



# INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW



WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO STUDY LAW



## A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEAN



**29** International faculty

**#9** US News & World Report

**124** Students representing 49 countries

**A+** In international law, *Prelaw Magazine*

**50+** Faculty publications



At American University Washington College of Law, we are deeply committed to fostering a global perspective in legal education. Our vibrant community of international students, faculty, and partners reflects our ongoing dedication to addressing complex global issues. From our distinguished Humphrey Fellowship Program to our summer programs across major European cities, we provide students with unique opportunities to engage in diverse legal fields, including international economic law, human rights and intellectual property. I am proud to be part of an institution that not only supports academic achievement but actively engages in advancing justice worldwide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Hughes".

**Heather Hughes**  
Interim Dean and Professor of Law

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



For over fifty years, our programs have navigated the international legal landscape, driving sustainable economic development, championing human rights, and safeguarding technological advancements. Our esteemed faculty continues to collaborate with international organizations to redefine the future of international law, enriching the classroom with their real-world insights.

Through cutting-edge research, dynamic externships, skills-based competitions, and immersive study abroad experiences, AUWCL empowers students to tackle the complexities of international law with confidence and creativity. We invite you to visit us in Washington, DC, and discover why AUWCL is where the world meets to study law.

Warm regards,

**Padideh Ala'i**  
Professor of Law  
Director of International and Comparative Legal Studies



# SCHOLARSHIP



## “Attacking Big Data: Strategic Competition, the Race for AI, and the International Law of Cyber Sabotage”

Gary Corn in *Big Data and Armed Conflict: Legal Issues Above and Below the Armed Conflict Threshold* (2023)

This chapter addresses the national security challenges posed by China’s AI development, emphasizing the pivotal role of big data. It explores potential cyber-enabled operations that could disrupt this progress, while examining the international legal ramifications of cyber sabotage. The discussion encompasses jus ad bellum and other critical aspects of state responsibility, including the principles of state sovereignty, prohibited intervention, and the doctrines of countermeasures and necessity. Ultimately, it posits that precision cyber tactics could undermine China’s AI efforts without violating international legal thresholds.



## “Criminalizing Ecocide”

Rebecca Hamilton in *Harvard Human Rights Journal* (2025)

As awareness of environmental crises grows, the term “ecocide” carries significant weight. Current regulatory measures seem inadequate to tackle the intertwined issues of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity

loss. This article advocates for the criminalization of ecocide in international law, highlighting its expressive potential. The article warns against misusing ecocide laws against marginalized groups and calls for a definition that aligns with Indigenous perspectives, emerging human rights discussions, and science. By investing in proper criminalization for ecocide, international criminal law could become a leader in creating a more environmentally friendly legal framework.



## “Comparative Law: Introduction to a Critical Practice”

Fernanda Nicola (2024)

This book serves as a practical introductory guide to comparative law, exploring both conventional and critical approaches to legal comparison, and outlining its theory and methodology. The chapters address real-world legal issues across eight fields, including property, contracts, torts, family law, administrative law, constitutional law, legal transfers, and legal histories. By linking contemporary examples with established legal principles, the book is a valuable resource for students, teachers, political scientists, and journalists interested in international legal matters.



## “Gender and the Law”

Jamie Abrams and Daniela Kraiem (2023)

Gender and the Law provides timely coverage highlighting the most pressing legal questions in the realm of gender and law. Assembled by a team of expert editors, this work collects the best research addressing legal issues

affecting women, the law and masculinities, gender identity and expression, and sexuality published within the last year. With timely coverage from top legal scholars of both “hot” topics and legal questions with a long history, this text allows practitioners to quickly get up to date and identify trends in a broad range of fields in this fast-changing area.



## “Protecting Human Rights in the Americas: The Continuous Role of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights”

Claudio Grossman in *The Impact of the Inter-American Human Rights System: Transformations on the Ground* (2024)

This chapter examines the evolving roles of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights across three phases: combating dictatorship, addressing its legacy while supporting new democracies, and promoting inclusion by advocating for economic, social, and cultural rights. It highlights challenges to democratic governance in the Western Hemisphere, such as inequality and corruption, and discusses the Commission’s methods, including in-person visits and the case system. The chapter emphasizes the need for the Commission’s independence to uphold its legitimacy and effectively address current regional challenges through human rights and democracy.



## “Reforming World Bank Dispute Resolution: ICSID in Context”

Susan Franck in *Michigan Journal of International Law* (2023)

This article examines the current state of international dispute settlement, particularly at the World Bank’s International Centre for

Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), amid significant political changes. It argues that dispute resolution should not perpetuate power abuses or follow a one-size-fits-all model, but rather reflect a commitment to the rule of law and fair treatment. By utilizing an evidence-based, historical approach, the article seeks to accurately understand ICSID’s past and its implications for international investment law and future reforms in dispute settlement.

## GLOBAL IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

### CLAUDIO GROSSMAN WINS NELSON MANDELA AWARD

Dean Emeritus Claudio Grossman received the Nelson Mandela Award from the Association of American Law Schools International Human Rights Section. This highest honor in the field of international human rights recognizes individuals whose extraordinary accomplishments have left an enduring mark on the global pursuit of justice. Professor Grossman's unwavering commitment to human rights has been instrumental in shaping the field. His pioneering research, advocacy, and teaching have inspired countless scholars, practitioners, and policymakers worldwide.



### 26TH ANNUAL GROTIUS LECTURE

AUWCL proudly sponsored the 26th annual Grotius Lecture, featuring Dame Meg Taylor, Papua New Guinea lawyer, diplomat and member of the Pacific Elder's Voice. In her impassioned speech, Dame Meg underscored the critical importance of sovereignty, unity and solidarity for Pacific Island nations, particularly in the face of the escalating climate crisis. Julian Aguon, prominent indigenous human rights lawyer, served as the discussant, emphasizing the pivotal role of younger generations in asserting the Blue Pacific identity, amplifying its voices, and advocating for justice. Among other highlights, he discussed Vanuatu's request for an ICJ advisory opinion on the obligations of states in the current climate crisis.

### DIANE ORENTLICHER SPEAKS AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS



Professor Diane Orentlicher provided expert remarks on war crimes at the House of Lords during an event hosted by Labour Peer Lord Jon Mendelsohn. In her capacity as former Deputy for War Crimes Issues in the U.S. Department of State and co-director of the Center for Human Rights and

Humanitarian Law at AUWCL, she provided insight alongside eye-witness testimonies.

### PADIDEH ALA'I SPEAKS AT 2024 SAIL IN SEOUL, KOREA



Professor Padideh Ala'i spoke at the 2024 Seoul Academy of International Law (SAIL) on international economic law, WTO law and U.S. Trade Policy. Hosted by the Korea National Diplomatic Academy, SAIL gathers global government officials to enhance their knowledge

of international law. Professor Ala'i emphasized South Korea's leadership in international economic law and the significance of such events amid challenges facing multilateral institutions. Government officials from 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific gained valuable insights during the program.



# LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



## **AUWCL hosts the International Conference on Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction (with Claudio Grossman, ILC Special Rapporteur)**

In his capacity as the International Law Commission's Special Rapporteur on Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction, Dean Emeritus and Professor Claudio Grossman hosted a conference to discuss the ILC's 2022 articles at AUWCL's Tenleytown campus. Alongside experts from the ILC and other non-governmental organizations, Professor Grossman analyzed state comments on the draft adopted by the ILC in 2022, exploring new developments, and discussing several of its aspects, such as the scope of immunity for State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction, exceptions to immunity in cases of international crimes, and legal safeguards to ensure the rights of the accused.



**Professor Marcos Orellana** was renewed as the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, solidifying his commitment to effecting change. He is also an adjunct professor and is the director of the Global Toxics and Human Rights Project at AUWCL.



**Professor Robert Goldman** and **Professor Carlos Ayala**, president and vice president of the International Commission of Jurists, respectively, contributed to the ICJ's impact on international law and human rights. Throughout the past year, Professor Goldman has been a key authority on international humanitarian law and the Rule of Law as it applies to the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Professor Ayala, a native of Venezuela, has provided expert opinions on the Inter-American legal system.



## PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS



**Humphrey Fellowship Program:** Since 2002, AUWCL has hosted the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, a Fulbright Exchange activity sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs. Fellowships are awarded to mid-career professionals through a competitive selection process, providing them with a year-long opportunity for academic enrichment and professional development at prestigious institutions across the United States. Currently, AUWCL is the only law school that hosts Humphrey Fellows.

### **American University Awarded Multi-Million Dollar Grant from Arcadia Fund to Build Geneva Center on Information Justice:**

AUWCL received a major grant from Arcadia, a charitable foundation, for its Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property (PIJIP) to build a new Geneva Center on Information Justice. The grant will advance PIJIP's ongoing project on Copyright and the Right to Research, previously supported by Arcadia. The project aims to foster collaboration among scholars, civil society stakeholders, and governments to promote evidence-based international policy on access and use of materials for research in the digital environment. The primary focus is to produce and disseminate information into international policy forums to promote evidence-based policymaking impacting the rights of researchers and others to use digital tools and methods.

### **The International and Comparative Legal Studies (ICLS)**

at AUWCL expanded its partnership with ADA University School of Law in Baku, Azerbaijan to offer a dual-degree program. The new program will follow a 3+1 structure, from which students will graduate with a Bachelor of Laws from ADA and an LL.M. from AUWCL.



### **WIPO – AUWCL**

**Agreement:** The executive director of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy signed a Memorandum of Understanding to continue the close relationship between

American University Washington College of Law's Program on Information Justice & Intellectual Property (PIJIP) and WIPO. The agreement is designed to facilitate access to higher education in Intellectual Property for students and governmental delegates from developing, least-developed (LDCs) and countries in transition. It allows PIJIP to offer reduced rates for its summer course Intellectual Property in the Multilateral System, held at WIPO, and LL.M. programs run by AUWCL.

### **American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) Selected as Sole Degree-Awarding Institution for USAID/IEE Grant Program:**

AUWCL has been selected as the only institution in the U.S. to award an LL.M. in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (HRHL) to fellows from Central America, as part of a prestigious USAID/IEE grant. The program, which also includes partnerships with Notre Dame and the University of Florida, focuses on training individuals involved in anticorruption efforts. As AUWCL prepares to open recruitment for the second cohort, set to begin in Fall 2025, this marks an exceptional opportunity to highlight AUWCL's leadership in awarding specialized advanced degrees in the HRHL field.



# IMMERSIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCES



## Dual Degree Programs:

- Canada - JD/JD, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Common Law Section
- France - JD/Master I/Master II, Université Paris Nanterre
- Italy - JD/LLM (Master in International, Comparative and European Union Law), Libera Università Internazionale Degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli (LUISS)
- Spain - JD/LLM (Master in International and European Business Law), Universidad Pontificia Comillas - ICADE

## Semester Exchange Programs:

### North America

- Canada - University of Ottawa (English)

### South America

- Brazil - FGV Sao Paulo (English)
- Colombia - Universidad de los Andes (Spanish)

### Asia

- China - Peking University (English and Mandarin)
- Hong Kong - China University of Hong Kong (English)
- India - Jindal Global School (English)
- South Korea - Yonsei (Korean)

### Europe

- Belgium - University of Ghent (English)
- France - Université Paris Nanterre (French)
- Germany - Bucerius Law School (English)
- Italy - Bocconi University (English)
- Netherlands - University of Leiden (English)
- Norway - University of Oslo (English)
- Spain - ESADE (Spanish)
- Spain - Pontificia Comillas - ICADE (English)
- Sweden - Stockholm University (English)



## Summer Programs (DC/Abroad):

- International Rule Making and Dispute Settlement - WTO, WIPO and the Multilateral System in Geneva
- Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law: Current Challenges in Geneva
- International Law Commission Experiential Opportunity in Geneva
- Transnational Business Law and EU Regulation in London and Brussels
- International Criminal Justice in the Hague
- International Arbitration Summer Institute in DC
- Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in DC
- U.S. and International Anti-Corruption Law Program in DC



## International Legal Drafting Course:

Professor Elizabeth Keith, a legal rhetoric expert at AUWCL, organized a groundbreaking initiative with her students to protect consumers worldwide. In collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Professor Keith's innovative "International Legal Drafting" course, involving upper-level JD students, tackled a critical issue: unsafe consumer products in the global marketplace.

## Lawyering Peace Program:

The Lawyering Peace Class is a one-semester experiential learning program, offering students an opportunity to develop professional skills and substantively engage in peace negotiations, post-conflict constitution drafting, and transitional justice planning as young professionals. Lawyering Peace students will work on a semester-long research project, drafting client-ready memoranda or other legal documents on international legal issues for the Public International Law and Policy Group.

## Skills-based competitions:

Students have the opportunity to participate in both domestic and international moot competitions related to World Trade Organization law, arbitration, Inter-American human rights system, public international law and more.



# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

## **BRAZIL-U.S. LEGAL AND JUDICIAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

The Brazil-U.S. Legal and Judicial Studies Program at American University Washington College of Law is a comparative law program focused on Brazil and the United States and their respective legal and judicial institutions. Led by Senior United States District Judge Peter J. Messitte, the program is unique in offering a direct comparison of Brazilian legal and judicial institutions with those of the United States. The program provides participants with a firmer understanding of both Brazilian and U.S. systems and imparts substantial practical knowledge as the two countries increase their interactions with one another. For nearly 10 years, the program has organized a comparative symposium for Brazilian judges. Most recently, it expanded to offer training to Argentinian judges, formalizing an agreement with the Asociación Argentina de Justicia Constitucional.

## **CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMANITARIAN LAW**

Established in 1990, the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law underscores AUWCL's enduring commitment to international human rights and the rule of law. For more than three decades, the Center has shaped norms, aided faculty, human rights experts, and students, contributing significantly to resolving prominent human rights issues. Currently, the Center delves into the relationship between public finance and human rights, strategically advocates in high-impact cases within the Inter-American system, and emphasizes the nexus between human rights and climate change, alongside the implications of toxic substances.

## **CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION**

Established in 2004 and directed by Professor Horacio A. Grigera Naón, the Center on International Commercial Arbitration hosts a three-week summer institute in Washington, DC, and two moot arbitration competitions in English and Spanish. The Center offers five online certificate programs specializing in commercial and investment arbitration. In 2023 and 2024, the Center partnered with the Inter-American Commercial Arbitration Commission for a hybrid practical seminar for 40+ arbitrators and counsel across Latin America. The Center conducts cutting-edge research on institutional arbitration rules, legislation, and international regulatory initiatives. For more than 18 years, it has positioned AUWCL as a leading institution in commercial and investment arbitration, drawing students from various legal backgrounds.

## **ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW**

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law prioritizes practical approaches to these fields, offering multilingual programs like the prestigious LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the Summer Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition. These initiatives foster global connections among human rights organizations, practitioners, and educators, offering students unparalleled experiential learning opportunities.

## **TRADE, INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Since 2014, the Trade, Investment and Development Program (TID) at AUWCL has invited exceptional practitioners and trade experts to both teach and conduct research. TID oversees the trade law curriculum, the LL.M. program in International Business and Trade Law, and hands-on opportunities for students, including the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition on WTO Law. Emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of trade, TID highlights its connections with labor, the environment, gender, and intellectual property annually. Headed by Professor Padideh Ala'i, the program hosts the Symposium on International Trade with the Embassy of Brazil and the Wenger Lecture in International Trade.

## **TECH, LAW & SECURITY PROGRAM**

The Tech, Law & Security Program (TLS) unites leading experts in three critical areas—Content Regulation in the Digital Age, Privacy, Transparency, and Security, and Cyber and Information Conflict. The program's work prioritizes emerging technologies, fundamental rights protection, and engagement across public, private, and international domains. Over the past three years, TLS has concentrated on groundbreaking research covering cross-border data flows, regulation, surveillance, and comprehensive content moderation. The program hosted prominent speakers through its At-the-Intersection speaker series, continued its "TechTalks" for the AU community, and organized the "Future Conflict: the International Law of Cyber and Information Convergence" symposium, fostering meaningful discourse on international law.

## **BUSINESS LAW PROGRAM**

Led by Director David Snyder and Associate Director Gerard Comizio, the Business Law Program is a leading hub for business law education and research. The Program takes a proactive stance on the role of business lawyers in addressing sustainability and human rights within global supply chains. Professor Snyder leads a working group and a task force in the American Bar Association and is a principal author of model contracts. He also co-chairs a parallel European Working Group, meeting regularly with prominent legal professionals, regulators, legislators, and scholars from numerous EU countries. The Program recently launched the Digital Asset Law Project.

## **WAR CRIMES RESEARCH OFFICE**

For more than 25 years, guided by AUWCL Professor Susana SáCouto, the War Crimes Research Office has served as a critical resource for international tribunals and organizations promoting accountability for atrocity crimes worldwide. Over the last 15 years, the Office has developed significant expertise and global recognition in gender and international criminal law.

## **PROGRAM ON INFORMATION JUSTICE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property at AUWCL is a renowned academic and research hub for intellectual property and information law. Its accomplished faculty covers all major aspects of the field, including Copyright, Patent, Trademark, Trade Secret, Cyberlaw, and international IP. PIJIP serves as a significant incubator of research and public discourse on public interest in global intellectual property policymaking. AUWCL boasts one of the oldest intellectual property programs in the world, with origins dating back to 1910.

## **U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW PROGRAM**

The U.S. and International Anti-Corruption Law Program provides peer-to-peer learning taught by leading experts and designed for public, private, and non-profit sector professionals from around the world to enhance their expertise and expand their anti-corruption networks and professional contacts. The Program offers a summer certificate on U.S. and International Anti-Corruption Law and custom-designed programs tailored to specific professional groups and topics, and organizes the Frank H. Menaker Jr. Corporate Integrity Lecture Series.



# OUR WORLD-RENOWNED FACULTY

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

Rebecca Hamilton, *Associate Professor of Law*

Diane Orentlicher, *Professor of Law; former Deputy for War Crimes Issues in the U.S. Department of State*

Faraz Sanei, *Assistant Professor of Law*

Paul Williams, Rebecca I. Grazier *Professor of Law and International Relations; Founder of the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG)*

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW

Padideh Ala'i, *Professor of Law; Director of International and Comparative Legal Studies*

Susan Franck, *Professor of Law International Arbitration and Business Law*

Gerard Comizio, *Associate Director of the Business Law Program*

Horacio Grigera Naón, *Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence; Director of the Center on International Commercial Arbitration*

David Snyder, *Professor of Law; Director of the Business Law Program*

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Eduardo Bertoni, *Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*

Robert Goldman, *Professor of Law and Louis C. James Scholar*

Claudio Grossman, *Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus; Member of the U.N. International Law Commission; Associate Member of the Institut de Droit International*

Claudia Martin, *Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence; Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*

Juan Méndez, *Professor of Human Rights Law in Residence; former U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture*

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón, *Professorial Lecturer in-Residence; Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; former Member of the U.N. Committee against Torture*

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

Susana SáCouto, *Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence; Director of the War Crimes Research Office*

## GENDER AND THE LAW

Janie Chuang, *Professor of Law*

Anita Sinha, *Associate Professor of Law; Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic*

## IMMIGRATION LAW

Jayesh Rathod, *Professor of Law; Associate Dean for Experiential Education*

## INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

David Hunter, *Professor of Law; Member of the Strategic Advisors Group for the International Finance Corporation's Compliance Advisor/ Ombudsman (the World Bank Group)*

William Snape, *Practitioner-in-Residence; Assistant Dean of Adjunct Faculty Affairs; Senior Counsel of the Center for Biological Diversity*

## TECHNOLOGY, LAW, AND SECURITY

Kenneth Anderson, *Professor of Law*

Gary Corn, *Director of the Tech, Law, and Security Program*

Ya'ara Barnoon, *Associate Program Director of the Tech, Law, and Security Program*

Alex Joel, *Scholar-in-Residence and Adjunct Professor; Senior Officer with the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence*

## EUROPEAN UNION AND COMPARATIVE LAW

Fernanda Nicola, *Professor of Law; Director of the International Organizations, Law and Development*

## PROGRAM INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Michael Carroll, *Professor of Law; Faculty Director of the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property*

Christine Haight Farley, *Professor of Law; Faculty Director of the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property*

Sean Flynn, *Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence; Director of the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property*

## HEALTH LAW AND POLICY

Maya Manian, *Professor of Law; Faculty Director of the Health Law and Policy Program*

## AFRICANA LEGAL STUDIES

Angi Porter, *Assistant Professor of Law*

## LIST OF PROGRAMS

- Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Brazil-U.S. Legal and Judicial Studies Program
- Business Law Program
- Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Center on International Commercial Arbitration
- Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program
- Immigrant Justice Clinic
- International Human Rights Law Clinic
- International JD Dual Degree Programs
- International Legal Studies Program
- International Organizations, Law and Development Program
- International Visiting Scholars Program
- Impact Litigation Project
- Kovler Project Against Torture
- Legal English Program
- Program on Environmental and Energy Law
- Program on Gender, Theory, Law and Practice
- Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property
- Program on International Communications Regulation and Policy
- Semester Exchange and Summer Abroad Programs
- Spanish for Lawyers Program
- Tech, Law, and Security Program
- Trade, Investment, and Development Program
- U.S. and International Anti-Corruption Law Program
- War Crimes Research Office



 WASHINGTON COLLEGE of LAW  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

American University Washington College of Law  
4300 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016

[wcl.american.edu/international](http://wcl.american.edu/international)  
(202) 274-4112

EO/AA University and Employer