

# Center for International Human Rights

Newsletter • Spring 2021

## Letter from the Interim Director



THOMAS F.  
GERAGHTY

Most news in the U.S. is local and, no doubt, there is a lot to report including the

pandemic and this country's historical shortcomings in the areas of social and racial justice, not to mention the recent appalling attack on our Capitol Building. Because of the seriousness of the problems we face in this country, and because of our country's traditional provincialism, relatively little attention is paid by our "mainstream media" to events taking place outside of our country, even those that also involve serious violations of human rights that affect much of the world's population. To underscore this point, I share with you a portion of a holiday greeting I received from Dr. Solomon Negussie, Dean of Addis Ababa's College of Law & Governance Studies: 'For us here in Ethiopia, it has been and still is a difficult year with additional problems

related to the war, the grasshopper locust, internally displaced persons, and the like. But I still hope that we will overcome these challenges and see a bright future.'

There is also a dearth of knowledge about the many courageous and effective human rights advocates and organizations, and about the ways in which these advocates share strategies to advance the cause of human rights here and abroad. Connecting Northwestern faculty and students with human rights advocates abroad is an effective means of sharing knowledge and of providing resources—organizations can benefit from collaborations that take the lead from human rights advocates on the ground.

This is a theme common to ongoing projects at the CIHR, including the sample of CIHR collaborations described in this newsletter:

- Work with environmental advocates in Ethiopia in support of communities affected by a large gold mining operation;
- Advocating for the rights of children and families on the U.S.-Mexican border affected by the use of private prisons to house asylum seekers;

- A report on the health of miners in Botswana and collaboration with other N.G.O.'s on the best means of publicizing the data and conclusions in that report;
- Collection of data and information, through a site visit by CIHR students, regarding the treatment of Muslim communities in Myanmar;
- Collaboration with the Addis Ababa University School of Law in support of clinical legal education in Ethiopia—in 2021, the CIHR will host Dr. Mizanie Abate, a Fulbright Scholar and expert in legal aid and access to justice in Ethiopia;
- Publication of the Symposium, "Human Rights and Access to Justice in Ethiopia," in Northwestern's Journal of Human Rights in collaboration with Addis Ababa University's Journal of Ethiopian Law—all articles written by Ethiopian legal scholars and educators. The first issue of the symposium volume can be read at <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/njihr/>;
- An LL.M. program in human rights that attracts young human rights advocates from around the world, enriching Northwestern's human rights community.

## Letter from the Interim Director, continued

The projects set forth above—and the others described in this newsletter—continue even in this period of pandemic. Although we miss the in-person interactions that we've grown accustomed to having with our colleagues abroad, Zoom meetings have enabled us to keep in touch and to collaborate with them effectively. The use of "virtual" meetings, made necessary by the pandemic, may chart a new course for the involvement of our students and faculty in critical programming. But I think we all agree that there is no substitute for working together on the ground. We hope to be able to get back to that soon.

Finally, I am pleased to report that Professor Diane Amann, our graduate and the Rusk Professor of International Human Rights at the University of Georgia School of Law, will teach International Criminal Law at Northwestern during the spring of 2021. Professor Amann is an expert in international criminal law and the field of international children's rights.



## CIHR Project Snapshots

### HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS

#### **NORTHWESTERN ACCESS TO HEALTH IN NIGERIA AND LEBANON, DESPITE COVID-19**

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the Access to Health faculty and Schuette Fellow to think creatively about how to continue its work at the intersection of health, human rights, and development in Nigeria and Lebanon.

Access to Health has been working in Lagos, Nigeria, since 2016, in partnership with the Justice & Empowerment Initiative and the Nigerian Federation of Slums and Informal Settlements. This partnership has centered on community health education and accompaniment. Every year, a team from Northwestern travels to Lagos to train a new cohort of community health educators (CHE) on various health topics ranging from water and sanitation, communicable diseases and family planning. Despite not being able to travel, Access to Health continued to support the Federation with educational materials on the virus. One of the latest modules to be added to the CHE curriculum is around counterfeit medications. For decades, Nigeria has faced an overwhelming counterfeit drug problem. Access to Health has managed to start a new collaboration with Dr. Marya Lieberman, a professor in analytical chemistry at the University of Notre Dame who has invented paper

analytical devices that can be used to test counterfeit medication. Several trainings on how to use these devices have been conducted over Zoom and the CHEs are successfully testing medications to determine if they are counterfeit.

Following the economic downturn in Lebanon, Access to Health faculty and students worked with the Near East Foundation (NEF), an economic development organization, on a financial literacy curriculum for vulnerable Lebanese small business owners and a "know your rights" guide for Syrian refugees. When COVID-19 struck, NEF pivoted to doing virtual trainings using WhatsApp, a mobile communication application that had already been commonly used by the beneficiaries.

#### **BOTSWANA MINERS RIGHT TO HEALTH PROJECT**

This interdisciplinary project aimed to promote the right to health of miners and ex-miners in Botswana. It was in collaboration with BoLAMA, a local organization that provides assistance to ex-miners and their beneficiaries and a NYC-based partner the Center for Economic and Social Rights. Alex Tarzikhan, Schuette Clinical Fellow, traveled to Botswana in December 2019 and the team used mixed-methods research to gather data on, among other things, health status, access to health services, and the quality of health services. The team met with various stakeholders including miners, ex-miners, their family members, civil society organizations, two members of Parliament, and union representatives in three different cities. Following the



faculty, the Schuette Fellow, and law students conducted a series of Key Informant Interviews with experts and other stakeholders in the Ghanaian cocoa industry. Conducting the interviews over Zoom allowed the team to interview more than 20 stakeholders across various regions in Ghana. The information gathered during the interviews will be analyzed and compiled in our forthcoming report for our project on Human Rights Accountability in the Ghana Cocoa Industry.

trip, the team drafted an innovative law reform memo for submission to the National Assembly of Botswana with proposed reforms to more than ten pieces of national legislation to protect and promote the right to health of miners, ex-miners and their communities in the country. The team finalized a report with the trip findings and organized a virtual event to launch the report, which featured the new UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng. The team plans on leveraging the results of this assessment to advocate for evidence-based reforms to laws, policies and practices to improve the health and fulfill the rights of miners and ex-miners in the country.

## **CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE COCOA INDUSTRY IN GHANA**

Seventy percent of the world's cocoa is grown by small farmers in West Africa. Yet many of these farmers, their families and their communities barely survive while the global trade in cocoa thrives. Between October 2018 and March 2019, our partner,

the Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL), interviewed farmers and tribal leaders in cocoa-growing villages, cocoa cooperatives and local and international NGOs to assess the impact of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts in the cocoa industry in the Ivory Coast, and to identify the root causes of rampant child labor, trafficking and deforestation. The results demonstrated that CSR efforts have had a nearly imperceptible impact on the lives of cocoa farmers and their communities. In lieu of traveling to Ghana as planned, Northwestern

## **BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS**

In November 2019, Clinic students Alejandra Ortiz Díaz (IHR LLM '20) and Daniel Iverson (JD '20) traveled with Professor Bridget Arimond to the United Nations in Geneva to participate in the 2019 UN Forum on Business & Human Rights. During the three-day event, the students had the opportunity to attend a wide range of presentations on topics related to business and human



## CIHR Updates, continued

rights. The highlight of the week for the Northwestern participants was our participation in a well-attended panel presentation that examined, on a global basis, human rights abuses arising from the role of private security companies in migrant detention. Organized by the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries, the event featured presentations by two Working Group members and several human rights advocates from around the world, including Ortiz Díaz and Arimond. Using the research findings of students in Professors Arimond's and Frazier's clinic classes, Ortiz Díaz and Arimond described for the international audience the nature and extent of human rights violations in privately operated migrant detention facilities in the U.S. The important information shared by all panel members reached an even wider audience through the summary of the proceedings published by the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights.

dangerous levels of cyanide, arsenic and mercury. Women have suffered high rates of miscarriage, children have been born with profound disabilities, local people have suffered debilitating illnesses, and livestock, crops and wildlife have been lost. Since mid-2018, Arimond's clinic has partnered with two Ethiopian NGOs to bring international attention to the human rights violations stemming from the mine.

In October 2019, clinic students Laynie Barringer and Aimee Quenville traveled to Ethiopia, with Arimond and IHR LLM alum Ashagrie Abdi, for meetings with our NGO partners and to conduct fact-finding interviews with stakeholders including local community elders, mineworkers, human rights defenders and academic experts. Following the trip, the information gathered was used to prepare complaints to the UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures mandate holders on human rights relating to the environment, toxic waste, health, indigenous people, freedom of expression and business and human rights. Additionally,

over the ensuing months, Barringer and Quenville, joined by spring clinic student Walder de Almeida Junior, participated in the drafting of a report to the UN Human Rights Committee for its upcoming review of Ethiopia, and an appeal to the European Investment Bank's Complaint Mechanism seeking access to documents about the mine's environmental impact.

## COLOMBIAN TRUTH COMMISSION

On October 5, 2020, the Center for International Human Rights joined Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM) in presenting a comprehensive report to the Colombian Truth Commission on the role and impact of landmines in the Colombian armed conflict. Entitled "Hacia una vida digna y una tierra libre de minas antipersonal (Towards a life with dignity and a land free of landmines)," this over 200- page report was based on CCCM's more than 20 years of work to rid Colombia of landmines and to support people and communities that have been impacted by these

## ENVIRONMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS

Under the supervision of Professor Bridget Arimond, IHR Advocacy Clinic students have continued challenging a gold mine in Ethiopia that has caused catastrophic harm to the environment and to the health and well-being of the indigenous people who live near the mine. Serious deficiencies in mine management and government regulatory oversight have left the soil and water contaminated with





weapons. For several years, CCCM had been joined in this work by Professor Arimond and her Clinic students, who prepared reports and advocated before UN human rights mechanisms in Geneva, challenging a State program that sent rural workers to manually destroy coca plants in remote areas of the country, where armed groups used landmines to protect their illicit crops.

Because of this prior collaboration, in April 2020, CCCM reached out to Arimond and her clinic for assistance submitting a report to the Colombian Truth Commission. Over the summer and early fall of 2020, a dedicated team of pro bono volunteers devoted countless hours to reviewing a treasure trove of information from CCCM, meeting (virtually) with CCCM activists and survivors of landmine incidents, and drafting the lengthy and detailed report. Working under the supervision of Arimond, this team was led by Colombian lawyer and IHR clinic alumna Luisa Gutiérrez Quintero (LLM '17); others on the team included clinic alumnae Alejandra Ortiz Díaz (IHR LLM '20, from Mexico) and Manuela Piza Caballero (IHR LLM '20, from Colombia) and current IHR Advocacy clinic student Keith Armstrong. They prepared a report addressing the overall situation of landmines in the armed conflict as well as the particular impacts in geographic regions and on particularly vulnerable groups — children, women, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, and the campesinos sent to eradicate coca. It also addressed Colombia's legal obligations under various human rights treaties and under its own domestic law, including the obligation to provide integral

reparations to victims, and it assesses the extent to which the State has and has not complied with these obligations. It concludes with a series of recommendations.

On October 5, 2020, the Colombian Truth Commission convened a formal event to receive the joint report from CCCM and CIHR. Commissioner Saúl Franco offered opening remarks on behalf of the Truth Commission, which were followed by a video presenting the reflections of a series of landmine victims from throughout the country. Remarks were offered by representatives of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and by Arimond, who spoke on behalf of CIHR. Luisa Gutiérrez joined two leaders of CCCM in summarizing the substance of the report and recommendations, after which two leaders of organizations of survivors offered their reflections. The Commission has made the video of the recorded event available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jss48ttSAQk&t=6s>.

### **COMBATting THE SALE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

To inform the final report of her six-year term as U.N. Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, Special Rapporteur Maud de Boer-Buquicchio joined with UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti to convene an expert consultation on all facets of her mandate. Professor Arimond was among the group of advocates and experts invited to gather at the Innocenti Center in Florence, Italy, in September 2019, for two days of consultations. In addition to participating in the group

discussions, Arimond was a presenter on the panel on “The Way Forward: Future Priorities, Gaps, Emerging Areas and Recommended Working Methods for the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children.”

## **MIGRANT RIGHTS**

### **WORKING GROUP REPORT AND COLLABORATION WITH AL OTRO LADO**

On any given day, thousands of migrants are held in civil detention facilities across the U.S., many of which are owned and operated by private companies. Migrants held at these detention facilities face terrible living conditions and violations of basic human rights. This spring, at the request of the United Nations Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries, a team of students from both the J.D. and International Human Rights LL.M. programs drafted and submitted a report exploring the current role of private security companies in migrant detention in the U.S. and their impact on migrants' rights. The report, written under the supervision of Professors Bridget Arimond and Carolyn Frazier, was the culmination of nearly a year's worth of research into various aspects of the business of migrant detention; the revolving door between government and the leadership of private companies contracted by the government; the role that lobbying of public officials plays in government contracts; and private companies' decisions to market to economically struggling towns, among others. In the course of their research, students had the opportunity to speak with



information gathered through this investigation to submit complaints on behalf of impacted individuals to several UN Special Procedures as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

## ATROCITY CRIMES/ INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

David Scheffer, Clinical Professor Emeritus and Director Emeritus of the Center for International Human Rights, has undertaken a project on funding options for victims of atrocities as the Tom A. Bernstein Genocide Prevention Fellowship of the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is also working on the project and other international law issues as a Visiting Senior Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations (Washington office). Professor Scheffer received the 2020 Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award of Tufts University and the Rockefeller Center Bellagio Practitioner Residency of the Rockefeller Foundation (2021).

### **CIHR Updates, continued**

lawyers and activists challenging various aspects of migrant detention, to attend meetings with a member of the U.N. Working Group, and to lead interviews with non-profits representing migrants detained in privately-run facilities. Students who contributed to the report include Keith Armstrong, Jayne Chorpash, Reilly Frye, Daniel Iverson, Prapoosa KC, Alejandra Ortiz Díaz, and Noor Tarabishy.

Since completing the report, Arimond's and Frazier's clinics have continued to address the human rights violations facing migrants detained in the U.S., many of which have been exacerbated by COVID-19.

This fall, working with the bi-national legal services organization Al Otro Lado (AOL), Northwestern clinic students investigated allegations of ongoing human rights violations at two privately owned California detention facilities, Otay Mesa Detention Center and Adelanto ICE Processing Center. Their investigation is focused on two issues: retaliation against detainees for peacefully protesting these companies' failure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 inside their facilities; and the indiscriminate denial of bond and parole for medically vulnerable individuals during the pandemic. In order to bring the attention of the international human rights community to these issues and press for changes in U.S. policy and legislation, the team anticipates using

## Justice Mumbi Ngugi Named 2021 Global Jurist of the Year

Justice Mumbi Ngugi, Judge of the High Court of Kenya, was named the 2021 Global Jurist of the Year Award. Justice Ngugi serves in the Anti-corruption and Economic Crimes Division of the High Court.

Justice Ngugi received the award during a webinar on Tuesday, Feb. 16. She was interviewed by her friend, the Honorable Ann Williams, retired U.S. Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and discussed her life-long commitment to human rights, marginalized populations, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

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. Jurists from all nations and tribunals are eligible for consideration.

“It is important that we bring to our University community distinguished practitioners and scholars who not only speak and write, but those who courageously work to implement human rights on the front lines,” said Professor Thomas F. Geraghty, interim director of Northwestern’s Center for International Human Rights. “Without them, little progress would be made in implementing human rights protections. Justice Ngugi is a role model for our faculty and for students who aspire to be future Justice Ngugis.”

Prior to her present posting, Justice Ngugi served as the Presiding Judge, High Court of Kenya, at Kericho and in the Constitutional and Human Rights Division in Nairobi. She has in the last nine years been involved in the emerging human rights jurisprudence in Kenya, particularly in relation to the social economic rights guaranteed in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Justice Ngugi is a long-time advocate of human rights in Kenya. She has been involved in advocacy work for the rights of women and children, as well as the housing rights of the urban poor. She has also been a prominent activist for the rights of persons with albinism in Kenya.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Justice Ngugi was a prolific writer and researcher on human rights issues and was, for six years, the lead researcher and compiler of the Kenya Human Rights Commission Bi-annual Human Rights Report. She was also a long-time columnist for Kenya’s leading newspapers, the “Sunday Nation” and “The Standard” on social and legal issues. She also engaged in private practice for 17 years. Her practice involved primarily civil litigation and family law.

Justice Ngugi holds a bachelor of laws degree (LLB) from the University of Nairobi and a master of laws (LLM) in commercial and corporate law from the London School of Economics, University of London.

Justice Ngugi was the recipient of the 2013 International Commission of Jurists-Kenya (ICJ-K) Jurist of the Year Award, the Brand Kenya Ambassador Award in 2013, the Law Society of Kenya Distinguished



Service Award 2017, the C.B. Madan Award 2018 and the Transparency International Judicial Integrity Award 2019.

Justice Ngugi is also a member of the Africa Regional Judges Forum (ARJF) on HIV-AIDS and chairs the ARJF Steering Committee on Judicial Education.

Past recipients of the CIHR’s Global Jurist Award include Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, president of the International Criminal Court and a national of Argentina; the Honorable Gloria Patricia Porras Escobar, president of the Guatemalan Constitutional Court; and Justice Shireen Avis Fisher, president of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Acting chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke of South Africa’s Constitutional Court received the award in 2013 as the first recipient of the Global Jurist Award.

*Register for the Feb.16 webinar at [https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9r7u-z7XTgea0kErrDJ4Tg](https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9r7u-z7XTgea0kErrDJ4Tg).*



## Human Rights & Access to Justice in Ethiopia

### SYMPOSIUM MARKS 50-YEAR COLLABORATION ADVANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ETHIOPIA

BY THOMAS F. GERAGHTY

On February 19, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law hosted the symposium “Human Rights and Access to Justice in Ethiopia,” sponsored by the school’s *Journal of Human Rights* and Addis Ababa University College of Law and Governance Studies’ *Journal of Ethiopian Law*. The journals will publish the symposium’s presentations by leading Ethiopian legal scholars. The event built on the two law schools’ long and fruitful partnership and their mutual dedication to legal education’s critical role in preparing future leaders committed to justice and the rule of law.

The collaboration began in 1969 when Northwestern professor John “Jack” Beckstrom received a grant from the Ford Foundation’s Staffing of African Institutions of Legal Education and Research program to support faculty and student exchange between Northwestern and Addis Ababa University (then Haile Selassie University). Professor Abraham Demoz, who later served as director of Northwestern’s Program of African Studies from 1974 to 1980, provided the Northwestern team with basic instruction in Amharic. Professor Beckstrom spent two years in Ethiopia, teaching and conducting



*Symposium speakers (from left) Solomon Negussie, assistant professor, College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University; Northwestern Pritzker School of Law third-year student Ajinkya Joshi; and Thomas Geraghty, the Class of 1967 James B. Haddad Professor of Law at Northwestern*

research on Ethiopian family law. The 1970 issue of the *Journal of Ethiopian Law* published articles by his class of 1969 students Lynn Morehouse and me. In another significant product of Professor Beckstrom’s work, AAU’s first Ethiopian law dean, Worku Tafara, received his LLM degree from Northwestern in 1972.

When the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia (the Derg) seized power from Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, working in Ethiopia became difficult for US and western European academics because of the Derg’s reliance on the Soviet bloc, China, Cuba, and North Korea for assistance. Political repression, violence, and the devastating famine of the mid-1980s destabilized governance and society.

After the fall of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam’s government in 1991, Northwestern reestablished ties with

AAU. In 1993, I, with the support of the American Bar Association’s African Law Initiative, organized a clinical legal education workshop in Addis Ababa that was attended by delegates from throughout East Africa. In 1995, I traveled to Ethiopia with my colleague Cynthia Bowman to confer with AAU faculty about a new curriculum for AAU’s law school. This work led to a series of consultations between Northwestern and the AAU College of Law and Governance Studies on issues ranging from curriculum implementation to human rights and access to justice.

In 2008 the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative asked me to conduct a three-year assessment of legal education in Ethiopia. During this time, the number of Ethiopian law schools increased from 3 to 25. The project enabled Northwestern faculty and students to work with legal educators



throughout Ethiopia on a range of issues, including the need for greatly expanded professional development programming, increased resources, and expansion of graduate law programs to prepare legal academics to teach in the nation's increasingly numerous law schools.

In the past decade, Northwestern's Bluhm Legal Clinic has focused its Ethiopian work on various law school and government initiatives to support access to justice and legal aid. The clinic's faculty and AAU have planned and led trainings for over 200 professors responsible for clinical legal education throughout the country. In addition, Northwestern has hosted scores of Ethiopian law professors, enabling them to observe firsthand the work of Bluhm Legal Clinic faculty and students.

The recent symposium is the latest example of how two educational institutions committed to promoting human rights, access to justice, and the rule of law can work together on a sustained basis to advance these important objectives. It also provides an opportunity for a new generation of students and faculty to reflect on and continue the work begun by Professor Beckstrom and his Ethiopian colleagues over 50 years ago.

*For more information on the history of this partnership, see "Ethiopia: An Enduring Collaboration" by Tracy Marks in the spring 2013 issue of Northwestern Law Reporter.*

*Thomas F. Geraghty is the Class of 1967 James B. Haddad Professor of Law at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.*

## Doctrinal Teaching: An Essential Feature of the CIHR Mission

The CIHR is designed to offer a full educational experience to Northwestern students in the field of public international law from both the doctrinal and the experiential perspectives. The focus of our colleague Professor Stephen Sawyer has been on doctrinal teaching rather than project work. In this regard, he offers students in a classroom format a full range of course material related to the broad field of public international law, which encompasses international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Sawyer's doctrinal teaching is essential in our educational scheme at the CIHR, not only because it has intrinsic value on a stand-alone basis, but because it offers CIHR students an essential legal grounding in the field of public international law that positions them to be more effective in undertaking CIHR-sponsored projects and in the world of legal practice after graduation. Sawyer now teaches a total of five public international law courses, including four seminar courses and a course that surveys the full range of public international law. During the fall term, Sawyer offered the survey course and a seminar course that compared and contrasted the international human rights systems in Europe and the Americas with the human rights related jurisprudence of the U.S. Supreme Court. Several other aspects of Sawyer's work deserve special emphasis: First, as an essential part of his pedagogy, Sawyer draws upon, and applies in the classroom,

his decades of legal practice in a variety of legal fields before coming to Northwestern. Second, in order to enhance the learning experience for his students, Sawyer spends considerable time each semester with students in one-on-one sessions in his office (lately via Zoom) to work with them on their course papers and to address any issues presented during in-class work. As a critical part of this one-on-one interaction, Sawyer has worked closely with students on Law Review and other Journals as they develop their ideas for possible publication in articles or notes. Finally, another aspect of Sawyer's contribution to the overall Clinic mission is his management for Northwestern of the CIHR's consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council. This status offers Northwestern faculty and students privileged access (and opportunities for direct contributions) to UN activities world-wide.

## News and notes from our graduates...

**Callahan Soldavini (IHR-LLM '18)** and **Melissa Robel (IHR-LLM '18)** started Pads 4 Refugees, Inc. a Florida nonprofit corporation with 501(c)3 status, supporting the dignity of refugee women by providing period products in humanitarian environments. Period products are not a part of government aid, so NGOs are left to fill in the gaps when they can. Those that do spend a lot of money to do so. By partnering with other NGOs, Pads 4 Refugees picks up the cost of pads so they can spend that money on other support services. They're currently partnering with the We Are One Center, operated by the NGO Glocal Roots, on the Greek island of Samos, and fundraising to cover the cost of pads for one year for two Yazidi refugee camps in Serres, Greece. Callhan Soldavini (IHR LLM 2018) is a founding board member and is the organization's Vice President of Legal.

**Myung-Cheol Lee (IHR-LLM '11)** is a judge at Su-won District Court, South Korea.

**Pablo Contreras (IHR-LLM '11)** published four books: two as an author and two as an editor. As an author: Contreras, Pab Gonzalo (2020): Estudios sobre control de convencionalidad (Santiago, Ediciones Der); Contreras, Pablo & Lovera, Domingo (2020): La Constitución de Chile (Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch). As an editor: Contreras, Pablo & Salgado, Constanza; eds. (2020): Curso de Derechos Fundamentales (Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch); Contreras, Pablo (2020): La ley de la emergencia.

Ensayos sobre el derecho, la excepción y la pandemia (Santiago, Ediciones Der).

**Sara Elizabeth Dill (IHR-LLM '14)** was appointed by the International Bar Association as the Arab Region Liaison Officer for the War Crimes Committee. In that role, she hosted two programs. The first was in London, focused on the conflict in Yemen and what is necessary for peace and post conflict justice and reconciliation. The other program became a webinar on Islamic law of armed conflict. Dill has continued to work on issues in the Middle East/Gulf region, and during COVID, she worked with two governments in the region, and the UN, on their COVID response and reopening measures, advising on human rights considerations. She's currently working on a pending UN report on anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination for OHCHR.

**Shimelis Mulugeta Kene (IHR-LLM '10)** is a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, McGill University. Kene received his Doctorate in Civil Law (DCL) from McGill University in 2020. His doctoral thesis, entitled "Third World State Agency: A Postcolonial Critique of Ethiopia's Antiterrorism Law" interrogates postcolonial and critical international law theories, and argues that neither adequately captures the nuance and agency involved in Third World states' agentic adoption of Western discourses and instrumentalization of (international) law. His current areas of research interests include international (human rights) law, international criminal law, theoretical and Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAAIL), and the UN. His ongoing research examines the role of international law in the North-South encounter.

**Victoria Carmona (IHR-LLM '18)** is running the immigration clinic at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

**Sothie Keo (IHR-LLM '17)** is working as a Legal Officer for the Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyers Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), also known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. The ECCC is a hybrid tribunal established between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations to prosecute crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. The Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyers Section is ultimately responsible for the overall advocacy, strategy, and in-court presentation of the interests of the consolidated group of Civil Parties, who are essentially the victims of the Khmer Rouge regime.

**Charles Majinge (IHR-LLM '07)** is currently a Senior Specialist for Justice and Rule of Law with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. In this role, he manages the Justice and Rule of Law portfolio for the UNDP Country Office.

**Settasak Akanimart (IHR-LLM '10)** is based in UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia in Nepal. The Regional Office is responsible for oversight, quality assurance and technical support to UNICEF Offices in eight countries in South Asia including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Akanimart's portfolio as a Regional Child Protection Specialist covers support to UNICEF child protection teams in the eight countries related to strengthening child protection systems, with a particular focus on capacity of social

service workforce, child protection legal reform, justice for children, birth registration, child marriage, child migration, and preparedness and responses to child protection in emergencies due to armed conflicts, natural disasters and pandemics such as COVID-19.

**Sarah Diaz, (IHR-LLM '18)** had the great pleasure of joining the Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Center for the Human Rights of Children (CHRC) as its Associate Director and a lecturer in the School of Law in July of 2020. The CHRC is a component of one of the nation's

premier child law programs: Loyola CIVITAS Child Law Center. In this capacity, she teaches an immigration practicum as well as international human rights law, and she has begun developing intersectional child migration and human rights programming within the CHRC.

## Student Reflection: Prapoosa KC (LLM IHR '20)

As cliché as it might sound, my university experience was nothing less than a dream come true. I applied to the Law School's LLM in International Human Rights with an expectation of meeting experienced professors and attaining bountiful learning. I received all of this, but also found a home far away from home. I come from Nepal, a small country eight thousand miles away from Chicago. And yet I did not miss Nepal much, because of the comfortable environment of the Law School and the immense support from my professors and friends.

My one-year LLM course went by too quickly, with so much of learning and adventure. The circular classes incorporated theoretical knowledge with experience-sharing from professors in the field of Human Rights. The highlight of my LLM experience was my involvement at the Bluhm Legal Clinic. As a Human Rights student, I chose to pursue a clinical course and got the opportunity to learn and work at the International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic led

by Professor Bridget Arimond. At the clinic, I was engaged in different projects including one writing a report to the Working Group on Mercenaries on the Privatization of Immigrant Detention Center in the US and writing a report to the OHCHR on Human Rights situation of Muslims of Myanmar for Myanmar's UPR in 2020. My travel to Myanmar representing the law school for research and report writing was an adventure that will remain with me for lifetime. During this trip I realized the importance of human rights lawyers working for the protection of Human Rights in Asia. Both projects provided me with a practical lens on the realities of the human rights situation around the world. I strongly believe there is an amazing amalgamation of both the theoretical and practical knowledge in the LLM IHR curriculum of the law school, which molds the students for their professional life ahead. A class on Women, Gender and Human Rights was another favorite, where I got to engage with and listen to different perspectives on gender issues from friends pursuing J.D. and other LLM degrees. Overall, my experience was incredible. My journey would not have been this valuable and impactful

without the support and trust of my dear professors. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my Professors Bridget Arimond, Tom Geraghty, Carolyn Frazier, Christine M. Evans, Stephen Sawyer, Marco Bocchese and Sheerine Alemzadeh for all the help throughout my law school journey.

After I graduated, I returned to Nepal with a vision of working to ameliorate the respect and implementation of Human Rights in Asia. To pursue that goal, I am currently working as a Project officer on 'Reforming the Transitional Justice Process of Nepal' initiated by the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal. I am also working as a Legal Consultant for Trial International's Nepal office, on a project analyzing the country's torture legislation against International Human Rights Law. I do pro-bono work as lawyer for a law firm focusing on Human Rights litigation, where I draft petitions and litigate at the Supreme Court for violations of Fundamental Rights guaranteed by Nepal's constitution. My education at Northwestern Prtizker School of Law helped me navigate my vision and ambition, for which I will be forever grateful.



# Northwestern

PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW  
BLUHM LEGAL CLINIC

## Center for International Human Rights

### Faculty

#### Thomas Geraghty

Class of 1967 James B. Haddad Professor  
of Law; Director Emeritus Bluhm Legal Clinic;  
Interim Director Center for International  
Human Rights

#### David Scheffer

Mayer Brown/Robert A. Helman  
Professor of Law

#### Bridget Arimond

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

#### Stephen Sawyer

Clinical Associate Professor of Law

#### 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

#### Alexandra Tarzikhan

Schuetz Fellow in Health &  
Human Rights

### Classes

A New World Order: the Role of the United  
Nations in Advancing the Rule of Law and  
Individual Rights

Colloquium: International Human Rights  
Health and Human Rights

Human Rights Advocacy: Legal Analysis  
and Writing

International Children's Rights Advocacy

International Criminal Law

International Human Rights

International Human Rights Advocacy

International Human Rights Law and Practice

International Human Rights Law: Differing  
Perspectives, Europe, the Americas, the US

# Student & Faculty Publications

### THOMAS GERAGHTY

Introduction to Symposium, "Human  
Rights and Access to Justice in  
Ethiopia," *Northwestern Journal of  
Human Rights*. 2021.

"Legal Clinics and the Better Trained  
Lawyer, Part II: A Case Study of  
Accomplishments, Challenges  
and the Future of Clinical Legal  
Education," *Northwestern Journal of  
Law and Social Policy*. 2020.

### DAVID SCHEFFER

"What Are the Laws Governing  
Military Force During the U.S.  
Elections?" *Council on Foreign  
Relations*. 2020.

Three Realities about the Africa  
Situation at the ICC and Improving  
Communications with States,  
*The International Criminal Court:  
Contemporary Challenges and  
Reform Proposals* (Richard H.  
Steinberg, Ed). 2020.

"The Flawed U.S. Effort to Revive  
Iran Sanctions." *Council on Foreign  
Relations*. 2020.

"Lebanon's Frustrating Day of  
Judgment" *Council on Foreign  
Relations*. 2020

"Reducing the Funding Gaps for  
Atrocity Victims," *Opinio Juris*. 2020.

"How America's Credibility Gap  
hurts the Defense of Rights Abroad"  
*Council on Foreign Relations*. 2020.

"The Self-Defeating Executive Order  
Against the International Criminal  
Court." *Just Security*. 2020.

"Foreword" *No Place For Optimism:  
Anticipating Myanmar's First  
Report to The International Court of  
Justice* (by Sarata Ashraf) 2020.

"Don't Discriminate Against Those  
Who Remain Uninfected," *Think  
Global Health*. 2020.

"Is it a Crime to Mishandle a Public  
Health Response?" *Council on  
Foreign Relations*. 2020.

"Former Officials Challenge  
Pompeo's Threats to the  
International Criminal Court," *Just  
Security*. 2020.

"The ICC's Probe Into Atrocities in  
Afghanistan: What to Know," *Council  
on Foreign Relations*. 2020.

"The International Court of Justice's  
Recent Rulings on the Rohingya  
Genocide." *Council on Foreign  
Relations*. 2020.

"Justice Joseph Story on 'High  
Crimes and Misdemeanors'—The  
Antithesis to Dershowitz," *Just  
Security*. 2020.

"Why the ICJ is Trying to Protect  
Myanmar's Rohingya," *Council on  
Foreign Relations*. 2020.

### JULIET SORENSEN AND ALEXANDRA TARZIKHAN

"El Salvador: The Case Against  
Evelyn Hernandez," *TrialWatch  
Fairness Report*. 2020

"El Salvador: The Case Against  
Diana," *TrialWatch Fairness Report*.  
2020

### BRIAN CITRO AND ALEXANDRA TARZIKHAN

All Risk and No Reward: How the  
Government and Mine Companies  
Fail to Protect the Right to Health of  
Miners and Ex-Miners in Botswana.  
2020