Celebrating 30 Years:
The Cox Center marks three decades of dedication to international law

Ranked #16 in the country for international law by U.S. News & World Report
THE ACADEMY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW: A Catalyst for Change and Innovation

Join Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland this fall for a two-day, in-person event to explore how academia has influenced war crimes prosecutions, peace negotiations, and the pursuit of human rights since the Second World War.

This conference celebrates the 30th anniversary of the endowment of our Frederick K. Cox International Law Center and the 25th anniversary of the Public International Law & Policy Group’s founding.

Featured speakers include:

- Judge Silo Fernandez de Guimendí, President of the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court
- Dr. Mark Ellis, Executive Director of the International Bar Association

SEPTEMBER 24-25
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Registration is free, but there is a $100 charge for alumni seeking CLE credit or $200 for non-alumni seeking CLE.

See the full schedule and sign up for your free tickets today: case.edu/law/our-school/events-lectures

Inside this Issue

4 International accolades for Co-Dean Scharf
5 Student-led initiative documents atrocities in Yemen
6 Going global—at home How students gained hands-on international law experiences amid the pandemic
8 CWRU faculty connect with human rights experts in Thailand
8 Law faculty, students push for accountability for violence by police
9 Alumni spotlight John Sapko, Inspector General for Afghanistan

10 Global impact See where Case Western Reserve School of Law alumni are making an impact in international law
13 Three decades of progress Notable milestones of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center’s first 30 years
16 CWRU takes top honors in international moot court competitions
17 Making an impact on immigration
18 News of our International Law Faculty
22 Diplomatic tendencies

About the Center
Since its founding in 1991, CWRU’s Frederick K. Cox International Law Center has trained the next generation of international lawyers while making an impact locally, nationally and around the world. The Cox Center serves as the hub of the law school’s international law program, which includes the Canada-US Law Institute, the Institute for Global Security Law & Policy, the Henry T. King Jr. War Crimes Research Office, the Yemen Accountability Project, the Immigration Law Clinic, and the Journal of International Law.

The Cox Center Team
Michael P. Scharf  
Co-Dean, School of Law
Stephen J. Petras Jr.  
Director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center
Joscelino Colares  
Co-Director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center
Avidan Cover  
Director, Institute for Global Security Law & Policy
Shannon French  
Director, Human International Center for Ethics and Excellence
Richard Gordon  
Director, Financial Integrity Institute, and Associate Director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center
James Johnson  
Director, Henry King War Crimes Research Office
Ted Parran  
Managing Director, Canada-US Law Institute
Jonathan Gordon  
Director, JD Program
Jack Turner  
Director, Foreign Graduate LLM Program
Su He  
Director, Joint Program in International Commercial Law and Dispute Resolution
Elizabeth Wypych  
Administrative Director, Office of Foreign Graduate Legal Studies
Michael Benza, Carol Fox, Kathryn Mercer, Douglas Plaume, Elizabeth Safier, and Denalipon Chithob  
Jessup, ICC, and Vis International Moot Court Team Coaches
Eric Sterling  
Director of Academic Centers

Case Global 1 3
International accolades for Co-Dean Scharf

When the fledgling International Criminal Court Mock Trial Competition foundered a decade ago, Case Western Reserve University School of Law Co-Dean Michael Scharf jumped into action, co-founding the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition in The Hague, along with Leiden University School of Law Professor and Grotius Center Director Carsten Stahn.

Since then, the competition has thrived—growing to include participants from 98 universities from 50 countries and earning sponsorship from the International Bar Association (IBA).

In recognition of his “extraordinary work” with the competition, the IBA presented Scharf with a leadership award, recognizing his creativity, energy, and expertise in writing the ICC Moot Court Problems and Bench Memos. Mark Ellis, executive director of the IBA, said the association wouldn’t have entered into the new partnership, which includes naming rights for the competition, if not for Scharf’s leadership as chair of the Board of Advisors.

The award comes just months after Scharf was voted president-elect of the American branch of the International Law Association, the international non-governmental organization involved in developing and restating international law.

Scharf has three decades of leadership in the American branch, which is among the oldest and largest of the association’s 63 branches. He served nearly 10 years as its vice president and member of its board of directors, twice chaired International Law Weekend—its annual three-day conference in New York City that brings together 2,000 academics, practitioners and students—and organized three regional meetings at Case Western Reserve.

Scharf will serve as president-elect until 2022, when he will succeed Professor Leila Sadat of Washington University in St. Louis as president for up to a pair of two-year terms.

Conference takes on Scharf’s “Grotian Moments” concept

Building upon School of Law Co-Dean Michael Scharf’s concept of “Grotian Moments”—paradigm shifts and tipping points in international law—the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg, Germany, convened a workshop this spring, titled “Grotian Moments in International Law.”

Scharf, whose two books on the topic were published by Cambridge University Press, presented a paper on “Grotian Moments: The Concept.” Twenty-two international law experts from across the globe then presented papers on the application of the Grotian Moment concept to a variety of areas; the papers will be published in a book by Brill.

The award comes just months after Scharf was voted president-elect of the American branch of the International Law Association, the international non-governmental organization involved in developing and restating international law.

Scharf has three decades of leadership in the American branch, which is among the oldest and largest of the association’s 63 branches. He served nearly 10 years as its vice president and member of its board of directors, twice chaired International Law Weekend—its annual three-day conference in New York City that brings together 2,000 academics, practitioners and students—and organized three regional meetings at Case Western Reserve.

Scharf will serve as president-elect until 2022, when he will succeed Professor Leila Sadat of Washington University in St. Louis as president for up to a pair of two-year terms.

Conference takes on Scharf’s “Grotian Moments” concept

Building upon School of Law Co-Dean Michael Scharf’s concept of “Grotian Moments”—paradigm shifts and tipping points in international law—the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg, Germany, convened a workshop this spring, titled “Grotian Moments in International Law.”

Scharf, whose two books on the topic were published by Cambridge University Press, presented a paper on “Grotian Moments: The Concept.” Twenty-two international law experts from across the globe then presented papers on the application of the Grotian Moment concept to a variety of areas; the papers will be published in a book by Brill.

Student-led initiative DOCUMENTS ATROCITIES in Yemen

Three years ago, a group of Case Western Reserve University School of Law students came together to launch the Yemen Accountability Project (YAP) to document and map war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Yemeni Civil War.

Last fall, the team’s extensive work began to come to fruition with the release of YAP’s first white paper, “Aiding and Abetting: Holding States, Corporations, and Individuals Accountable for War Crimes in Yemen.” Six months later, the group published its second, “Starvation: Building the Case for Prosecuting Starvation Crimes in Yemen.”

The YAP is the first comprehensive effort to document atrocities in the country’s civil war and lay the foundation for successful prosecutions of the responsible parties. The student-run project is supervised by Adjunct Professor James Johnson, the former chief of prosecutions at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and director of the CWRU War Crimes Research Office.

“When we launched the project, we were hoping for a handful of volunteers,” said Johnson. “Instead, dozens of law students came on board despite the workloads and pressures of school. These students are volunteering their time because they see this as an opportunity to make a difference.”

By the time Johnson finished recruiting, more than 70 law students joined the effort to help bring justice and accountability to a conflict that has cost more than 100,000 lives. Over the next two years, YAP volunteers worked to build a database of potential war crimes in Yemen’s civil war, analyze data, and deliver meaningful reports to international organizations and NGOs in a worldwide effort to hold states, corporations and individuals accountable for the atrocities that have been committed in Yemen since the conflict began.

The first white paper, a 99-page report, explores how civilian victims of the war in Yemen can seek justice for the grave crimes perpetrated against them. The second, a 51-page document, examines evidence from 2015 to 2018 that illustrates patterns of widespread attacks on civilian objects indispensable to survival, such as food production and water supply, and outlines avenues for bringing charges against perpetrators of these crimes.

Johnson estimates the entire project will be complete in another three years, and hopes the students’ work will prove invaluable to international prosecutors.
GOING GLOBAL—AT HOME
How students gained hands-on international law experiences amid the pandemic

In ranking Case Western Reserve University School of Law’s International Law Program among the top 10 in the nation, PreLaw magazine recognized the law school’s funded internships as its secret to placing so many of its graduates in the field of international law.

Every summer, 30 or so Case Western Reserve law students undertake international law internships around the globe, and with its $4 million endowment, the law school’s Frederick K. Cox International Law Center provides stipends to cover the students’ travel and living expenses. In addition, the law school grants academic credit for these placements.

In early 2020, law students obtained a record number of foreign placements. Then, the coronavirus hit. Many law firms, government agencies, international organizations and NGOs either moved to remote internship experiences or canceled internships for the summer of 2020 altogether.

Undaunted by the pandemic, the leaders of Case Western Reserve’s international law program worked together to create an alternative arrangement for students who lost their summer placements. Such students were invited to work remotely for the summer as research fellows for one of the law school’s Case Global centers, institutes and affiliated organizations, including the Cox Center (co-directed by Professors Juscelino Colares and Steve Petras), the Henry King War Crimes Research Office (directed by Adjunct Professor James Johnson), the Institute for Global Security Law and Policy (directed by Associate Dean Avidan Cover), the Canada-US Law Institute (directed by Petras), the Henry King War Crimes Research Office (directed by Adjunct Professor James Johnson), the Institute for Global Security Law and Policy (directed by Dean Michael Scharf), and the Public International Law & Policy Group (directed by Dean Michael Scharf). Students availing themselves of this option were provided $1,500 stipends and could earn three credits under the umbrella of the law school’s externship program.

Altogether, the centers’ directors developed 27 impactful projects—more than enough to cover every student who had lost an international internship. The projects include:

- Scharf on a Public International Law & Policy Group project analyzing the shift in security council power to the General Assembly;
- Petras to develop the first compendium analyzing all the Canadian and U.S. laws that apply to the Great Lakes;
- Johnson to create dossiers for potential prosecution of Yemen War Crimes; and
- Cover on a report examining nations’ responses to the coronavirus pandemic and assessing their compliance with and respect for human rights.

Dennis Schwartz interned at International Law Institute — African Centre for Legal Excellence.

Sydney Bell interned at INTERPOL in summer 2021.

In 2020, Kathryn Meyer interned with the Office of the Co-Prosecutors, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia; this year, she was with the American Red Cross.

Brooke Behrmann interned in summer 2021 at International Law Institute — African Centre for Legal Excellence.

At the same time, many students were able to intern for international law placements in-person or remotely in 2020 and 2021, including at:

- International Law Institute, African Centre for Legal Excellence, Kampala, Uganda*
- U.S. Court of International Trade, New York, New York*
- Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, Washington, D.C.*
- Human Rights Watch, New York and Washington, D.C.*
- Immigrant Defenders Law Center Cross Border, San Diego, California*
- Cambodian Center for Human Rights, Phnom Penh, Cambodia*
- International Foundation for Art Research, New York*
- International Bar Association, London*
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Office of Co-Prosecutors, Phnom Penh, Cambodia*
- Department of Defense, Office of Military Commissions, Washington, D.C.
- American Red Cross, Office of General Counsel & International Humanitarian Law, Washington, D.C.
- Coast Guard JAG Office of Maritime and International Law, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Chief Counsellor, Washington, D.C.
- ICPO-INTERPOL, Lyon, France*
- The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) The Hague*

*Remote internships
CWRU faculty connect with human rights experts in Thailand

The pandemic-induced proliferation of Zoom meetings spurred a new international connection. Case Western Reserve University School of Law faculty members recently met virtually with a team of Thai human rights experts, through a discussion organized by the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program and the Cleveland Council on World Affairs.

Using simultaneous translation, the conversation centered on best practices to protect the human rights of marginalized communities and indigenous people in Thailand, including issues of mass detention, mistreatment and expulsion from national parks.

“Hearing about the Thai lawyers’ dedicated efforts to surmount discriminatory government practices as well as rule of law challenges was incredibly illuminating and humbling,” said Avidan Cover, associate dean and director of the Institute for Global Security Law & Policy. “We look forward to a sustained dialogue and potential partnership on these issues.”

Law faculty, students push for accountability for violence by police

As racial justice and anti-police-brutality protests took place in cities across the United States in summer 2020, reports showed attacks by federal and local police on medics—using mass, pepper balls, flash grenades, tear gas, rubber bullets, and bean bag rounds, as well as physically pushing, grabbing and shoving individuals.

Such actions, a group of Case Western Reserve University School of Law students and faculty said, impinged on the rights to health and peaceful assembly under international law.

This spring, the law school’s Institute for Global Security Law & Policy, together with Physicians for Human Rights, filed a joint submission to the United Nations’ Special Rapporteurs on Health and Peaceful Assembly and Association. The project was led by Professor Avidan Cover and assisted by a group of student Card Center fellows.

Their extensive submission documents how law enforcement both targeted and indiscriminately attacked medics. These actions, the submission contends, violate international treaties to which the United States is a party, opening the door for international accountability and pressure for reforms.

“With the U.S. government agencies, and identified more than $1.4 billion in savings to the U.S. taxpayer just from their audits,” Sopko said. “The most important lesson he’s learned from Afghanistan is that oversight—the ability of American oversight officials to follow the money—is mission critical, particularly in a country with a deep history of corruption.”

Known for his blunt talk, Sopko said that: “If we keep sending American taxpayer dollars to Afghanistan, without strong oversight, then we may as well just light that money on fire on the streets of downtown Kabul for all the good it’ll do. We’ve also learned that to be effective, reconstruction efforts must be based on a deep understanding of the traditions of the host nation.”

Sopko praised CWRU School of Law’s expansive national security law offerings and encourages students to pursue jobs in the field.

“IT is a tremendous area to work in,” he said, “and covers the gamut from foreign economic development, weapons exports, money laundering and human rights issues.”
See where Case Western Reserve School of Law alumni are shaping international law

Case Western Reserve University School of Law has dozens of law alumni occupying prominent positions in government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, corporations and law firms around the world.

Here’s a peek into the current roles of some of our esteemed graduates who are eager to mentor our students and help launch their international law careers.

### Government/International Organizations

- **Stephen Patras** (’79) Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council of the Great Lakes Region
- **Anne Simon** (’83) Senior Advisor, Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- **Mohamed Chambas** (’84) Senior Counselor, United Nations (New York)
- **Fragomen** (’68) Founder of Fragomen, the world’s largest immigration firm (New York)
- **John Sopko** (’77) Director, Department of Navy, U.S. Government Accounting Office

### Human Rights Law

- **Ruth Mary Hackler** (’05) Prosecuting Attorney, Cambodia
- **Ahran Kang McCluskey** (’06) Attorney Advisor, International Federation for Human Rights
- **John Sopko** (’77) Director of the U.S. Customs Office of Rules & Regulations

### Immigration Law

- **Robert Altnau** (’91) Director of the Office of Immigration Appeals (Washington, D.C.)
- **Margaux Day** (’09) Policy Director, Accountability Counsel (Washington, D.C.)

### National Security Law

- **Kevin Nealer** (’78) Principal of Snowcroft Group (Washington, D.C.)
- **Chris Rassi** (’03) Deputy Chief Counsel for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington, D.C.)
- **Rick Batson** (’02) Assistant Chief Counsel with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Washington, D.C.)

### Project Management

- **Rachel Berman-Vapiris** (’14) Attorney, Office for Immigration Review (Washington, D.C.)
- **Kate Masetta-Alvarez** (’18) DOJ Immigration Law Appeals Attorney (Washington, D.C.)
- **Amelia Wester** (’15) Associate Immigration Attorney at Blake Immigration Law (Alexandria, Virginia)
Study abroad opens doors to employment overseas

CWRU School of Law has semester abroad programs with 17 law schools on five continents and three concurrent degree programs with universities in London, Paris and Madrid, where our students receive both a foreign LLM and our JD degree in just three years at no extra cost.

After earning his concurrent degree at University of Paris, Garo Yaghjianian secured a position at the Paris office of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel. Jessica Turner obtained a job at Avonhurst Legal Services in London after earning her concurrent degree at Middlesex University in the United Kingdom. And Teresa Azzam secured a position at the Paris office of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel.

Three Decades of Progress

Notable Milestones of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center’s First 30 Years

The Frederick K. Cox International Law Center marks its 30th anniversary this year. In honor of the occasion, we’re taking a look back at some of the remarkable accomplishments of our past three decades.

1991

A multimillion-dollar gift from the Gund Foundation endows the Cox International Law Center. That same year CWRU launches its LLM program for lawyers from outside the United States, which now enrolls more than 130 foreign students a year.

2001

Bruce J. Klatsky, chair and CEO of Phillips Van Heusen Corp. and a member of the Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch, provides a special endowed annual fellowship for two students to Human Rights Watch.

2002

The Cox Center’s War Crimes Research Office and War-Crimes Research Lab are established, now directed by James Johnson, former chief of prosecutions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. To date, the office has provided over 250 research memos to international tribunals, piracy courts, INTERPOL and the U.S. military commissions.

Frederick K. Cox, Executive Director of the Gund Foundation and members of the Gund family.

Ritchie Thomas (’64)
International Trade Counsel, Squire Patton Boggs (Washington, D.C.)

Rick Newcomb (’73)
Partner and head of DLA Piper International Practice Section (Washington, D.C.)

Craig Chapman (’80)
Partner and Chair of Sidney Austin’s Global Capital Markets group (New York)

Laura Quattella (’92)
General Counsel of Lenovo Group (New York and Beijing)

Michele Gao (’95)
Partner and International Business Law specialist at Han Kun Law Offices (Shanghai)

William Hayos (’98)
Senior Lawyer and Head of Legal & Business Affairs, RDL and Innovation, British Broadcasting Corp. (London)

Ashlee Lee (’07)
International Trade Counselor for Coca-Cola Co. (Atlanta)

Heather Doherty (’09)
Coca-Cola Co. (Atlanta) International Trade Counsel for the United Kingdom. And Teresa Azzam (’20) got a job as an international arbitration counsel in Squire Patton Boggs’ Dubai office after earning her concurrent degree at Comillas University in Madrid.

Chip Carter (’98)
University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Ken Davis (’74)
Wisconsin Law School

Amos Guiora (’74)
University of Utah School of Law

Bryan Mercurio (’00)
University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Katy Mercier (’83)
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Mary-Beth Myulan (’94)
University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law

Charles Itzchak (’86)
University of Maine School of Law

Jack Turner (’02)
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Rafael Dean Brown (’02)
Qatar University College of Law

International Law Judges

Kathleen O’Malley (’82)
Judge of U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (Washington, D.C.)

Jennifer Peyton (’98)
Immigration Court Judge (Chicago)

Jennifer Riedbahr Williams (’01)
Immigration Court Judge (Cleveland)

Duncan Gazwaga (’13)
Judge of the Uganda High Court International Crimes Chamber (Kampala)

International Law Professors (full-time)

Thomas Au (’13)
Assistant General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington, D.C.)

Zach Walker (’13)
International Trade Counsel at Picard Kertz & Rowe (Washington, D.C.)

Tyler Kimberly (’15)
Judicial Clerk, U.S. Court of International Trade (New York City)

Gabrielle Feuer (’16)
Assistant General Counsel, TransDigm Group Inc. (Cleveland)

Brandon Saslow (’16)
Litigation Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, Department of Commerce (Washington, D.C.)

Teresa Azzam (’19)
International Arbitration Associate, Squire Patton Boggs (Dubai)

Douglas Pilawa (’19)
International Dispute Resolution Associate at Square Patton Boggs (Cleveland)

Garo Yaghjianian (’19)
Associate, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel (Paris)

Jennifer Peyton (’98)
Immigration Court Judge (Chicago)

Katy Mercier (’83)
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Mary-Beth Myulan (’94)
University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law

Charles Itzchak (’86)
University of Maine School of Law

Jack Turner (’02)
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Rafael Dean Brown (’02)
Qatar University College of Law

Study abroad opens doors to employment overseas

CWRU School of Law has semester abroad programs with 17 law schools on five continents and three concurrent degree programs with universities in London, Paris and Madrid, where our students receive both a foreign LLM and our JD degree in just three years at no extra cost.

After earning his concurrent degree at University of Paris, Garo Yaghjianian secured a position at the Paris office of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel. Jessica Turner obtained a job at Avonhurst Legal Services in London after earning her concurrent degree at Middlesex University in the United Kingdom. And Teresa Azzam (’20) got a job as an international arbitration counsel in Squire Patton Boggs’ Dubai office after earning her concurrent degree at Comillas University in Madrid.

Three Decades of Progress

Notable Milestones of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center’s First 30 Years

The Frederick K. Cox International Law Center marks its 30th anniversary this year. In honor of the occasion, we’re taking a look back at some of the remarkable accomplishments of our past three decades.

1991

A multimillion-dollar gift from the Gund Foundation endows the Cox International Law Center. That same year CWRU launches its LLM program for lawyers from outside the United States, which now enrolls more than 130 foreign students a year.

2001

Bruce J. Klatsky, chair and CEO of Phillips Van Heusen Corp. and a member of the Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch, provides a special endowed annual fellowship for two students to Human Rights Watch.

2002

The Cox Center’s War Crimes Research Office and War-Crimes Research Lab are established, now directed by James Johnson, former chief of prosecutions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. To date, the office has provided over 250 research memos to international tribunals, piracy courts, INTERPOL and the U.S. military commissions.
Radio Broadcast Hosted by Michael P. Scharf
Hugh R. Williamson
Liza Kane-Hartnett
Shelly L. Whitman

New ideas for combating pirate financing and plunder

Laurie R. Blank
Jon Huggins & Yaron Gottlieb
Mark Sloan

Deterring the use of child pirates

Talking Foreign Policy: A Roundtable on Piracy

Juvenile Pirates: “Lost Boys” or Violent Criminals?

Children and Marine Piracy

Why Now Is the Time to Resolve the Dokdo/Takeshima Dispute

International Maritime Piracy: An Old Profession That Is Capable of Somali Piracy—Are We at the End Game?

Rules of Engagement and Legal Frameworks for Multinational Counter-Piracy Operations

Information Sharing

Plunder Pre-Empting Piracy Before Prevention Becomes Necessary

Notes

Case Global
CWRU TAKES TOP HONORS in international moot court competitions

Jessup Competition
Year after year, CWRU excels in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. It has won regionals nine times in the past two decades and, in 2008, CWRU won the World Championship—the last U.S. team to do so. This year, CWRU won best oralist and brief awards, was the top-ranked U.S. team, and was ranked third in the world out of over 600 participating law schools in the global competition.

ICC Moot Court Competition
CWRU’s ICC Moot Court team has also proven to be a perennial winner. After making it to the semifinals of the Americas Regional Competition three of the past four years, the team made it to the final round this year, coming in second overall. That earned CWRU its first berth in the Global Rounds, organized by the International Bar Association and Leiden University in The Hague. There, the team advanced all the way to the quarterfinals, and won a Best Brief Award.

Vis International Arbitration Moot
For the third time in four years, CWRU took home a best oralist award at the Vis International Arbitration Moot Court competition hosted in Vienna, Austria. The award is given to the top 40 students out of more than 1,000 who competed, representing 380 universities. As a warm-up, the team competed in the Swiss Chambers Arbitration Institution pre-moot, where a CWRU team member placed third as an individual oralist out of a field of more than 100 competitors.

CWRU’s Secret to Success?
CWRU is one of the only law schools that selects 1Ls to participate alongside upper-class students in its three international law moot court teams.

“Rather than distracting from the rigors of first year, we find the moot court experience makes the 1Ls better students in the classroom,” said Dean Michael Scharf, who serves as coach of the Jessup team. “And they have a track record of excelling in the international competitions as 1Ls and improving as 2Ls and 3Ls.”

In addition, Scharf said, “They get great mentoring. The international law teams are coached by some of our most committed full-time and adjunct professors.”

“We are absolutely thrilled with how the Vis team performed this year,” said the team’s co-coaches Katy Mercer and Douglas Pilawa. “The competition gets harder each year and the Case Western team continues to improve to meet that challenge.”

Making an impact on immigration
Leader of Immigration Law Clinic—whose parents came to the U.S. decades ago—helps students score major victory

On June 1, 2021, United States President Joseph R. Biden Jr. issued a proclamation declaring June National Immigrant Heritage Month, encouraging reflection on the stories of “courageous families who ventured here—be it centuries ago, or just this year—from every part of the world to seek new possibilities and help to forge our nation.”

One family to make such a journey was that of Aleksandar Cuic, adjunct professor of law and director of the Immigration Clinic at the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center since 2017. Originally from Serbia (the former Yugoslavia), Cuic’s parents immigrated to the United States in 1970, first settling in New Jersey and then in Cleveland as they found jobs in slaughterhouses and factories to give their three children better opportunities. Eventually, they opened their own business.

The youngest of his siblings, Cuic describes his journey to a career in immigration law as serendipitous—the result of degrees in Russian language and international business, an MBA and a JD paired with well-timed career opportunities.

Now, he’s working with clients as a partner at Brown Immigration Law in Cleveland—while also shaping the next generation of immigration lawyers at the School of Law. For nearly a decade, Cuic and his students in the law school’s Immigration Law Clinic have been on the frontlines of the battle for human rights in America’s immigration courts.

This spring, they scored a major victory. A client from Trinidad & Tobago had been ordered removed by an immigration judge in Detroit; the client, rendered homeless due to serious issues with sexual abuse, had failed to appear for a hearing. The CWRU team of then-third-year law students—Charlee Thomas, Courtney Keski, Mrinali Sethi and Emma Wilson—got her case reopened and the venue changed to Cleveland. After the students filed briefs and argued at the deportation hearing, the immigration court granted their client’s application for permanent residency. The government waived appeal, ending her eight-year court battle.

Cleveland is the ideal place for an immigration clinic since we have one of the nation’s regional immigration courts and a continuing flow of new immigrants from all over the world,” said Cuic.

The clinic affords law students the opportunity to represent clients before the Department of Justice Immigration Courts, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Field Offices, and asylum officers.

“Our students are having an impact on their client’s lives and they are developing a marketable skill in gaining employment in the field,” said Cuic. “Armed with that experience, Cuic’s students have gone on to careers in immigration law at private law firms, non-profits, and in the government.”

For Cuic, the power of immigration is woven into his life story—and that of all Americans. “Immigration is part of our country’s fabric, and we wouldn’t be what we are today if it weren’t for the immigration of our past,” Cuic said. “Even if your family has been in the U.S. for generations, your story was shaped by immigration, too. The cliche of America being a melting pot really is true.”

“Cleveland is the ideal place for an immigration clinic since we have one of the nation’s regional immigration courts and a continuing flow of new immigrants from all over the world,” said Cuic.

The clinic affords law students the opportunity to represent clients before the Department of Justice Immigration Courts, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Field Offices, and asylum officers.

“Our students are having an impact on their client’s lives and they are developing a marketable skill in gaining employment in the field,” said Cuic. “Armed with that experience, Cuic’s students have gone on to careers in immigration law at private law firms, non-profits, and in the government.”

For Cuic, the power of immigration is woven into his life story—and that of all Americans. “Immigration is part of our country’s fabric, and we wouldn’t be what we are today if it weren’t for the immigration of our past,” Cuic said. “Even if your family has been in the U.S. for generations, your story was shaped by immigration, too. The cliche of America being a melting pot really is true.”
OUR INTERNATIONAL LAW FACULTY

At Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 33 individuals teach courses related to international law. Few law schools in the country have as many faculty members with expertise in the field or offer as many specialized courses in the area. Learn more about them.

Michael Scharf
Co-Director, Case Western Reserve University School of Law; Joseph C. Hostetter — Bachele Hostetter Professor of Law (teaches Fundamental Laws of International Relations, the Journal of International Law, seminar, and co-teaches the Jessup Court Team)

Formerly Attorney Adviser for United Nations Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, Michael Scharf served as head of the International Law program at Case Western Reserve University School of Law for a dozen years before becoming dean in 2013. He is the co-founder and managing director of the Public International Law & Policy Group, the author of 15 books, and is ranked as among the most cited international law professors in the United States, according to the SSCI study. In 2020, he was selected as president-elect of the American Branch of the International Law Association.

Steve Petras
Director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center; U.S. Director, Canada-United States Law Institute (teaches International Business Transactions)

Steve Petras practiced international business transactions and was a partner in the Business Practice Group of Bachele Hostetter LLP prior to joining Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2010. He has served as president of the Greater Cleveland International Lawyers Group, chair of the International Section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, a member of the Board of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, and a director of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs.

Juscilino Figueirosa Colares
Schott-van den Eynden Professor of Business Law and Professor of Political Science; Co-Director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center (teaches Civil Procedure, International Arbitration, Trade Law, and Regulatory Law courses)

Before joining the CWRU faculty, Juscilino Colares clerked for the Hon. Jean-Louis Dobes, chief justice of France’s Constitutional Court (2006-09 term) and practiced at Dewey Ballantine, LLP in Washington, D.C., where he negotiated trade cases before federal agencies, federal courts, and NAFTA panels. Colares has served as chair of the University Faculty Senate and associate dean for Global Legal Studies. A native of Brazil and naturalized citizen of the United States, Colares has been appointed to the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to serve on the U.S. Roster of North American Free Trade Agreement (Chapter Nineteen Panels) since 2013. Spring 2019, USTR appointed him to the first U.S. Roster of United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement Panels, a position he held for the last six years. Colares has organized a series of Trade Law Fall Updates, a practice-oriented gathering of leading trade lawyers, federal judges, and trade agency officials. Winner of the 2018 Faculty Research Award, Colares is the author of more than 35 articles and book chapters, and a book, titled Restructuring Trade Agreements (Walters Kluwer, 2021; sideview).

Stephen Anway
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches International Arbitration)

Stephen Anway is a partner and global co-chair of the world-ranked International Dispute Resolution Practice Group at Spade Patton Boggs, which was named International Arbitration Group of the Year by Law360 in 2020. In this role, he leads a team of more than 150 lawyers across 25 offices in North America, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific. Anway acts as lead counsel and as an arbitrator, and he has represented the winning party in many of the largest international arbitrations in the world over the past 15 years. He has worked in more than 40 countries and has represented clients— including 12 sovereign nations and numerous foreign investors—in some 100 international commercial and investment treaty arbitrations.

Danielle Asad
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches International Business Transactions)

A partner in the Global Corporate Practice of Squai Patton Boggs law firm, Danielle Asad represents private equity sponsors and corporate clients in connection with acquisitions; minority investments, divestitures, joint ventures, financings, restructurings; and other international business matters.

Michael Benza
Senior Lecturer in Law, Associate Director of the Institute for Financial Integrity (teaches Financial Criminal Law and co-chairs the ICC Moot Court team)

An expert in criminal law who has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, Michael Benza coaches our ICC Moot Court team, whose members won the best law student award in the national competition in 2015 and 2016, won the best brief award in 2017, and reached the semifinals in 2018 and the finals in 2021. In 2021, the team advanced to the International Rounds, where they made it to the developmentals and received a best brief award (see p. 16). Benza teaches courses in our Master of Arts in Financial Integrity program and at Southwest University of Politics and Law in Chongqing, China, as part of the law school’s joint LLM degree program.

Jaclyn Celebreze
Instructor and International LLM Program Fellow (teaches International Law and Foreign Graduate Seminar to LLM students)

Jaclyn Celebreze teaches U.S. Legal Writing and Foreign Graduate Seminar in the LLM program. She also regularly teaches in the Summer Language and Law Institute for incoming LLM students and foreign legal professionals. Before joining the School of Law in 2019, she practiced immigration law in private practice.

Avidan Y. Cover
Professor of Law; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Director, Institute for Global Security Law and Policy (teaches International Law and International Human Rights Law)

Avidan Cover previously served as senior counsel in Human Rights First’s U.S. Law & Security Program. This past year, Cover and his students submitted complaints to the United Nations Special Procedures concerning United States local police departments’ mistreatment of migrants at anti-police brutality protests (see p. 8). Cover is the professor of the university’s administrative and immigration law courses.

Alexandr Cuic
Adjunct Professor of Law and Director of the Immigration Clinic (teaches Immigration Law Clinic and Immigration Law II: Asylum & Refugee Law)

Alexandr Cuic is a partner at Boozner LLC, where he oversees the firm’s litigation practice group. During his 15 years of legal career, he has represented individuals across the United States in more than 140 immigration courts and Homeland Security offices. He is a frequent speaker at continuing education seminars, bar associations and community/religious groups. He has been selected by Best Lawyers in America as well as Super Lawyers Rising Star in the area of immigration law.

Shannon E. French
Professor of Law, and Director of the Human Rights and International Law Program (teaches International Children’s Rights and several courses in the joint program with SWUPU)

Shannon French, PhD, taught at the U.S. Naval Academy before joining CWRU’s faculty in 2008. She is a tenured member of the university’s Department of Philosophy with a secondary appointment in the law school. French’s primary expertise is in the area of military ethics, and her acclaimed book, The Code of the Warrior, features a forward by the late Sen. John McCain.

Gabriele Galligiani
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches International Intellectual Property Law)

A lecturer at Bocconi University in Milan, Gabriele Galligiani has held visiting positions at the University of Poitiers in France, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in the United Kingdom, and at Nagoya University in Nagoya, Japan. He is the chair of the European Intellectual Property Teachers Network, a World Group on Trade and Intellectual Economic Law.

Jonathan Gordon
Professor of Law, Director, Foreign Graduate Legal Studies SID Program (teaches the First-Year and Advanced SIDLC courses as well as Professional Responsibility. He also serves as co-chair of the Legal Writing Institute’s Global Legal Writing Skills Committee. Gordon has presented at numerous national and international conferences and has taught several courses to LLM students in Chongqing, China, as part of the law school’s partnership with Southwest University of Politics and Law.

Richard Gordon
Professor of Law; Associate Director of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center; Founding Director of the Financial Integrity Institute (teaches International Tax Law, numerous courses in the Master of Arts in Financial Integrity program)

Prior to joining CWRU’s faculty in 2005, Richard Gordon practiced international tax law in Washington, D.C., and later served as deputy director of the Harvard International Tax Program. After leaving Harvard, Gordon joined the staff of the International Monetary Fund before he spent 14 years as senior counsel, senior financial expert and senior economist. Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the IMF worked with the World Bank’s involvement in anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). He serves as a consultant on AML/CFT to a number of countries.

Brian Gran
Professor of Sociology, Applied Social Sciences, and Law (teaches International Children’s Rights) Research by Brian Gran, PhD, JD, concentrates on human rights. He is the editor of the book Sociology of Children’s Rights and has taught the International Survey of Human Rights. He is a United Nations expert on the Children’s Rights and Children’s Rights Committee. In 2019, Gran is an expert on the U.S. State Department.

A new book by Juscilino Colares, the Schott-van den Eynden Professor of Business Law and co-director of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center, and Mustafa Durmus (LAW ’16, ’19) now an assistant professor at Turkey’s Mugul Artslan University, will be released later this year. Restructuring Trade Agreements: The Legal and Transactional Reworking of Bad Trade Deals (Wolters Kluwer) uses the European Union-U.S. trade relationship as a primary case study to provide a practical framework for identifying trade agreements that are ripe for renegotiation—and how such renegotiations might take place.

Cox Center co-director completes new book on trade deals

Continued on page 20

I Case Western Reserve University School of Law
News of our International Law Faculty
Continued from page 19

Sharonah Hoffman
Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law, Professor of Bioethics, Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center (teaches Immersion Programs)
Sharonah Hoffman, JD, LLM, JD, has published over 60 articles on bioethics, health law, and health policy, and currently chairs the Long-Term Care Quality and Safety Committee of the American Geriatrics Society. Hoffman received her JD from the Case Western Reserve School of Law and her LLM from Harvard University. She also holds an MIA from the University of Pennsylvania, a BA in anthropology from the University of Chicago, and an Associate Degree in astronomy from the City College of New York.

Kenneth F. Ledford
Associate Professor of Law, Director of the Cases on Cyberlaw
Kenneth Ledford, PhD, JD, writes about private practitioners and judges in Prussia during the First and Second Empires and Weimar Republic, exploring the contours and limits of the rule of law. He serves as co-chair of Case Western Reserve’s Department of Legal History, and is a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies at the London School of Economics. He also serves on the board of the American Law History Association.

James Moroney
Professor of Law (teaches Cyberlaw)
James Moroney joined CWRU faculty in 2017. He is now engaged in a practice of law, in the areas of white collar crime, tax and technology enforcement and taxpayer representation. Moroney recently retired after a 30-year career as an assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) in the Northern District of Ohio. During that career, he served as a counterterrorism prosecutor, chief of the National Security Unit for the Northern District of Ohio, and a national security coordinator for all 94 A.U. Attorneys’ Offices at the Office for U.S. Attorneys at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. As an AUSA, he prosecuted a wide variety of white collar cases—including frauds in the areas of securities, financial institutions, corporations, money laundering, and tax—among others.

Cathy Lesser Mansfield
Senior Instructor in Law; Executive Director, Master of Arts in Financial Institutions Law (teaches consumer payments, and commercial law courses, as well as Holocaust and the Law)
Cathy Mansfield is a frequent lecturer on the Holocaust and in a Distinguished Fellow in the Holocaust and the Law at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. She is the composer and librettist of The Sparks Fly Upward: A Holocaust Family Saga, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, genocide and tolerance.

Stacy Cozart
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches Immigration Law)
Stacy Cozart, a founding member of the Ohio Immigration and Rights Law Group, is a nationally recognized expert in immigration law and has handled a wide array of immigration cases, focusing on political asylum, family-based immigration, and employment-based immigration. Cozart has a strong international clientele, with cases in more than 100 countries worldwide and has argued before the United States Supreme Court. Cozart has also written numerous articles, book chapters, and legal briefs, and has served as an expert witness on immigration law.

Gregory P. Noone
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches International Humanitarian Law)
Gregory Noone, JD, is the director of the Fairmount State University National Security Law, Policy and Triage Program and a professor of political science and law. Noone is a retired United States Navy captain and has served as the commanding officer of the JAG Special Prosecution Unit, as the commanding officer of the DLS Reserve unit, as well as the director of the Department of the President’s Special Counsel Secretariat. Noone is the co-author of the widely used textbook International Law and Armed Conflict (Aspen / Wolters Kluwer Publishing, 2nd edition, 2019). Since 2020, he has been executive director of the Public International Law & Policy Group, a Nobel Peace Prize-nominated NGO.

Douglas Pilawa
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches International Arbitration)
Douglas Pilawa is a Senior Instructor in Law and has taught courses in international arbitration since 2004. He is the founder of the dispute resolution and commercial litigation firm, Pilawa Law, and is also a member of the American Arbitration Association’s panel of arbitrators.

Rumu Sarkar
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches International Development Law)
Rumu Sarkar, PhD, JD, LLM, is general counsel to Millennium Partners, an international investment consulting group located in Charleston, West Virginia. He has served as secretary to a general counsel to CALIBRE Systems, a defense consulting group in Alexandria, Virginia, and is currently the chair of the Nonprofit Board of Directors. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors for the International Law and Armed Conflict (ILAC) Project, a conflict prevention and resolution organization. Sarkar has a strong background in international law and has served as a consultant to governments, international organizations, and private companies in the field of international development.

Steven G. Stransky
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches Foreign Affairs and National Security Law)
Steven Stransky joined CWRU School of Law in 2018. He is a partner and co-chair of the International Cybersecurity Practice Group at Thompson Hine LLP. Prior to joining Thompson Hine, Stransky served for more than 10 years in the federal government, including as Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In addition, Stransky served on the President’s National Security Council, where he provided legal policy advice to White House officials on developing and coordinating policies and programs with respect to homeland security, counterterrorism, and cybersecurity.

Jack Turner II
Professor of Law, Director, Foreign Graduate Legal Studies LLM Program (teaches Contract Law and Scholarly Legal Writing to LLM students)
Jack Turner has taught U.S. Scholarly Legal Writing and Contract Law to foreign lawyers in the LLM program for the past eight years. He also served as chair of the writing to our first-year SJD students working on their doctoral theses. Turner directs the Summary Language and Law Institute for incoming LLM students and frequently works with SJD students. He has also regularly teaches in China through our partnership with one of China’s top universities.

Andrew A. Zashin
Adjunct Professor of Law (teaches Family Law and International Family Law)
Andrew Zashin is co-managing partner of the Ohio law firm Forum & Zashin, Rich, where he practices family law and international law. Zashin has published several legal journal articles, lectured on international family law and has received numerous awards. Ranked the top family law attorney in Cleveland, rated as a Super Lawyer, and consistently making the list of Top 100 Lawyers in Ohio, Worth Magazine has named Zashin one of the Top 100 Lawyers in America. During the past 18 years at CWRU, Zashin has taught every family law offering. He has practiced at every level of court in Ohio and in numerous federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. He recently participated in the Cox State Capitol Brief with the U.S. Supreme Court.
George Kamanda is a man on a mission: to improve the lives of individuals in his home country, Sierra Leone.

If past and present performance are reliable indicators of future success, Kamanda, a 3L, is well on his way to making a major impact.

Kamanda’s start at Case Western Reserve University School of Law was nowhere near the beginning of his educational journey. By the time he arrived on campus, he’d earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and international relations at Saint Joseph’s University, a certificate in international human rights from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and an associate degree in international relations and affairs from Delaware County Community College in Philadelphia.

But he came to Case Western Reserve based on the reputation of its international law program and faculty, including Co-Dean Michael Scharf, whose publications on international law and human rights inspired Kamanda and helped shape his interest in diplomacy. “I read all of Dean Scharf’s books before coming to Case Western Reserve,” he said.

Like Scharf, Kamanda is a published author. His third book, Citizenship Reimagined: The Case for Responsible Whole Citizenry in Sierra Leone (Palmetto Publishing, 2020) builds on the work of The Necessity Firm, a nonprofit organization he founded thanks in no small part to a summer fellowship with the nonprofit organization. The nonprofit’s goal is to eradicate apathy in civics and leadership in Sierra Leone and empower its citizens, especially a younger generation, to become more engaged on nation-building matters, regardless of political and tribal affiliations. “My firm is an incubator for the vision I have for my country,” Kamanda said.

“George Kamanda came to our law school to gain the skills necessary to help lead his struggling country, Sierra Leone, into a better future,” said Scharf. “The NGO he founded is already having a significant impact there. With his drive, determination, and all that he has accomplished so far, I have no doubt that George will play an increasingly important role in Sierra Leone and perhaps the greater West Africa region in the coming years.”

At the law school, Kamanda has been active in leadership roles, including two terms as a student senator. This summer, he interned with Human Rights Watch. Kamanda also received a fellowship from FASPIE, the prestigious global ethical leadership organization.

Last year, Kamanda paused his law studies to pursue a master’s degree in diplomatic studies from University of Oxford. He is expected to receive his degree in November. But he’ll return to Case Western Reserve this fall and anticipates graduating with the class of 2022.

In the audience is likely to be his mother, a single parent who immigrated to the United States to create greater opportunities for her family. Earlier this year, when honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award from Delaware Community College, Kamanda gave a touching keynote address that credited his mother with keeping him motivated. Or, as his LinkedIn page simply states: “I’m: For God | For Country | For Mom.”

Among our recent international law events (available for free Ohio CLE credit):

- Climate Change and The Arctic Profound Disruption, Uncertain Impact
- Prosecuting Starvation Crimes in Yemen’s Civil War
- Awash in Blood: The Blackwater Pardons
- The United States and Canada: Outlook for Bilateral Relations in 2021
- Fifth Trade Law Fall Update
- 2020 American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting*
- Planting the Seeds of Violence: How U.S. Involvement in El Salvador Led to Today’s Migration Crisis
- From Cleveland to Chief of Protocol: Lessons on Diplomacy, Protocol, and Soft Power
- A State-Provincial Approach to Harmful Algal Blooms in the Great Lakes Basin: Possibilities and Pitfalls
- Should the United States back Mauritius sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelagos?
- Nazi Laws: From Democracy to Dictatorship to Genocide
- Corruption: A Threat to the Rule of Law and Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan
- The Syria Conflict’s Impact on International Law: An Online Roundtable Discussion

And more are on the way in 2021–22—both in person and broadcast online.

Visit case.edu/law/four-school/events-lectures to see past and upcoming lectures.

*Articles generated from the ASIL Midyear Meeting were published in Volume 53 of the Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law (2021). Established in 1960, the Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law is one of the oldest and most prestigious international law journals in the world.
WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT

$4 million: Size of our international law program endowment

A+: Ranking of our International Law Program (National Jurist)

16: Ranking of our International Law Program (U.S. News & World Report)

1: Jessup Moot Court World Championship

1: Nobel Peace Prize Nomination of our program