

Center for International Human Rights

Newsletter · Fall 2023

A Letter from the Interim Director

Ibrahim Gassama



I was a young child then, but I still remember the euphoria generated by national independence from centuries of European domination. The euphoria did not last long. The military coups and executions of political opponents followed quickly, carried out by charismatic people who employed words and phrases like “freedom,” “self-determination,” “revolution,” and “human rights,” to mask their resolute pursuit of absolute power. Even now, decades later, as I think back to that period, I am astonished by the ease with which those who claimed to be fighting for freedom wielded the repressive machinery of state power to eliminate domestic opposition. An escape to the United States, engineered by my mother who probably sensed a developing nihilism, provided me with opportunities for self-reflection. But it has been a long struggle. Like for so many still, this world provides little space for reflection of any sort; life is about survival or resistance in an environment of unrelenting misery, structured by violence. Faith in the rule of law, democracy, or human rights does not come naturally. It must be nurtured, repeatedly.

The study and practice of human rights could of course be taught in classrooms, but it is best advanced when classroom instructions are

complemented by experience. When I attended law school in the early eighties, we had neither. However, my background and good fortune moved me towards legal work in support of people who understood even if they had not read it somewhere that what was happening to them was not right. Years of experience, gained by working with some of the most marginalized people, prepared me to enter the legal academy where I have taught human rights courses for over three decades.

The opportunity to teach at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, one of the world’s preeminent law schools and to serve as interim director of its Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) was quite unexpected. I had lived and practiced in big cities, and over time had committed myself to staying away from them except for occasional forays. I am glad I accepted the offer. Chicago is a wonderfully diverse city; a microcosm of humanity. Imagine taking a stroll on a beautiful spring day and stumbling upon a Greek Heritage parade and hearing speakers recalling the Greek war of Independence or going to a festival in Ukrainian Village to hear updates on the resistance to Russian aggression. One cannot help but feel that every community on earth is present here and eager to teach you something about their own struggle for human rights.

The Law School with its wide-ranging LLM programs in particular mirrors the diversity of its location and ensures representation from all regions of the world. CIHR is at the fulcrum of this diversity. This is the place where human

rights education is nurtured. The small International Human rights LLM cohort under the direction of Professor Bridget Arimond continues to attract impressive lawyers from around the world who constitute a proud and growing alumni base. Professor Arimond, together with Professors Juliet Sorensen and Carolyn Frazier, form the core of our human rights doctrinal and experiential offerings to students in the JD and LLM programs. They leverage our limited capacity through their multiple international human rights networks to provide our students with varied opportunities to learn and to make a difference. This newsletter provides a bare outline of the contributions they and their students are making in every region of the world. CIHR has also had the benefit of Schuette Clinical Fellows working under the supervision of Professor Sorensen.

The newsletter also highlights CIHR efforts to “bring human rights home” through our speaker series, often done in conjunction with student groups and others within the university. CIHR speakers engaged students on issues including violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine, UN efforts to tackle systemic racism, the International Criminal Court’s efforts to assist victims, violations of human rights of women in Iran, and international responses to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. CIHR was also extremely proud to host Judge Miguel Gálvez, our 2023 recipient of the Global Jurist Award, at a dinner in his honor. The GJA selection process, directed by Professor Sorensen, continues to provide CIHR with avenues for high-

lighting truly remarkable jurists who have stood resolute in defense of human rights and the rule of law in the face of state sanctioned threats and violence.

In all my human rights classes, I require my students to read “outside the law.” I urge them to consider that while we lawyers are invaluable at developing legal standards and implementing them, there is still the “human” component of human rights that require us to go outside of law to learn from other disciplines. There is a humility that comes over you as you work to help develop a culture that respects, protects, and fulfills human rights domestically and internationally. I urge them to take to heart the cautionary tale of Mr. Kurtz in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*; the message of hope that can be distilled from Albert Camus’s *The Plague*. I tell them that while it might be too much to expect to find joy in Sisyphean ventures, the alternative of despair is even more unacceptable.

Gabriel Cassano

Northwestern Law Honors Judge Miguel Ángel Gálvez



Judge Gálvez accepted 2023 Global Jurist of the year award.

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law’s Center for International

Human Rights (CIHR) awarded its eighth Global Jurist of the Year award to Judge Miguel Ángel Gálvez of Guatemala, in recognition of his outstanding work for accountability in emblematic human rights and anticorruption cases.

The Global Jurist of the Year Award is designed to honor a sitting judge, whether in an international or national court, who has demonstrated courage in the face of adversity to uphold and defend fundamental human rights or the principles of international criminal justice in his or her career. Jurists from all nations and tribunals are eligible for consideration. The International Refugee Assistance Project, Northwestern Pritzker Law Chapter; Northwestern’s Buffett Institute for Global Affairs; American Bar Association Center for Human Rights and the Due Process of Law Foundation were co-sponsors of the event.



Judge Gálvez has, in a career spanning twenty-five years, presided over cases of grave human rights violations committed during Guatemala’s internal armed conflict (1960-1996) within the framework of criminal proceedings of transitional justice. He also heard cases with great social impact, such as the case of corruption committed by high government officials including former President Otto Pérez Molina and former Vice President Roxana Baldetti.

As a result of his outstanding work for accountability in human rights and anticorruption cases, Judge Gálvez has been, and remains, a victim of ongoing persecution and harassment from powerful interest groups as well as state institutions. These attacks form part of a larger pattern of criminalization and climate of intimidation directed against those defending human rights and the rule of law in Guatemala. Many of those targeted, including Judge Gálvez, have sought refuge outside the country.

Past recipients of the CIHR’s Global Jurist Award include Justice Grace

Mumbi Ngugi, Judge of the High Court of Kenya; Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, president of the International Criminal Court and a national of Argentina; Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella of the Supreme Court of Canada; the Honorable Gloria Patricia Porras Escobar, president of the Guatemalan Constitutional Court; Justice Shireen Avis Fisher, president of the Special Court for Sierra Leone; and Acting Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke of South Africa’s Constitutional Court (the first recipient of the Global Jurist Award).

Highlights of CIHR Events in the 2022-2023 school year.

International Human Rights Events for the Law School Community

During the past academic year, the CIHR hosted several speakers to visit the law school and speak on important human rights related topics.

Oona Hathaway on the War in Ukraine



CIHR hosted Oona Hathaway, Gerald C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law at Yale Law School on February 22, 2023. Professor Hathaway, a member of the Advisory Committee on International Law for the Legal Adviser at the United States Department of State since 2005, was the 2023 Coif Distinguished Visitor. In her lecture, “International Law Goes to War in Ukraine,” Hathaway discussed the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its wide-ranging implications for the international legal order. She called the war a brazen illegal war

and a clear violation of the UN Charter which prohibits any state from using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state. She also outlined efforts to hold Russian president Vladimir Putin and other senior Russian officials accountable for violations of international criminal law via international legal processes. The lecture which drew a large audience was co-sponsored by the Buffet Institute for Global Affairs.

Gay McDougall on The International Legal Struggle against Racism

Professor Gay McDougall, a human rights lawyer, scholar, and activist, visited the Law School on March 13, 2023 and lectured about the United Nations anti-racism institutional mechanisms including the new UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

A graduate of Yale Law School and 1999 recipient of a MacArthur fellowship, McDougall was a preeminent leader in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. She headed the Southern African Project of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law for 15 years and served on the South African electoral body that supervised the country's first democratic elections in 1994 that resulted in the election of President Nelson Mandela. She received a national medal from the South African government for her extraordinary contributions to ending apartheid.



Professor McDougall later headed the International Human rights Law Group (now, Global Rights), and has served in several critical roles at the United Nations advancing the rights of women and minority groups worldwide. She was the first UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the issue of systematic rape and sexual slavery practices in armed conflict for the UN Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Three US Presidents

(Clinton, Obama, and Biden) have nominated Ms. McDougall to serve on the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut on Victim Protection in the ICC



International Criminal Court Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut visited the law school on October 31, 2022, to lecture

on "Recent Developments in Victim Protection in the International Criminal Court." Judge Brichambaut is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Saint-Cloud and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. He joined the French Conseil d'Etat (Supreme Court for judicial review) in 1974 and was appointed Conseiller d'Etat in 1992. He has also served in numerous senior positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of France, and in the United Nations Secretariat. As Legal Advisor to the Foreign Ministry, he led the French delegation to the Rome Conference and signed the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court on behalf of his country. He served as Secretary General of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) from 2005 to 2011. He has taught extensively international law in Sciences-Po in Paris.

Human Rights Lawyer Anand Grover gives a talk on Abortion Rights



In October 2022, human rights lawyer Anand Grover, the former UN special reporter on the right to health, visited Northwestern as a guest of the CIHR and gave a talk to a packed house about the international human rights implications of last year's US Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Mississippi*. In addition to pointing out the ways in

which *Dobbs* violated international law, Grover urged those present not to abandon the invocation of international law and American treaty allegations when advocating in US courts, even as an international jurisprudence is rarely cited by US judges.

IHR LLM alum Daniel Marin Lopez on the Colombian Truth Commission

Daniel Marin Lopez, a Transitional Justice Fellow at Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and formerly an expert advisor on corporate complicity for the Colombian Truth Commission, spoke on "The Colombian Truth Commission & Transitional Justice in Colombia: New trends in post-conflict truth-seeking and accountability," on October 11, 2022.

CIHR Project Snapshots

Emeritus Professor Thomas Geraghty visits Ethiopia to attend Addis Ababa University Law School's 60th Anniversary



Ethiopia, a developing country in the Global South, has tremendous potential for growth and influence, especially

at a time when political and economic global realignment is occurring. Unfortunately, the country continues to experience multiple crises stemming from internal ethnic and regional armed conflicts. The resulting instability has led to severe challenges to the implementation and enforcement of human rights, the rule of law, and the viability of Ethiopia's political and legal institutions.

At this critical time in Ethiopia's history, Professor Thomas Geraghty believes that Northwestern Pritzker School of Law is well-positioned among US law schools to play a leadership role in collaborating with

faculty and students at Addis Ababa University, one of Africa's leading law schools, to strengthen Ethiopia's legal systems and institutions.

Northwestern Pritzker Law's engagement with Ethiopian legal academics began in 1969 when Geraghty and Professor Jack Beckstrom, a fellow student, spent a year at AAU's Law School. Founded in 1963, the school was originally staffed primarily by expatriate faculty funded by the Ford Foundation, which was active then in supporting legal education in Africa. During Geraghty's time there in 1969, he conducted and published a study on Ethiopia's law court system. There he met Professor Worku Tefari, who obtained an LLM degree from Northwestern in 1972 and who later became AAU Law's first Ethiopian dean.



Since 1969, except during the years when the Derg was in power (1974–1993), Northwestern faculty, students, and administrators have worked with AAU Law faculty and many of its graduates in support of legal education in Ethiopia. These collaborative efforts have included training for Ethiopian clinical teachers (in Chicago and across Ethiopia), consultation on the establishment of graduate legal degrees, and support for law school administration. In 2020–2021, Geraghty helped to organize a USAID-funded study of legal education across Ethiopia, and in 2022, he worked with the Buffett Institute to organize and fund a conference in Ethiopia at which Ethiopian scholars made presentations on the future of Ethiopia's federal constitution. That conference, co-sponsored by the

Law School, the Addis Ababa University School of Law & Governance, the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, and by the Harvard Program on Human Rights, resulted in a collection of essays by Ethiopian scholars published online and in hard copy—*Between Failure and Redemption, The Future of the Ethiopian Social Contract, Proceedings of a Convening of Ethiopian Scholars on Ethiopia's Constitutional Future*.¹ The book has been widely circulated online and has been distributed to the law libraries of Ethiopia's 35 law schools. It has also been distributed in hard copy to US Embassy and USAID offices in Ethiopia.

On September 23, 2023, Geraghty was invited to attend and make a brief presentation at Addis Ababa University Law School's 60th Anniversary alumni event. While there, he also met with law school faculty, prominent alumni, and human rights advocates. Many expressed interests in working with Northwestern to: (1) build on and expand the scholarship undertaken in the recently-published book on Ethiopian constitutionalism; (2) teach courses (online or in person) in AAU's LLM and Ph.D. programs; (3) supervise students' theses at AAU Law and at other Ethiopian schools; (4) engage in collaborative scholarship on topics such as human rights, rule of law, humanitarian law, criminal justice, property law, environmental law, access to justice, legal aid, post-conflict processes, customary law, federalism, family law, taxation, international business, and international arbitration and mediation; (5) continue to support efforts to strengthen clinical regarding teaching and program design; and (6) consult on the use of technology to improve the court system, legal practice, and access to legal aid.

Geraghty hopes that his recent visit to Addis Ababa University Law School will spark ideas about future collaborations between NU faculty and AAU Law School's faculty.

Health and Human Rights/ Northwestern Access to Health Project



Professor Juliet Sorensen's Access to Health program is currently partnering with two NGOs based in Africa: Pamoja

is a community-based organization in western Kenya that focuses on economic development, HIV prevention and care, and the empowerment of girls and young women. The Sahel Foundation is an anti-slavery organization in Mauritania founded by Brahim Bilal Ramdhane that seeks to empower former enslaved people and their descendants through access to primary health care, nutrition, and education. Early this year, the Law School, Kellogg, and Master of Public Health students enrolled in Health and Human Rights (HHR) collaborated with our partners at Pamoja and the Sahel Foundation to conduct needs assessments at the intersection of health, human rights, and development. In March, CIHR's Schuette Clinical Fellow, Megan Osadzinski, traveled to Kenya with six HHR students to further that work with Pamoja.



Over the summer, Sorensen and Osadzinski continued to work with both organizations. They helped develop a "know your rights" checklist for Pamoja health extension workers that conduct HIV education and outreach and built a website for the

¹ A link to the book/collection of essays referenced above can be found on the Buffett Institute's website at

<https://buffett.northwestern.edu/research/publications/e-publications.html>

The site also provides access to the names and CV's of the distinguished Ethiopian scholars, including women, whose essays are included in the book.

Sahel Foundation. This website was an express recommendation of one of the student teams, and they received a “microgrant” from a social impact firm to do so. In addition, they continue to work with both organizations on programmatic, infrastructure, and advocacy priorities.



This fall, Osadzinski and student Cyrus Commissariat are traveling to Mauritania, Africa along with a delegation from the Abolition Institute, a Chicago-based nonprofit that advocates against slavery in Mauritania. This trip is funded by a Global Connections Seed Grant from the Buffett Institute received earlier this year.

In related advocacy, Sorensen and Osadzinski submitted a comment to the UN Human Rights Committee in August 2023 on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its draft General Recommendation N° 37 on racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health.

Press Freedom

In collaboration with Kyrgyz attorneys at the American Bar Association Center on Human Rights, Sorensen and Osadzinski represented Kyrgyz journalist Bolot Temirov in his efforts to overturn his politically motivated prosecution and deportation in Kyrgyzstan. Together, they prepared an expert declaration for Kyrgyzstan's appellate court and are currently preparing to file a complaint via the United Nations Special Procedures.

Access to Justice for Children Deprived of Liberty

Professor Carolyn Frazier, clinical professor of law, continues to focus much of her work on advocating before local, regional, and international human

rights bodies for children and young adults deprived of liberty in police stations, detention centers, and prisons globally. This past fall, with COVID-19 travel restrictions finally lifted, Frazier led a team of law students to Malawi, where they spent several days interviewing boys detained in the young offender's wing of Maula Prison as part of her clinic's Post-Disposition Advocacy Project. Working with their local partner organization, the Child Rights Advocacy and Paralegal Aid Centre (CRAPAC), the team documented numerous human rights violations in these youths' cases, ranging from extreme sentences for first-time offenders charged with minor crimes, to youth being processed through the adult criminal justice system instead of the child justice system, to a total lack of access to counsel at any stage of proceedings. The team also documented severe problems with the conditions at Maula, including a food shortage limiting the boys to one small meal a day, the imprisonment of children with adults, and youth being locked in overcrowded and poorly ventilated cells for over 16 hours a day – longer during the rainy season.



With the information collected, the team has drafted bail applications on several boys' behalf, arguing for their release from Maula pending a review of their cases by Malawi's High Court. These pleadings follow a model that Frazier's clinic first developed with another partner organization in Malawi, the Center for Human Rights Education, Assistance and Advice (CHREAA). Bail filings using this model include not only the narrow arguments for bail, but also a robust accounting of rights violations in the case to date. Recently, this strategy led to a result in the case of client P.M. where the High Court not only granted P.M.'s bail application but

dismissed his case altogether. Prior to CIHR and CHREAA's intervention, P.M. had nearly eight years left to serve of a twelve-year sentence for breaking into a neighbor's house and stealing sugar, spaghetti, an item of clothing, and a laptop bag. CIHR students will continue filing bail applications in hopes of similar results in other cases.

Students are also using the case information gathered from Maula to engage in systemic advocacy for incarcerated youth. Currently, a student team is researching and drafting a submission to the UN Committee Against Torture as part of the Committee's follow-up procedure subsequent to the adoption of concluding observations on Malawi's compliance with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. As the team continues to compile more data and identify patterns in how these youth's rights are being routinely violated by the State, students in Frazier's clinic will continue working with their partners to raise these issues before various human rights mechanisms at the UN, regional, and national levels.

Access to Justice for Widowed Women

In 2022-23, the close relationship between Professor Frazier's clinic and the Malawi Widows Association (MAWIA) continued into its fourth year. MAWIA, a human rights organization dedicated to the legal, economic, and social empowerment of widowed women, has identified CIHR as a core partner in developing its long-term legal empowerment strategy.

In Fall 2022, Frazier led a team of clinic students to Malawi to conduct fieldwork in the central region of the country. The goal of this work was to collect women's stories in order to identify key issues they are currently facing due to their status as widows. In collaboration with MAWIA leadership, students conducted group interviews with approximately 90 widows in the greater Lilongwe area as well as Salima. The team identified several issues common to the women

interviewed, including; gender-based physical violence; dispossession of land and property that rightfully belongs to the surviving spouse (known colloquially as “property grabbing”); and lack of any government safety net to protect women from falling, almost overnight, into extreme poverty. Without any stable source of income, most of the women interviewed described difficulty feeding their families and having to pull their children from school due to inability to pay fees. Several of them further described how, lacking access to banks or regulated forms of credit, they were forced to turn to individuals in their communities for informal loans with interest rates of up to 50% just to survive the economic shock of widowhood.



This information will form the basis of several pieces of advocacy going forward. This past spring, CIHR students drafted an alternative report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as part of the Committee’s periodic review of Malawi’s compliance with its treaty obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Students also researched and prepared draft arguments regarding whether Malawi is meeting its treaty obligations under the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The information they collected on women’s experience in having their property stolen has led MAWIA to focus on property-grabbing as their next area of focused inquiry and advocacy.

In addition to their group interviews, the team spent time with client Annie Mumba, who is facing a wrongful murder prosecution for allegedly poisoning her husband (an accusation leveled at many women in Malawi who lose their spouse.) After investigating Ms. Mumba’s case and consulting a

forensic pathologist who confirmed that no evidence of poisoning existed, students filed a complaint with the Malawi Human Rights Commission on Ms. Mumba’s behalf. Ms. Mumba’s case is still pending before the High Court of Malawi.

The Migrant Youth Justice Initiative

Professor Frazier is part of a collaborative of child justice experts led by the Center for the Human Rights of Children (CHRC) at Loyola University Chicago School of Law seeking to improve migrant youth justice. Currently, under the leadership of CHRC and with generous financial support from John and Kathy Schreiber, the collaborative is working in partnership with the National Association of Immigration Judges (NAIJ) on an initiative to advance due process for migrant children and families in immigration law proceedings through a series of live trainings and written issue briefs for immigration judges who adjudicate children’s cases. These materials are designed to educate judges about various issues such as adolescent development, trauma, and diminished culpability, both providing an overview of the topics and exploring the question of how these issues are relevant to judges’ decision-making. Frazier is co-author (with Professor Sarah Diaz of CHRC) on the second brief in the series, *Child Trauma: Research, Law, and Policy for Consideration in Immigration Proceedings*, published in Fall 2023. Clinic student Portia Xiong (JD ’23) provided research assistance on the brief and contributed to early drafts. Frazier also served as researcher and editor on the first issue brief on adolescent brain development, published in Late Summer 2023.

Collaborative advocacy for the human rights of the LGBTIQ community in Sri Lanka

For more than ten years, Professor Bridget Arimond and her International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic students have worked with EQUAL GROUND, a Sri Lankan LGBTIQ NGO, in advocacy before UN human rights mechanisms.

During 2022-2023, they prepared reports on human rights violations against LGBTIQ people for the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the 4th Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka. In March 2023, Arimond and clinic students Riley Harkin and Amira Guy traveled to the UN in Geneva to participate in the Human Rights Committee’s review of Sri Lanka, where, at the request of EQUAL GROUND, Harkin had the opportunity to address the Committee on behalf of EQUAL GROUND and CIHR. In 2023, major milestones were reached when the government of Sri Lanka announced that it would support pending legislation decriminalizing consensual same-sex relations and the Sri Lankan Supreme Court rejected a constitutional challenge and ruled that this legislation would enhance equal protection, fundamental rights, and the opportunity of LGBTIQ people to live in dignity.

International advocacy in support of an indigenous community’s struggle against a toxic gold mine



Professor Bridget Arimond and her International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic students continued their ongoing collaboration with an Ethiopian NGO in advocacy efforts on behalf of an indigenous Guji community in Ethiopia’s Oromia region that has been severely impacted by toxic contamination from the Lega Dembi gold mine. Among the mine’s worst impacts are the very high numbers of still births and severe congenital disabilities experienced by community members. In August 2022, Arimond, clinic student Regan Seckel, and clinic alum Ashagrie Abdi traveled to Ethiopia, where they met with their partner NGO, interviewed various

stakeholders, and presented their case to several of the commissioners on the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. Information obtained during the visit was used to prepare a report to the UN Human Rights Committee on *Ethiopia's Violations of Civil and Political Rights in connection with the Lega Dembi Gold Mine*. That October, Arimond, Seckel, and clinic student Michaela Baker traveled to the UN in Geneva, where, joined by an Ethiopian human rights defender (unnamed here, for his security), they participated in the Human Rights Committee's review of Ethiopia's compliance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Their report led to forceful questioning by the Committee of the Ethiopian government delegation and strong expressions of concern and recommendations to the government in the Committee's concluding observations.

Challenging modern-day serfdom on abaca plantations in Ecuador

Projects for Professor Bridget Arimond's International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic class are often brought to the clinic by current or former clinic students. One example is the 2022-2023 project on modern-day serfdom in Ecuador, suggested by clinic student Daniel Caballero, an Ecuadorian lawyer in the Law School's LLM Program in International Human Rights. The clinic was asked to prepare an *amicus curiae* brief to the Constitutional Court of Ecuador assessing, under international law standards, the situation of the largely Afro-descendant *abacalleros* who for generations have lived and worked under inhumane and degrading conditions on abaca plantations owned by a large Japanese multi-national corporation. Working with Arimond, clinic students undertook extensive research into the legal standards on slavery, servitude, serfdom, and forced labor; studied a voluminous factual record; and used what they had learned to draft an *amicus* brief in support of the *abacalleros'* complaint to the Constitutional Court.

Supporting human rights and clinical legal education in the country of Georgia



Since 2015, Professor Bridget Arimond has served as an international expert on human rights and clinical legal education with East West Management Institute's USAID-funded rule of law projects in the country of Georgia. Over the years, she has visited Georgia on twelve occasions and, particularly during the pandemic, conducted additional remote trainings and mentoring sessions on human rights advocacy and clinical legal education. In June 2023, Arimond participated in the inaugural conference of the Georgia chapter of ICONS-S, the International Society of Public Law. In line with the conference theme of "Challenges of Modern Public Law," Arimond delivered a keynote address on the topic of "Challenges to Democracy in the Current Era: What Role for Public Law?"

She also participated, along with a Georgian law professor, on a panel on "Power to the People: The Right to Protest in a Democratic Society." During the same visit, Arimond participated in Georgia's second national conference on clinical legal education, held on the outskirts of the city of Kutaisi. Following the very successful first national clinical conference held the prior year, Arimond collaborated in the planning of the July 2023 conference and served as a panel moderator and a speaker at the conference. Arimond also held individual consultations on developing and strengthening law clinics with clinic faculty and law deans at six Georgian law schools. In each case, Northwestern's Journal of Human Rights and the International Law Society joined CIHR as co-sponsors of these events.

Get to Know CIHR's Schuette Clinical Fellow Megan Osadzinski



Megan Osadzinski (she/her) is the Michael and Mary Schuette Clinical Fellow in Health and Human Rights and an Adjunct Professor of Law. She is a human rights attorney committed to intersectional, trauma-informed, and community-based lawyering. Her work focuses on the right to health under the auspices of the Northwestern Access to Health (ATH) Project, gender justice, and advocacy on behalf of criminalized persons, vulnerable groups, and human rights defenders. She also instructs Women, Gender, and Human Rights, which examines the treatment of gender under public international law through critical approaches. Over the last year, along with Professor Sorensen, she co-authored an *amicus curiae* brief in support of the amparo petition of Aurelia Cruceño Garcia, a young, indigenous woman and gender-based violence survivor who was wrongfully imprisoned following an obstetric emergency and pregnancy loss in Mexico. The brief helped to secure a favorable verdict and the release of Ms. Cruceño Garcia. Osadzinski and Sorensen also represent Kyrgyz journalist Bolot Temirov in challenging his wrongful conviction and arbitrary deportation before UN Special Procedures and the Human Rights Committee.

News And Notes From Our Graduates

Raissa Carrillo Villamizar (LLM '18)

Legal Officer, Media Defense

Raissa Carrillo Villamizar is currently a Legal Advisor at Media Defense in London, where she will be working for the defense of freedom of speech.

Her areas of focus include the right of freedom of expression and freedom of press. At the moment, Villamizar is engaged in efforts to apply international legal standards for the defense of journalists in LATAM as part of Media Defense's legal team, which helps journalists, citizen journalists, and independent media across the world who are under threat for their reporting.

She is thrilled to engage in the defense of human rights in the international arena based on the skills and knowledge gained through her LLM at Northwestern. This passion and career path took roots in clinical education with Professor Arimond and the class of Global Freedom of Expression with Professor Waisenhau. Their openness and dedication to international students broadened her roadmap and career goals.

Her prior role as Legal Coordinator at Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa involved strategic litigation before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. She was an active part of the legal team defending Jineth Bedoya before the Inter-American Court, which issued the first precedent on the protection of journalists with a gender perspective. She led the first roundtables with the government to pursue the compliance of the orders, gaining direct advocacy experience. She previously worked as a legal clerk at the Constitutional Court in Colombia and contributed to the implementation of software to secure evidence for The Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

Alice Murgier (LLM '16)

General Counsel, SOS Racisme

Alice Murgier is currently general counsel at the French NGO SOS Racisme. The organization has been fighting racism in France since 1984 through campaigns, education, and legal action. Murgier is leading its legal department, which includes three axes: a legal helpline for victims of racial discrimination and/or racial slurs, litigation, and advocacy for more protective caselaw, and testing campaigns, which consists of submitting two comparable profiles for the same request except with regard to the criterion likely to expose one to discrimination. One example of the latter is by responding to a job offer with two comparable CVs and a different name or picture, to see if one receives better treatment than the other. Murgier is also able to work on larger-scale projects within the organization, stating "as an IHR LLM at Northwestern, I was able to see how my legal knowledge could be useful in the field. The fact that all of my classes were taught by academics who had been in the field allowed me to envision my future in the legal world. My work in the Human Rights Clinic with Bridget Arimond during my LLM enabled me to understand how civil society and NGOs in the field are essential to human rights work, as we partnered with such NGOs on all of our projects."

Post-graduation, Murgier worked for the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor in Phnom Penh, and then at UNHCR in Geneva as a Northwestern Schuette Legal Fellow. "These experiences helped me draw my path to become a lawyer, always having at heart to remain in the field of human rights. After a few years of law firm work, I decided I wanted to be even more of an activist in my work and joined SOS Racisme," Murgier says.

Beenish Zia (IHR LLM '23)

Legal Fellow, Campaign Manager

Beenish Zia is a Human Rights Advocate from Pakistan who completed the LLM in International Human Rights with honors this year from Northwestern and was selected as a finalist for the Social Action Award 2023 by UK Alumni Awards in Pakistan. Zia is currently working in California as a Legal Fellow for Family Violence Law Center (FVLC) and as a Campaign Manager for Domestic Workers Justice Initiative.

At FVLC, Zia manages their 'Roof of One's Own' Project, a survivor-driven, trauma-informed initiative partnering with 10 agencies in Alameda County, California to provide critical legal education and mobile housing services to survivors of violence. Through this project, Zia developed and delivered comprehensive training on topics such as domestic violence restraining orders and housing protections for domestic violence survivors. Zia also provides support to multiple other projects and clients and is a certified Domestic Violence Counselor.

As the Campaign Manager for the Domestic Workers Justice Initiative, Zia facilitated and supported a pivotal advocacy campaign to combat the illegal employment fees imposed on domestic migrant workers in Hong Kong and Singapore. The campaign focused on ensuring compliance with employment contracts and domestic law. At Northwestern, Zia worked as a Scholarly Research and Programing Assistant for the Director of the Center for International Human Rights, Professor Ibrahim Gassama. She provided research and programing support for events and guest lectures on diverse themes including Turkey-Syria Earthquakes 2023, EU perspectives on Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, and International Legal Struggle Against

Racism. As a student intern for International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic, Zia conducted international and comparative law research to draft an Amicus brief for the Constitutional Court of Georgia to secure the right to a speedier divorce for survivors of domestic violence. Zia also assisted the drafting and presenting of a shadow report at the 108th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva, Switzerland.

The report addressed the discrimination of ethnic Azerbaijani minority in Georgia and advocated for improved access to education and political participation. Zia was quite involved with the student body and was the LLM representative for the International Refugee Assistance Project, Collaboration for Justice, International Law Society, and the Public Interest Litigation Group.

Daniel Caballero (IHR LLM '23)

Program Associate, Inter-American Dialogue

An attorney from Ecuador, Daniel Caballero's journey after his LLM graduation has been focused on finding opportunities to make an impact on human rights, especially in Latin America. Since August 2023, Caballero has been working as a Program Associate at the Peter D. Bell Rule of Law Program at the Inter-American Dialogue, a well-known think tank in Washington, DC. With the guidance of his mentor, Tamara Taraciuk Broner, who used to lead the Americas Division at Human Rights Watch, Caballero is involved in various projects, including such issues as democratic backsliding, security policies, the role of the private sector in fostering rule of law, and making sure elections are free and fair.

During the past few months, Caballero has worked on projects about democratic transition in Venezuela, keeping judges free from political pressure in Mexico, helping elections be transparent in Guatemala, and improving security policies in El Salvador. In addition to this work, Caballero says, "I've had the privilege of meeting and

connecting with a diverse group of professionals. This includes people from the US Department of State, USIP, USAID, members of the US Congress, and organizations like WOLA, Chatham House, and RFK Foundation."

Caballero continues, "I strongly believe that my time in the LLM in International Human Rights Program at Northwestern, along with the guidance of professors like Ibrahim Gassama and Doreen Weisenhaus, helped me understand international human rights law better. It also improved my thinking and analysis skills. The diverse classes I took, covering topics like freedom of speech, business responsibilities, LGBTQ+ rights, refugee law, constitutional law, and reproductive justice, gave me a broad understanding of human rights issues in the US and beyond. This experience has reinforced my passion for working on human rights and democracy in Latin America."

Kaitlyn Pritchard (JD '12)

Foreign Service Officer, Embassy of Canada to the United States

After graduating from Northwestern, Kaitlyn Pritchard returned to the Canadian Foreign Service, spending several years on the Department of Global Affairs' Afghanistan Task Force, working on issues related to human rights, humanitarian affairs, and democracy. In that role, Pritchard led the program that monitored the treatment of Canadian detainees who had been transferred to US and Afghan custody, to ensure Canada's compliance with international law. She also served as an international observer to the 2014 Presidential elections.

After serving in the Department's UN Human Rights and Economic Law division, where she wrote regulations and advised the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the implementation of Canada's economic sanctions, Pritchard was posted to Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. There, she led negotiations for Canada on issues

related to human rights and humanitarian affairs, including bringing forward seven General Assembly resolutions pressing Iran and Syria to address human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law. Pritchard is currently posted to the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C. where she leads bilateral cooperation efforts on issues related to climate change and the clean energy transition.

"My experience at Northwestern was instrumental in shaping the way that I approach my work," Pritchard reflects. "Courses in international law, international human rights, and the law of war helped me understand the legal and theoretical frameworks that underpin the work of governments, international institutions, and non-governmental actors in this space. Participating in the Jessup Moot Court competition gave me a chance to grapple with the complexities of those issues in an adversarial setting. However, the hands-on work I did through the Center for International Human Rights was one of the biggest highlights of my time at Northwestern. Whether working on the appeals of prisoners on death row, traveling to Malawi with Professor Sandra Babcock to set up camp courts to help officials work through a backlog of cases that were contributing to overcrowding and poor prison conditions, or working with Professor Juliet Sorensen and communities in Ethiopia on a project to improve access to health, the insight and real-world experience that I gained provided an incredible foundation for the work that I have done since then."

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Center for International Human Rights

Faculty

Ibrahim Gassama

Interim Director of the Center for
International Human Rights

Thomas Geraghty

Class of 1967 James B. Haddad
Professor of Law; Director Emeritus
Bluhm Legal Clinic

Bridget Arimond

Clinical Professor of Law; Director,
LLM Program for International
Human Rights

Stephen Sawyer

Clinical Associate Professor of Law
Emeritus; Senior Counsel Emeritus

Juliet Sorensen

Clinical Professor of Law; Director,
Northwestern Access to Health
Project; Clinical Professor of Strategy,
Kellogg School of Management (Courtesy)

Carolyn Frazier

Clinical Associate Professor of Law

Megan Osadzinski

Adjunct Professor of Law, Michael
and Mary Schuette Clinical Fellow in
Health and Human Rights,

Faculty Publications

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THOMAS GERAGHTY

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CAROLYN FRAZIER

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Announcements

The CIHR is hosting an inter-disciplinary conference on de-colonial and intersectional accountability approaches to address Russian gendered atrocity crimes in Ukraine on Friday, April 12, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois. More information is to come.

The CIHR will be awarding their 2024 Global Jurist award to Judge Igor Tuleya of Poland in March. Judge Tuleya is being recognized for his dedication to human rights, democracy, and freedom.