In support of international human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

ABOUT CIHR

Led by Professor David Scheffer, former U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues (1997–2001), the Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) provides a comprehensive range of classroom courses on the norms and mechanisms of international human rights law, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law, as well as provides valuable clinical experiences for students interested in the protection of human rights on a global scale and projects researching and addressing emerging human rights and international criminal law norms and related issues.

CIHR faculty members supervise students in several areas of clinical work, including advocacy and preparation of filings before federal courts, international criminal tribunals, and human rights bodies. They also teach core and elective courses and seminars for JD students and others in the LLM, JD-LLM, and Masters of Legal Studies (for non-law students) degree programs in International Human Rights.

CIHR faculty assist in placing students in international externships for academic credit and postgraduate staff positions with international courts and human rights organizations.

In August 2012, the CIHR was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Security Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN). This prestigious status offers CIHR faculty and student representatives (under faculty supervision) the opportunity to participate in events, conferences, and activities of the UN, including the Secretariat, programs, funds, and agencies, ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, and other UN intergovernmental decision-making bodies.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

JD-LLM in International Human Rights
Northwestern Law and its Center for International Human Rights offer a four-year joint degree program leading to both a JD and an LLM in International Human Rights, with a focus on both international human rights law and international criminal law. Northwestern Law remains the only law school in the country to offer a joint JD-LLM in International Human Rights (JD-LLM IHR) program.

JD—International Law Concentration

LLM Program in International Human Rights
The LLM Program in International Human Rights Law is designed for students with American JDs or law degrees from other countries who wish to undertake an in-depth study of the norms and methods of international human rights law and international criminal law and their implementation by international courts and organizations and in domestic legal systems. The structure of the program affords unique advantages for educational and social interaction. Students are assured of a close working relationship with the professors, all of whom have had hands-on legal practice and academic experience in the field, and access to the programs of the Center for International Human Rights. The International Human Rights LLM program has welcomed students from Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

MSL Program in International Human Rights
The MSL Program, which is identical to the LLM Program, is available for those with other qualifications in lieu of a law degree.

The Human Rights Clinic Program allows JD, LLM and JD-LLM International Human Rights students to participate in cases and projects raising human rights norms within domestic courts, foreign legal systems, and international tribunals. CIHR oversees the international externship program for JD and JD-LLM students to obtain law school credit while working full-time for an academic term with designated international tribunals and international organizations. To date, CIHR has placed JD students with the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Human Rights Watch, the African Court of Human and People’s Rights, and the International Criminal Court.
**FACULTY**

David Scheffer
Director of Clinical Projects
Mayer Brown/Robert A. Helman
Professor of Law

Bridget Arimond
LLM Program Director
Clinical Professor

Stephen Sawyer
Director of Curricular Projects
Clinical Associate Professor

Juliet Sorensen
Clinical Associate Professor

**RECENT & ONGOING PROJECTS**

**LGBTI rights advocacy before human rights treaty monitoring bodies**

In collaboration with the Global Initiative for Sexuality and Human Rights and its international network of LGBTI advocates, CHIR Clinic students and faculty have partnered with LGBTI rights activists in Liberia, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Uruguay, and Macedonia to prepare “shadow reports” documenting human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Our Liberia report was presented to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, which thereafter issued its first-ever resolution condemning violence and other human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Following submission of our reports on Uruguay and Sri Lanka, clinic students and their professor traveled to Geneva to participate in the Human Rights Committee’s review of those two countries’ treaty compliance.

**Participating as plaintiffs’ counsel and as amicus curiae in federal court cases**

brought under the Alien Tort Statute and the Torture Victim Protection Act to hold accountable multinational corporations and government officials for atrocities committed in violation of the law of nations.

**Northwestern Access to Health Project**

The Access to Health Project is an interdisciplinary health and human rights project in which students and faculty from Northwestern Law School and Northwestern’s Center for Global Health work with a community in the developing world to assess the public health needs of that community, and to design an appropriate, sustainable intervention. In the past, Access to Health worked in Ethiopia and the Dominican Republic. Since 2013, the project has focused on Dounesta, Mali and is working on a number of ongoing campaigns in that community related to health, human rights and sustainable development.

**Atrocity Crimes Litigation Year-in-Review Conference**

Early each year CHIR convenes the Atrocity Crimes Litigation Year-in-Review Conference to examine the practice and jurisprudence of the major war crimes tribunals during the immediately preceding calendar year. Moderated by Professor Scheffer, the conference is usually held in The Hague, bringing NU Law students together with prosecutors, judges, defense counsel, investigators, and administrators of the tribunals, as well as distinguished academic commentators, to present a day-long discussion about the preceding year’s developments in the dynamic field of international criminal law litigation. The Northwestern Journal of International Human Rights works closely with CHIR to publish a special edition each year of articles drawn from this discussion. A video and transcript of each conference is posted on the CHIR web site.

**Cambodia Tribunal Monitor**

In collaboration with the Documentation Center of Cambodia and thanks to the financial support of the Robert Bosch Foundation, CHIR operates Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (www.cambodiatribunal.org). This Web site provides daily coverage of and expert commentary about the trial proceedings of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia before which senior Khmer Rouge leaders and others most responsible for the atrocities crimes of the Pol Pot era are being brought to justice.

**Participation in the UN Convention against Corruption Conference of States Parties**

Making use of CHIR’s special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Professor Sorensen and two students attended the 2013 Convention of States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, where they participated in meetings with country representatives about a wide variety of issues related to corruption and have blogged about the proceedings for a widely read legal blog on international bribery.

**Global Jurist of the Year Award**

CHIR has established the Global Jurist of the Year Award to recognize sitting jurists throughout the world for significant contributions to human rights and international criminal law. Each fall the award winner campus to accept the award and participate in a series of events that allow these exceptional judges to share their experience and perspective with our community.

**Technical Assistance to the Uganda Human Rights Commission with respect to proposed anti-torture legislation**

At the request of a Legal Officer with the Uganda Human Rights Commission, CHIR Clinic students and faculty analyzed a draft anti-torture bill against the requirements of the Convention Against Torture and the jurisprudence of that treaty’s monitoring committee. The final bill, which incorporated some of CHIR’s recommendations, was enacted into law and has been credited as a major reason for a subsequent reduction in complaints of torture and ill-treatment.

**Provision of assistance to international and hybrid criminal tribunals**

Clinic students, under the guidance of CHIR faculty, have prepared memoranda for these tribunals on legal issues raised by particular cases pending before them. These include amicus briefs in contentious cases.

Please visit our web site for more information on our programs, projects, and events

www.law.northwestern.edu/humanrights/