Center for Studies in Higher Education at the University of California at Berkeley and an international education leadership fellow at the University at Albany. She is a recipient of the East-West Center's Jefferson Fellowship for reporting in Asia and the International Reporting Project fellowship. Her work has been honored by the Education Writers Association, the National Press Foundation, and the Poynter Institute.

**Theresa Kaiser; Entrepreneur & Higher Ed Consultant**

Following careers as a lawyer, a university administrator, a small business owner, and a mom, Theresa now works as a higher education consultant specializing in leadership, organizational change, and graduate program development. During her higher ed career, she oversaw the international JD programs at American University Washington College of Law and the international JD and the graduate programs at the University of Michigan Law School. At these schools, she led small but stellar teams, working both horizontally and vertically to achieve institutional goals. Theresa serves as an accreditation

site visitor for the American Bar Association and co-chairs the New York County Lawyers' Association committee on Inclusion of International Lawyers in the US Legal Profession. She has published on the topic of US international legal education in the Journal of Legal Education, but for fun, she designs puzzles and games for her local Tulsa, OK community. Theresa has a JD from Emory University, an M.Ed. from Harvard University, undergraduate degrees from the University of Kansas (Rock Chalk!) and a certificate from the AIEA Leadership Academy for New Senior International Officers.