

Case Global

The Frederick K. Cox International Law Center

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A Winning Tradition



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
School of Law

Case Western Reserve University School of Law Selected to Host the 2025 American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting



CWRU School of Law is pleased to have been selected as the host of the ASIL’s 2025 Midyear Meeting. One of the largest annual gatherings of international law practitioners, academics, and students, the ASIL Midyear Meeting has been held since 2010 in Miami, Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York, Washington DC, Seattle, St. Louis, New York, Pittsburgh and Chicago.

Celebrating the theme of “Turning Points and Paradigm Shifts in International Law,” the ASIL’s 2025 Midyear Meeting will take place September 25-27 in Cleveland, Ohio.

- The Practitioners’ Forum, featuring a lunch speaker and two panels, will be held at Jones Day Law Firm on the afternoon of Sept. 25.
- The Research Forum, featuring over thirty panels, will be held at Case Western Reserve University School of Law on Sept. 26-27.
- There will be a Keynote speech and opening ceremony and reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25 at Woodland Hall in the Cleveland Botanical Garden.
- The highlight will be a gala party from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26 at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (the facility will be open exclusively to ASIL Midyear Meeting attendees and the CWRU Faculty-Student band will perform).
- The Midyear Meeting will end at 6 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 with a closing speech and reception at the Ballroom of the Tinkham Veale University Center followed by drinks at the University’s Jolly Scholar Pub.

Articles generated from the Midyear Meeting will be published in the *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*.

For registration information, visit:
asil.org/event/2025-midyear-meeting-cleveland



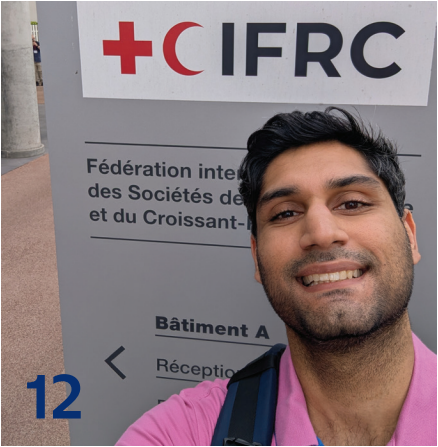
**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
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About the Center

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. With its \$5.7 million endowment, the Cox Center serves as the hub of the law school’s international law program, which includes the Canada-U.S. 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, the *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*, and the Talking Foreign Policy Radio show and podcast.

Case Global is the annual international law magazine of Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

CWRU once again ranked among the best in the 2025 *PreLaw* magazine and *US News & World Report* rankings of International Law Programs

CWRU’s International Law Program was ranked by *PreLaw* magazine as among the top International Law Programs in the country for the seventh year in a row. CWRU was one of just 12 Law Schools to receive the magazine’s coveted A+ ranking this year. CWRU School of Law was also among the top 13 International Law programs in the 2026 *US News & World Report* Law School Specialty Rankings, issued in April 2025.

Spring 2025 *US News and World Report* International Law Program Rankings T-13

- 1 New York University
- 2 Harvard University
- 3 Columbia University
- 3 Georgetown University
- 3 Yale University
- 6 American University (Washington)
- 6 University of California, Berkeley
- 8 George Washington University
- 8 University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
- 10 Stanford University
- 11 Cornell University
- 11 University of Virginia
- 13 Case Western Reserve University
- 13 Duke University
- 13 Temple University
- 13 University of Chicago



Case Western Reserve *Journal of International Law* Tackles the Need to Update the Geneva Conventions

Now in its 58th year, the *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* is one of the oldest and most cited international law journals in the world (currently ranked #23 according to the *Washington & Lee Law Journal* Rankings). Editors are selected through grades or a write-on competition in the summer following the 1L year. For the past twenty years, the student-edited Journal has produced an annual double issue Symposium volume of around 700 pages, containing the articles generated from the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center’s annual conference. Supported by the Bruce Klatsky endowment, copies of the Journal are sent to every international law professor in the country.

The recently published 2025 volume of the Journal contains an Experts’ Report and fourteen articles focusing on the need to update the Geneva Conventions on the Laws of War. Other recent Symposium issues have examined “Climate Change and International Law at a Crossroad” (2024), “International Law and the New Cold War” (2023), “The Academy and International Law: A Catalyst for Change and Innovation” (2022), “International Law in the Age of Global Crisis” (2021), “Atrocity Prevention: The Role of International Law and Justice” (2020), “International Law and Policy in the Age of Trump” (2019), “Corporations on Trial for Human Rights Violations” (2018), “The Art of International Law” (2017), “The International Law Legacy of the Obama Administration” (2016), and “International Regulation of Emerging Military Technologies” (2015).



CWRU Hosts Experts’ Meeting and Publishes Report on the Need to Update the Geneva Conventions

With a total of 196 state parties, there are no other international treaties as widely ratified as the four 1949 Geneva Conventions on the Laws of War. But these important treaties are showing their age. The rules and principles they established for the conduct of war were created before the advent of the computer, space flight, the internet, artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons and other modern technologies that have transformed the ways in which contemporary wars are fought.

On the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, CWRU School of Law convened a ground-breaking meeting of thirty leading experts on the Laws of War to consider whether there is a need to strengthen these laws to address the challenges of 21st century warfare, and how that could best be accomplished. Chaired by former Dean **Michael Scharf**, the experts participated in a day-long meeting at CWRU School of Law on Sept. 26, and three follow-up meetings over Zoom on Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14.

After substantial debate, the experts reached consensus on a White Paper, which was published in volume 57 of



Experts convened by CWRU School of Law issue report on the need to update the Geneva Conventions

the *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*. The first part of the report identifies selected areas that the participating experts concluded potentially warrant clarification, new rules or interpretations of existing rules found in the Geneva Conventions. The second part examines the pros and cons of the different approaches to

pursuing these updates. “This White Paper is intended as a call to action and a roadmap for evolving the Laws of War to respond to the challenges of 21st century warfare,” says Scharf. “In light of the caliber of the participating experts, we believe this initiative will help catalyze a movement to update this vital area of law.”

The only Law School with a Foreign Policy Radio Program

Established in 2012, CWRU’s radio program, “Talking Foreign Policy,” is broadcast quarterly on Cleveland’s NPR Station, WKSU 89.7 FM and its syndicates. Hosted by Professor **Michael Scharf**, TFP is streamed worldwide from Ideastream Public Media, and is available to listen to as a podcast anytime.

Recent episodes of the program have addressed such topical issues as “Trump’s Tectonic Changes to American Foreign Policy” (June 23, 2025), “Russian Environmental War Crimes in Ukraine” (March 3, 2025), and “Is Taiwan at Risk” (January 2, 2025).

In the past year, guests on the program have included the former Legal Advisor of the U.S. Department of State (Harold Hongju Koh), the President Elect of the American Society of International Law (Oona Hathaway), the head of the Scowcroft Group (Kevin Nealer), the President of the Public International Law & Policy Group (Paul Williams), former Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sandy Hodgkinson), Executive Director of the International Bar Association (Mark Ellis), and more.



Host Michael Scharf and guests on Talking Foreign Policy

BUILDING ON A WINNING TRADITION

2025 was a Banner Year for CWRU's International Law Moot Court Teams

Like an NCAA basketball or football powerhouse, CWRU School of Law has long been known for the strength of its international law moot court teams. Based on their combined performance, 2025 may have been the most successful year yet.

Every year, CWRU School of Law participates in the world's three premier international law moot court competitions: Jessup, ICC, and Vis. CWRU is one of the few law schools to allow students to try out for these teams in the fall of their 1L year, and CWRU 1Ls have an extraordinary track record of success, including winning the award for Best Oralist in the World in 2022.

Traditionally, CWRU fields one of the best Jessup teams in the world, having been a finalist in the U.S. competition and thereby earning a berth in the international rounds ten times in the past twenty years, and winning the World Championship in 2008, the Best Brief in the World Award in 2011, and the Best Oralist in the World Award in 2022 and in 2023.

In the International Criminal Court Moot Court, CWRU has won Best Speaker awards, Best Brief awards, and in 2021, 2023, and 2025, CWRU made it to the America's Regional Final Round, earning a berth in the IBA International Rounds in The Hague.

In the Vis International Commercial Arbitration competition, the CWRU team has won numerous regional pre-moots in years past, and CWRU team members have brought home the Honorable Mention Award given to the top 20 oralists in Vienna in 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, and 2025.



CWRU Jessup Team Emerges as a Top Team at Nationals West

Defending their 2024 national title, the CWRU Jessup International Law Moot Court team (3L Ellie Buerk, 3L Brianna Schmidt, 3L Naomi Matthusen, 2L Patricia Taylor, and 1L Pilar Corso) competed against 40 other law schools in Portland, Oregon in February 2025, for the privilege of representing the United States in the Jessup World Championship Rounds in Washington, DC in April.

CWRU went 4-0 in the preliminary rounds, beating Marquette, Northern Illinois, Kansas and Loyola Chicago, and then defeated St Louis University in the Sweet 16. The best six teams from Portland earned a berth in the World Championship Rounds, and CWRU made it through along with Washington University, Denver, California Irvine, Wayne State and Arizona State. In addition, CWRU won the award for the 2nd Best Brief in the competition and captured three of the top ten speaker awards (Patricia Taylor was 5th Best Speaker, Brianna Schmidt was 9th Best Speaker and Ellie Buerk was 10th Best Speaker).

The Jessup team is coached by Professor Michael Scharf and alumni and Squire Patton Boggs attorneys Liz Safier (LAW '21) and Will Baker (LAW '24).



CWRU Jessup Team emerges as a top team at Nationals West, earning a berth in the World Championship Rounds in DC



ICC Moot Court Team reaches finals at the National Competition in New York

ICC moot Court Team Reaches National Finals, International Quarter Finals

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court team had its best performance ever this year, reaching the Finals at the National Competition held in New York in March 2025, and then making it to the Quarter Finals at the International Rounds in The Hague in June.

The ICC team was made up of Rose Lekan (3L, Defense Counsel), Kaylara Benfield (2L, Prosecution), Teresa Lebowitz (2L, Victims' Counsel), and research and writing team members Oliver Bates (1L) and Maria Blough (1L). To enable Lekan to focus on summer Bar Exam studies, Blough replaced her as an oralist in the International Rounds, where universities from 85 countries competed.

At the National Competition, Kaylara Benfield was awarded Best Prosecution Oralist and Rose Lekan was awarded Second Best Defense Oralist at the competition. The team also received Best Defense Brief award, Second Best Prosecution Brief and Best Victim Brief.

The ICC team is coached by professor Michael Benza, and adjunct professors Denakpon Tchobo and Caroline Ford.

Vis International Arbitration Team Excels in Vienna

After extraordinary successes in the Pre-Moots at Harvard and Chicago, the CWRU International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court team had its best showing at the Vis international commercial arbitration competition in Vienna in 2025, reaching the elimination round of 32 (out of 400 competing teams) for the first time in school history. The team was tied as the final remaining American school in the competition.

The Vis team was comprised of Joel Berg (2L), Nathaniel Sommers (3L Co-Captain), Matthew Matolka (2L), Vanessa Pilatova (2L), Daniel Radigan (2L), Ashley Nelson (1L), Tara Czekner (1L) and Jim FitzGibbon (3L Co-Captain).

CWRU was awarded an honorable mention for the Eric E. Bergsten Award for Best Team Orals. CWRU also had three oralists, FitzGibbon, Pilatova and Sommers, awarded an honorable mention for the Martin Domke Award for Best Individual Oralist, of which only approximately 100 out of 2500 oralists are awarded. CWRU was one of only four schools worldwide which had three speakers win an honorable mention.

"To have excelled at a global level is a testament to the talent, dedication, and professionalism of all of the members of the Vis team," said co-captain Jim FitzGibbon. "After early successes in the Harvard and Loyola of Chicago Pre-Moots in the United States, the team was able to translate that success to the world stage and make CWRU history in Vienna. I am so proud of the team and what they have accomplished, and I know that they are already looking forward to next year's competition!"



Vis International Moot Court team

CWRU Launches New International Development Law Lab

CWRU School of Law is known for the strength and breadth of its experiential offerings, including in International Law. *PreLaw* Magazine ranks the Law School in the top fifteen in practical education. In addition to the law school's endowed Immigration Clinic and nine other legal clinics, CWRU also offers a variety of Labs to 2Ls and 3Ls.

Our labs provide law students invaluable hands-on experience assisting non-profits and NGOs on high-profile and exciting cases. A few years ago, CWRU's War Crimes Research Lab, currently directed by Professor **James Johnson**, Chief Prosecutor of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Starting in the fall of 2024, the Law School now offers a lab for students interested in the important field of International Development Law. Taught by Adjunct Professor **Rumu Sakar**, the International Development Law Lab (the "IDL Lab") is focused on social impact investing in the Global South. It currently has two anchor pro bono partners, one headquartered in Singapore and the other in India. The Law students are working on White Papers, policy guidelines, toolkits and legal templates that respond to the needs of the partner institutions under the direction of Sarkar.

Sakar joined the Law School's adjunct faculty in 2022 to teach a new course on International Development Law. She is the author of two leading textbooks in the field—*International Development Law* (Oxford University Press) and *Transnational Business Law* (Kluwer Law International) and



Professor Sarkar with International Development Lab students Emmanuella Naon and Yuqi Sun.

she has taught as an adjunct law professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, and has served as General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel to several organizations including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

"These international NGOs and private equity funds are doing vitally important work in the Global South to alleviate poverty, and empower woman entrepreneurs and other underserved communities," Sarkar said of the lab's partners. "The lab has just launched, but my students are already beginning to understand the legal complexities in using loan instruments and equity investments in creative ways to address the needs of the downstream end-users of this sophisticated financing."

CWRU Establishes Spring Break in the Hague Program

CWRU School of Law is pleased to announce the establishment of a spring break in the Hague program, recently approved by the faculty. The 2-credit program, to be run by professors **Michael Scharf** and **Laura McNally**, will provide 20 students and alumni the opportunity to spend a week in the Hague, Netherlands, visiting the world's International Courts and meeting with their officers.

The Hague is known as the International City of Peace and Justice. During the program, to launch March 9-13, 2026, participants will visit the International Court of Justice, the Permanent International Court of Arbitration, the International Criminal Court, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. Additional field trips include a visit to the Anne Frank house/museum and a canal cruise in Amsterdam.

This exciting new program will provide students and alumni an opportunity to visit the international institutions and meet the officers who are making international law on a daily basis.



Spring Break at The Hague

Professor Michael Scharf leads Team to Prepare Ukrainian Judges and Prosecutors to Try Environmental War Crimes

In the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, destruction of the environment has not just been an indirect result of the fighting; Russia has purposely targeted the environment to demoralize the Ukraine population. The Ukraine government has thus made the prosecution of environmental war crimes and the crime of ecocide a priority, and the international community is supporting the effort with funding and expertise.

It is in this context that Professor **Michael Scharf** led an international team of experts that traveled to Rzeszow, Poland from September 30 to October 5, 2024, to prepare Ukrainian Judges and Prosecutors to try Russian environmental war crimes and the crime of ecocide.

Mark Ellis, the Executive Director of the International Bar Association (IBA), contacted Scharf a few months earlier, requesting that he assemble an elite team of experts for this important project. Scharf was the right person for the job, having previously worked with the IBA to train the judges for the trial of Saddam Hussein. He has also trained judges for maritime piracy trials in Kenya, Mauritius, and the Seychelles, and spent a semester as Special Assistant to the International Prosecutor of the Cambodia Genocide Tribunal. And last year, Scharf made an amicus argument before the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court – the first American to do so.

For the Ukraine project, Scharf recruited Paul Williams of AU, Milena Sterio of Cleveland State, Meg deGuzman of Temple, Michael Kelly of Creighton, Ignacio Mujic of VCG Abogados

(Chile), and 2004 Case Law alum **Andre Monette** from Best, Best & Krieger (D.C.) to join him. He then designed a five-day interactive curriculum that focused on the international and domestic law, modes of liability, and potential defenses related to the Russian attacks against Ukraine's environment. The program covered a dozen case studies, including the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, the poisoning of rivers and groundwater, the burning of Ukraine's farmland and forests, attacks against the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, destruction of Ukrainian nature preserves and wildlife refuges, and even the intentional killing of thousands of dolphins off Ukraine's coast.

"These crimes against Ukraine's environment can be prosecuted under the country's war crimes statute, which implements the Geneva Conventions," Scharf explained. "But they can also be prosecuted under Ukraine's unique ecocide statute, which criminalizes mass destruction of fauna, poisoning of water, or other actions causing an environmental disaster."

Twenty-seven Ukrainian prosecutors and judges, including a Justice of the Ukraine Supreme Court, participated in the week-long workshop in the small Polish town near the Ukraine border. "These prosecutors and judges are paving new ground," said Scharf. "Never before in history have environmental war crimes been prosecuted." It is expected that the Ukrainian environmental war crimes cases will set precedent for trials at the International Criminal Court and other countries around the world. Scharf is scheduled to return to Poland to lead a follow-up training in October 2025.



CWRU's Michael Scharf leads team to prepare Ukrainian judges and prosecutors to try environmental war crimes and ecocide



Robert Rapp Presents to Judges and Administrators of the Saudi Arabia Board of Grievances on the Language of the American Constitutional, Common Law-Based, Legal System.

Professor Rapp Teaches Comparative Law to Saudi Administrative Judges in Riyadh

As part of the formal cooperative relationship between Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the Saudi Board of Grievances (the administrative law courts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), **Robert N. Rapp**, Louis C. Greenwood Lecturer in Residence, developed and presented a two-week program to judges and administrators of the Board of Grievances focused on the language of a common law-based legal system, using the American constitutional, common law-based system as the model.

Taught in Riyadh in June-July 2024, Rapp’s program, titled “The Language of the American Constitutional, Common Law-Based Legal System: Usage and Meaning of Legal Terminology,” presented the language of common law-based systems in broad context, encompassing the interplay of judicial precedent and statutes and widely ranging from law and principles of equity in determining the scope of duties and remedies, to the civil and criminal jury system, to appellate review and particular applications in the common law of contracts and tort law.

Administrative Courts of the Saudi Board of Grievances have jurisdiction to decide disputes involving the Saudi Arabian government and government agencies, including the review and revocation of final administrative agency decisions; claims against administrative authorities arising out of administrative decisions or actions, or arising out of contracts to which the government or an administrative agency is a party; tort cases arising out of out of an administrative authority’s decisions or actions; and other administrative disputes generally in which the most common remedy available is monetary damages and equitable remedies are generally unavailable. Judges of the

Board of Grievances Administrative Courts are trained and work in a code-based civil law system that is consistent with Islamic shariah law, although the Board of Grievances is not a Sharia Court as such. Judges of the Board of Grievances have powers equivalent to a trial level court on the matters within their jurisdiction. Other courts in the Saudi judicial system – Sharia Courts—adjudicate criminal, civil, and personal status cases, and for which there are corresponding specialized courts of appeal.

For judges and administrators of the Saudi Board of Grievances, the language of a common law-based legal system such as the United States is unfamiliar. For them comprehensive legal codes and decrees control matters that come before their court and how they are adjudicated. Judicial precedent, case law, and the doctrine of stare decisis, which are the heart and soul of common law legal systems are largely foreign concepts. The “language” of a common law-based legal system such as the United States presented to the Saudi judges first and foremost cemented a broad understanding of the significance of decided cases and the interplay of judicial precedent and statutes in contrast to the singular focus on codified law that marks civil law systems generally. On that foundation the program went on to broader consideration of the language of a common law-based system in particular settings designed to foster an understanding and appreciation for concepts and principles that actually span all legal systems.

The program was such a success that it was offered again in Riyadh in May 2025 by Professors **Laura McNally** and **Jonathan Gordon**.

Yemen Accountability Project publishes two new White Papers

CWRU’s Yemen Accountability Project (YAP) is proud to announce the publication of its sixth and seventh White Papers on “Torture and the Yemen Civil War” and “Assessing the Legal Implications of the Military Response to Houthi Attacks in the Red Sea.”

Torture is a crime of such gravity that the International Court of Justice has identified it as jus cogens, or a peremptory norm of international law. Despite the crime’s universal prohibition, YAP has identified numerous instances of torture committed by all parties to the Yemen Civil War, as well as a pervasive failure to prevent and punish perpetrators. YAP’s Torture White Paper documents these violations of international humanitarian and international human rights law and recommends mechanisms through which perpetrators of torture may be held accountable and victims may seek justice.

YAP’s “Attacks on the Red Sea” White paper marks a pivotal expansion of the Project’s work, documenting not only atrocities committed within Yemen, but also the international legal implications of the unfolding Red Sea conflict. The

report analyzes the legality of military responses by the United States, the United Kingdom, and coalition partners to Houthi attacks on commercial and military vessels between October 2023 and January 2025. The White Paper evaluates these events under international law governing self-defense, counterterrorism, and piracy, concluding with a discussion on the use of force against non-state actors. It provides critical insights into the legality of Operation Prosperity Guardian and explores the complex intersection of maritime security and international humanitarian law.

YAP is a student-led initiative at Case Western Reserve University School of Law founded in 2018 as a cooperative effort between legal scholars, non-governmental organizations, students and other interested parties. It is funded by a generous annual grant from alumnus **Timothy Geisse**. Under the guidance of its Faculty Advisor, Professor Jim Johnson, the project’s members investigate and analyze open-source materials covering the Yemeni Civil War with a goal to provide the foundation for eventual prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity before domestic or international courts.



Professor Johnson and the student leaders of the Yemen Accountability Project



Immigration Law Clinic students help clients in need

Immigration Law Clinic Builds Momentum

Immigration Law and policy is at the forefront of national debate and the role of immigration lawyers has become increasingly important.

In 2024, alumnus **Austin Fragomen (Law ’68)** made a \$1 million gift to endow our Immigration Clinic and alumnus **Stephen Chan (Law ’10)** made a \$100,000 gift to endow a scholarship for students focusing on Immigration Law.

In May 2024, **Aleksandar Cuic**, who is also Managing Partner at Brown Immigration Law in Cleveland, was named the inaugural Austin and Gwen Gragomen Distinguished Practitioner in the Immigration Clinic.

The students enrolled in Professor Cuic’s Immigration Clinic litigated several asylum and deportation cases this year before the Federal Immigration Court in Cleveland. We are pleased to report that three members of the Class of 2025 have joined the dozens of our graduates that have gone on to successful careers in Immigration Law: **Brandon Joseph Delia** (Brown Immigration Law in Cleveland, OH), **Jonathan Z. Kronert** (KIVU Immigration Law in Worthington, MN), and **Seunghye Kim** (Margaret W. Wong & Associates in Cleveland, OH).





CWRU Expands its Concurrent Degree Program to Two Additional Foreign Law Schools

One of the reasons CWRU School of Law’s International Law Program is ranked so highly is the school’s unique Concurrent Degree Program. A decade ago, CWRU School of Law established three Concurrent Degree Partnerships—with Middlesex University in London, Université Paris-IX Dauphine and Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid. This year, we are happy to announce the expansion of the program to two additional foreign law schools.

Every year, CWRU sends two law students to each of the three prestigious partner universities to obtain their LLM degree. CWRU counts that year abroad as the third year of the JD at CWRU, so the students graduate in three years with the foreign LLM and the CWRU JD degree at no extra tuition cost. For the past few years, a generous alum, **Lew Winarsky (LAW ’72)**, has been providing funds to support our outbound Concurrent Degree students’ travel and living expenses.

At the same time, each of these partner schools sends two students a year to attain the CWRU LLM Degree, bringing stellar foreign students to our program. After graduating, several of these foreign students have elected to take a U.S. Bar exam and practice law in the United States; others return to practice in their home countries.

Several of the CWRU graduates of the program have obtained jobs in the foreign countries where they received their Concurrent LLM degrees, including at foreign law firms (**Jessica Turner**), foreign branches of US law firms (**Garo Yaghsejian**), NGOs (**Mackenzie Kern**) and even teaching at a French university (**Clare Shin**). Others, such as **Kristina Moore**, **Douglas Pilawa** and **Teresa Azzam**, have leveraged their foreign degree and experience to help them obtain jobs

at U.S. firms such as Jones Day and Squire Patton Boggs that specialize in international business or international arbitration.

In 2025, CWRU expanded this popular program when it entered into two new Concurrent Degree partnerships with Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Lille Catholic University School of Law in France.

CWRU School of Law has a special relationship with Canada, having established the Canada-U.S. Law Institute in 1976. CWRU Law School’s most notable Canadian alumni is **Francois-Philippe Champagne (LAW ’94)**, who has served as Canada’s Foreign Minister and Minister of International Trade and is currently the Canadian Minister for Innovation, Science, and Industry. So, Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law was an ideal partner for the expansion of CWRU’s Concurrent Degree Program. Founded in 1883, Schulich is the oldest university-based common law school in Canada. It is ranked as the 6th best law school in Canada out of the 24 Canadian law schools and has several outstanding specialty areas and is especially known for its expertise in Marine and Environmental Law.

University of Paris – Dauphine has been one of our most popular Concurrent Degree destinations because many CWRU Law students want to build on their fluency in French. Consequently, adding another prestigious French partner university was a priority. Lille Catholic University School of Law, located in the north of France about an hour from Bruges, Belgium, was founded in 1875. Its faculty of law is ranked the 11th best in France out of 59 French law schools. Like our partnership with Dauphine, most of Lille’s courses are taught in English, but the immersion in French culture is the draw.

CWRU’s Kaitlyn Booher Elected Leader of Foreign Graduate Students in Spain

When CWRU law student **Kaitlyn Booher** arrived at Comillas University in Madrid to start her concurrent LLM degree program in the fall of 2024, her concerns were obtaining an apartment, finding her classes, and getting to know her new classmates. Little did she know that they would soon elect her Class Delegate—a prestigious leadership position in Spain that is typical in Universities to facilitate connection between the administration and specific programs.

As Class Delegate, Booher works with the Director of the Masters in European Union and International Business Law to address student concerns, plan student events, track attendance and communicate class deadlines and requirements to her classmates. Most exciting of all, Booher, who is fluent in Spanish, gets to give a speech at her graduation in May.

“For me, I was really honored because I was selected by the students in the whole LLM program and the position has really helped me build connections with all of the students from different law schools from around the globe,” Booher said. “I’m really glad to represent Case in this way.”

While studying abroad, Booher also served as an Executive Notes Editor of CWRU’s *Journal of International Law*—a leadership position that would have required that she be in residence at CWRU in years prior to the advent of Zoom during the COVID pandemic. But in 2023, the journal amended its bylaws to enable editors to work or study abroad while leading the journal. Booher “Zoomed in” on Tuesdays to help Professor Scharf teach the Journal seminar.



3L Kaitlyn Booher elected student leader of concurrent degree program in Spain



Maya Simek Receives Inspire Change Award from the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking

CWRU Human Trafficking Clinic Director Honored for her Work

Alarming, the State of Ohio ranks 5th in the nation for incidents of human trafficking, many involving women and girls trafficked from abroad. CWRU School of Law established the Human Trafficking Clinic in 2018 to provide legal services for victims of trafficking and provide students hands-on experience in this field.

We are pleased that our efforts have been recognized: Professor **Maya Simek**, Director of the Human Trafficking Law Clinic, was the recipient of the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking’s “Inspire Change Award” last fall in recognition of Simek’s outstanding work and dedication to advocating for victims of human trafficking and developing an innovative, holistic model for legal and social services.

Since its opening, the Human Trafficking Law Clinic has become a vital resource for survivors of human trafficking in Northeast Ohio. Under Simek’s leadership, the Clinic has served over 1000 individuals, providing crucial civil legal representation on issues such as expungement, social security benefits, and child support modification. One compelling success story from the Clinic involves securing asylum for a labor trafficking survivor from The Gambia. Over the course of six years, the clinic supported this survivor through her asylum process, and the team is now working on her U.S. citizenship.

International internships

At Case Western Reserve University School of Law, there is a core tenet to the educational approach: The best way to learn international law is to experience it. That's why the school's Frederick K. Cox International Law Center provides networking opportunities and \$75,000 in annual funding to support summer, semester-long and post-graduate unpaid internships and externships abroad or in the United States. And thanks to the school's Bruce Klatsky Endowment, two law students earn internships at Human Rights Watch, which comes with a stipend of \$4,000 per year.

Over the years, CWRU School of Law students have found practical work experience all over the world. Take a look at where they've left their mark.

Africa

- AIDS and Rights Alliance for South Africa (Cape Town, South Africa)
- Constitutional Court of South Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- Equality Now (Nairobi, Kenya)
- Legal Resources Centre (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- International Justice Mission (Nairobi, Kenya)
- International Law Institute (Kampala, Uganda)
- Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms (Port Louis, Mauritius)

- Refugee Law Project — Center For Forced Migrants (Kampala, Uganda)
- Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, Office of the Prosecutor (Freetown, Sierra Leone, and The Hague)
- Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (Kampala, Uganda)

Asia

- Aide Medicale Internationale (Yangon, Myanmar)
- Bar Council of Gujarat (Gujarat, India)
- Allbright Law Firm (Shanghai)
- Cambodian Center for Human Rights (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)



Kaylara Benfield (left) and Annalie Buscarino (center) at a Human Rights Watch event speaking with Jane Olson, who formerly chaired the Human Rights Watch Board, the Women's Refugee Commission, and the Landmine Survivors Network

- Chang Tsi & Partners (Beijing)
- Chenxi Law Firm (Weihai, China)
- Documentation Center of Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
- End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (Bangkok)
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
- Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (Islamabad)
- International Bridges to Justice (Beijing)
- INTERPOL, Office of Legal Affairs (Singapore)
- Jingtian & Gongcheng (Shanghai)
- Linuo Law Firm (Weihai, China)
- Medecins Sans Frontieres (Rangoon, Burma)



Nikita Joshi at INTERPOL HQ in Lyon, France

- Senate Legal Counsel (Ngerulmud, Palau)
- Society for the Protection and Rights of the Child (Lahore, Pakistan)
- Supreme Court of India (New Delhi, India)
- Supreme Court of the Philippines (Manila, Philippines)
- United Nations Development Programme (Hanoi, Vietnam)
- United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (Dili, Timor-Leste)
- Solicitor Vinod Mistry and Company (Mumba, India)
- World Health Organization
- Centre for Health Development (Kobe, Japan)

Central and South America

- Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Ministry of National Security & Legal Affairs (Dominica West Indies)

- The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis — Intellectual Property Office (Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis)
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights (San José, Costa Rica)
- Peru Ministry of Health, Office of Transparency & Defense of Human Rights (Lima, Peru)
- South American Trade Office (Santiago, Chile)

Middle East

- Al-Haq, Defense of Human Rights (Ramallah, Palestine)
- Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (Amman, Jordan)
- Refugee Rights Clinic (Tel Aviv, Israel)
- Shurat HaDin Israel Law Centre (Tel Aviv, Israel)

Europe

- Amnesty International (London)
- Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP (London)



Sophia Fisher at JAG Hawaii

- International Bar Association, Human Rights Institute (London)
- International Bridges to Justice (Geneva)
- International Criminal Court, Office of the Prosecutor, Chambers, Defense (The Hague)
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Geneva)
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (The Hague)



Jonathan Kronert at JTJB International Lawyers in Bangkok, Thailand

- International Trade Center (Geneva)
- INTERPOL, Office of Legal Affairs (Lyon, France)
- Office of the Mayor of the City of Paris (Paris)
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Office of General Counsel (The Hague)
- Pfizer Pharmaceutical, Office of General Counsel (Budapest)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva)

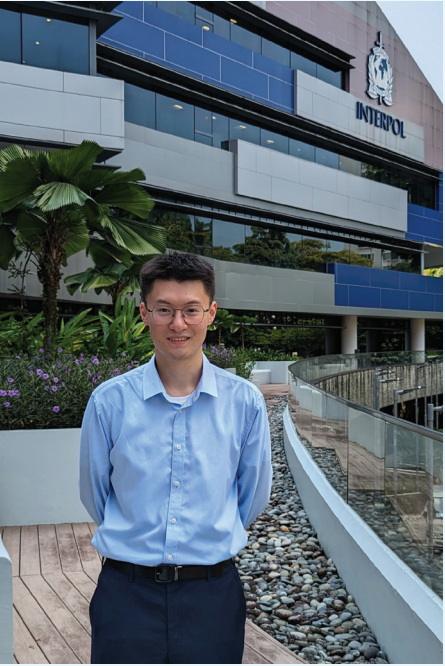


Emily Ghazoul at the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in The Hague

- United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva)
- U.S. Embassy (Berlin)
- U.S. Embassy (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Naval Support Activity Naples Legal Services Office / U.S. JAG Office (Naples, Italy)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (Geneva)

North America

- Accountability Counsel (Washington, D.C.)
- International Institute of Akron (Akron)
- American Friends Service Committee – Immigrant Services (Miami)
- Amnesty International USA (Washington, D.C.)
- Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco)
- Asian Services in Action: ASIA (Cleveland)
- CUSLI - Advanced Air Mobility project (remote)



Jiaming Dong at INTERPOL HQ in Lyon, France



Kaylara Benfield at Human Rights Watch in New York



Oliver Bates at the International Bar Association in London

- Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Parliament of Canada (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Department of Justice Canada, War Crimes Program (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Carter Center: Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope (Atlanta)

- Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland, Migration & Refugee Services (Cleveland)
- Center for Human Rights and Environment (Florida)
- Center for International Environmental Law (Washington, D.C.)
- Council of Great Lakes Governors (Chicago)
- Federal Trade Commission (Washington, D.C.)
- Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics – FASPE (New York)
- Human Rights Watch – Klatsky Fellowship (Washington, D.C., and New York)
- Immigration Courts (Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit)
- Immigrant Defenders Law Center (Los Angeles)
- Institute for Justice and Democracy (Marshfield, Massachusetts)

Internship list continues on page 16



Aabid Shiva at the International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva

An Interview with 3L Sophia Fisher, who interned at Navy JAG in Honolulu

Q: After your first year of Law School, you helped Professor Scharf draft the case for the 2025 International Bar Association’s International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition. Tell us about that experience.

Professor Scharf is the co-founder of the International Criminal Court moot court competition and writes the competition problem each year. As a Summer Fellow with the Cox International Law Center, I had the privilege of helping Professor Scharf draft the case for the 2025 ICC Moot Court Competition. My research primarily focused on two emerging areas of international law: gender apartheid as a potential crime against humanity and the complex jurisdictional challenges presented by dual nationality in ICC proceedings.

Q: During your second year of Law School you interned at the U.S. Coast Guard Office of General Counsel. Tell us about your work there.

Many CWRU Law Students have had the opportunity to intern at the Ninth Coast Guard District Legal Office, which is located in Cleveland. There, I supported the operational goals of the District Commander through diverse legal challenges at the intersection of military and maritime law. I’ve conducted research on administrative regulations, prepared investigative reports on various UCMJ violations, and assisted with international case coordination involving American deaths abroad. This hands-on experience has shown me how legal expertise directly enables the Coast Guard’s critical missions across the Great Lakes region.

Q: You are interning this summer at the U.S. Navy JAG in Honolulu, Hawaii. Tell us how that came about.

CWRU has a strength in national security law and many of its graduates have gone on to impressive careers in



Sophia Fisher (left) performing with Razing the Bar at the Jam for Justice

the various JAG corps. In fall 2024, I applied to the Navy’s legal internship program, as I felt drawn to it by the unique blend of national security law, operational support, and international legal challenges. When I received my acceptance to the Honolulu office, I was ecstatic about the opportunity to gain firsthand experience with the complex legal matters facing our naval forces in the Indo-Pacific region. The Cox Center made the experience possible by providing me a summer internship grant.

Q: You are also the lead singer of the Law School’s Faculty/Student rock band. Tell us about that.

In addition to my own work as an independent singer-songwriter, I am the lead singer for the law school’s rock band “Razing the Bar,” in which Professor Scharf also plays guitar

and sings. We have performed at international law conferences and fundraisers for Legal Aid and ALS in some incredible venues, such as the Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Beachland Ballroom, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I’ve been singing and making music since I was a kid, so having an outlet during law school to pursue my passion and connect with my peers is a dream.

Q: What are your post-graduate aspirations?

After graduation, I hope to commission to the Coast Guard or Navy JAG through their direct-commission lawyer (DCL) process. My internship experiences have confirmed my passion for national security-related legal matters and I hope to deepen my expertise in this area of law while a JAG.

International Externship Spotlight: Jonathan Kronert

3L **Jonathan Kronert** is no stranger to working overseas. Before law school, he lived in Thailand for two and half years, teaching English to high school students in the southern city of Surattapittaya. In the summer of 2025, he returned to the country to extern at the Bangkok law firm JTJB International, supported by a grant from the Law School’s Frederick K. Cox International Law Center. The opportunity, Kronert notes, fits into his long term goals. “I am interested in a few different career outcomes – U.S. immigration law, corporate responsibility, diplomacy and other areas of law that will allow me a greater chance to develop a career overseas, with my sights set on Asian countries,” he said. “I can also get a better understanding of how I might fit in as a foreign attorney.”

JTJB specializes in business law, and Kronert notes that “every day is different” at the firm. He works with attorneys across the office on “striking expert comments in arbitration, drafting client emails in contract negotiations and reading contracts between the same parties to evaluate their interrelatedness and potential breaches.” He notes that the externship has encouraged him to further develop his communication and client contact skills. “In school we are trained to analyze the facts and the law, then convey information to our supervisor or the court. What’s missing is conveying that information to a client; telling them why their preferences are difficult to achieve or simplifying complex or dense information relative to whatever they’re asking for in a palatable way.”

Kronert believes the experience has been helpful in other ways, too. For a budding attorney interested in building a professional future in Asia, the externship offers a chance to expand his network in the region. “The attorneys here [at JTJB



Jonathan Kronert

International] are highly regarded in Thailand, so I have the opportunity to learn from high performing and experienced lawyers.” And though Kronert “is not actively learning Thai,” he notes he will “have the ability to practice and learn everyday, for free.” There can be intangible benefits, too. “I enjoy my life here in Thailand,” Kronert says, “I’m in a great place physically, emotionally and mentally as a result, which is an understated positive for career development.”

Every year, the Law School’s Cox Center provides over \$75,000 to support dozens of externships across the globe like the one Kronert had in Thailand.

- International Foundation of Art Research (New York)
- International Institute of Akron (Akron, Ohio)
- United States International Trade Commission (Washington, D.C.)
- International Monetary Fund (Washington, D.C.)
- National Organization for Women, (Washington, D.C.)
- National Security Law Institute to “National Security Law Center (Charlottesville, Virginia)
- Oasis Legal Services - Immigration (Berkeley, California)



Anne Ewart at the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague



Dalerys Feliciano Acevedo at INTERPOL HQ in Lyon, France

- Organization of American States (Washington, D.C.)
- Permanent Mission of Thailand to the U.N. (New York)
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the U.N. (New York)
- American Gateways - Political Asylum Project of Austin (Austin, Texas)
- Public International Law and Policy Group (Washington, D.C.)
- Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting (Washington, D.C.)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Washington, D.C.)
- United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (New York)
- U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps (various locations)

- U.S. Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps (various locations)
- U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps (various locations)
- U.S. Coast Guard – Legal Assistance (Cleveland and Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Court of International Trade (New York)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Chief Counsel (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Department of Justice, Joint Terrorism Unit (Washington, D.C.)



Pearl Mortley at the Center for the Study of Democracy in Sofia, Bulgaria

- U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration Review, Organized Crime & Gang Section (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Foreign Litigation – Civil Division (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of International Affairs – Criminal Division (Washington, D.C.)

- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance & Training (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of the Chief Counsel (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Department of State, Office of the Legal Advisor (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Office of Military Commissions (Washington, D.C.)
- U.S. Trade and Development Agency (Arlington, Virginia)
- World Bank (Washington, D.C.)



Nour Safi at the International Institute of Akron

International Law Conferences, Experts Meetings, and Distinguished Lectures

As part of building their professional networks, CWRU School of Law students are exposed to a steady stream of distinguished speakers who have left an indelible mark on international law. In 2024-2025, we hosted the International Humanitarian Law Roundtable in Chautauqua (August 25-27, 2024), the Klatsky Endowed Lecture on Human Rights (August 28, 2024), the Cox Center Conference on the Need to Update the Geneva Conventions (September 26-27, 2024), the Ninth Annual International Trade Conference (November 21, 2024), and the 49th Annual Canada-U.S. Law Institute Conference on Dismantling the World Trading Order (April 10-11, 2024). We also hosted two Experts Meetings, on Updating the Geneva Conventions (September 25, 2024), and on International Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (October 29, 2024).



Professor Juscélino Colares (left) chairs the Cox Center's annual International Trade Law Conference.

Lead ICC Prosecutor Discusses Controversial Arrest Warrants

The new arrivals to the Law School had an unforgettable welcome on August 28 when Andrew Cayley presented the first major lecture of the 2024-2025 academic year. The occasion was the annual Klatsky Endowed Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights Law. The Klatsky Lecture was created in 2001 by CWRU alum Bruce J. Klatsky, chair and CEO of Phillips Van Heusen Corp. and a member of the board of directors of Human Rights Watch, who wanted to expose our community to the foremost leaders in human rights on an annual basis.

In recent years, international criminal law has become one of the most important enforcement mechanisms for international human rights. And no matter the conflict, Andrew Cayley has been at the forefront of the effort to ensure accountability, having held a variety of positions at five different international tribunals over the past thirty years. Topping off an impressive career in the field of international criminal justice, in December 2009, the UN Secretary-General appointed Cayley to be the Chief International Co-Prosecutor

of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), where he successfully supervised the prosecution of the surviving leaders of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime. He then served for a decade as the United Kingdom's chief military prosecutor (the equivalent of the JAG in the US) and Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service (the equivalent of Inspector General in the US). In March 2024, the Chief Prosecutor, Karim Khan, asked Cayley to take up the position of Principal Trial Lawyer at the International Criminal Court (ICC). Cayley had previously led in one of the ICC's first prosecutions of perpetrators in the Darfur conflict and was seen as the right person for this incredibly challenging job in this extraordinary time.

As the 2024 Klatsky Lecturer, Andrew Kaley joined a veritable "who's who" among the most impactful human rights luminaries on the planet who have delivered the Klatsky Lecture at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and received the Cox International Law Center Humanitarian Award for Advancing Global Justice. Sometimes called "Cleveland's Nobel," past award recipients include Samantha Power (US Ambassador to the UN), Harold Koh (Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights), Prince Zeid Bin Ra'ad (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), Navi Pillay (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), Sir Christopher Greenwood (Judge of the International Court of Justice), Ken Roth (Executive Director of Human Rights Watch), Nicholas Koumjian (head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar), Catherine March-Uhel (head of the UN International Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria), Michael Reisman (President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights), Albie Sachs (anti-Apartheid



Lead ICC prosecutor Andrew Cayley presents Klatsky Lecture and receives Humanitarian Award

activist and later Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa), Sean Murphy (member of the UN International Law Commission and President of the American Society of International Law), Paul Williams (President of the Public International Law & Policy Group), Fatou Bensouda (Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court), and most recently Leila Sadat (author of the International Crimes Against Humanity Treaty).

Given mixed views in the United States about recent actions by the International Criminal Court, Cayley's lecture on August 28 had potential for igniting passions on both sides of the political divide. But he expertly thread the needle with a message of hope. Cayley began his moving remarks (available to view on the Law School's Lecture Page) by describing some of the international criminal cases he has prosecuted over the years. He highlighted the relation between accountability and breaking the cycle of violence in troubled countries across the globe. He stressed the importance of impartiality and fairness at every turn, no matter the accused perpetrator. With reference to the recent cases of Ukraine and Gaza, Cayley diffidently acknowledged the legal, practical, and political challenges that arise when the International Criminal Court follows the evidence to the doorstep of leading figures across the globe. And above all else, he spoke of hope for an end to bloodshed and the role that justice can play in enduring peace. As he concluded, the audience responded with a sustained standing ovation—a uniquely enthusiastic reception for a law school speaker.

From CWRU to the Security Council, George Kamanda (LAW '22) discusses his exciting international career

A native of Sierra Leone who enrolled in CWRU School of Law "because of its strong international law programs and excellent reputation," **George Shadrack Kamanda** graduated from our Law School in 2022 while simultaneously earning a Master's Degree in Public International Law from Oxford University in the U.K. Just a few months after graduating and passing the Bar, George had obtained his dream job as a diplomatic and legal affairs officer at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations. A year later he was promoted to be a Legal Adviser of the Permanent Mission. We caught up with George who was happy to answer questions about his exciting career.



George Shadrack Kamanda

Q: Tell us about your job at the U.N.?

As one of the Legal Advisers at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, I serve as a Sixth Committee expert, representing our mission on the UN's legal committee. Among my core responsibilities, I act as the case expert on the International Criminal Court and support matters involving the International Court of Justice, international tribunals, humanitarian law, conflict resolution and human rights. In addition, I offer specialized legal guidance on sanctions, advising on listing and delisting criteria and their legal implications. I also provide expert opinions on UN resolutions and other official documents, frequently collaborating with colleagues on cross-regional issues where legal considerations intersect. My role includes drafting statements, preparing talking points and interventions, and producing legal briefs, memos and advisory opinions. My work is integral to advancing Sierra Leone's diplomatic and legal objectives at the UN, ensuring our mission adheres to international standards and aligns with strategic priorities.

Q: You graduated from our law school just two years ago. How did you obtain your position?

I obtained my position through active engagement and professional networking. I visited the permanent mission several times to express my interest in joining the team and submitted my qualifications. Recommendations from key individuals, such as the ambassador and foreign minister, were essential, with final approval from the president of Sierra Leone. This holistic process led to my appointment, allowing me to serve as an international and humanitarian law legal expert. Networking and honing my expertise were crucial, and I owe much of my preparation to Case Western Reserve.

Q: How did our law school prepare you for your position?

CWRU provided me with a solid foundation in international law and humanitarian law. The rigorous academic curriculum honed my analytical skills and deepened my understanding of complex legal frameworks. Additionally, the school's emphasis on practical experience through externships allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings. Furthermore, the mentorship I received from faculty was invaluable in guiding my career path. This combination of substantive knowledge and mentorship equipped me with the skills and confidence to engage effectively in the international arena.

Su He (Law '13) Selected for Prestigious Leadership Award

CWRU Law alumna **Su He**, who earned both her LLM (2008) and JD (2013) from our law school, was recently honored as one of Crain's 40 Under 40 leaders.

Su He came to Case Western Reserve after graduating from Southwest University of Politics and Law in Chong Quinn, China. In addition to her Immigration and Business Law Practice at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, she is executive director of the Greater Cleveland Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Professor Scharf, who worked closely with Su He first as a student and later as a colleague said, "For the past seven years she has helped us build our joint program in International Commercial Law and Dispute Resolution. The unique three-year program, which she directs, sends four CWRU law professors to teach in China each year and brings dozens of Chinese law students to CWRU for our LLM degree." Su He also co-teaches our Professional Responsibility course for LLM students, Scharf noted.

"There's an old saying in China: At fifteen, I set my heart on learning. At thirty, I planted my feet firmly on the ground. At forty, I no longer suffered from perplexity. At fifty, I knew the will of Heaven, Su He said. "40 is just the start of the second half and I'm excited for what's ahead."



Su He

Making a Splash!

Duncan Gaswaga (LL.M '13) Elected Judge of the African Court on Human Rights



Duncan Gaswaga

CWRU Law alum **Duncan Gaswaga (LL.M '13)** was elected in July 2024 as a Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights. Like the European Court of Human Rights in France and the Inter-American Court for Human Rights in Costa Rica, the Africa Court in Tanzania serves as the supreme human rights judicial institution for the African continent. Justice Gaswaga is one of eleven judges on the Court, serving for a six-year term (renewable once).

Justice Gaswaga has held a variety of high profile judicial positions in the Seychelles and Uganda. A decade ago, he presided over a series of trials of Somalia pirates and most recently he tried the groundbreaking case of Thomas Kwoyelo, a former child abductee who rose to be a commander of the Lord's Resistance Army. Charged with crimes against humanity, Kwoyelo was the first case of its kind in Africa to be conducted under the complementary principle of the International Criminal Court.

"We are incredibly proud of our alum Duncan Gaswaga," former Dean (2013-2024) **Michael Scharf** said. "He has done so much for international justice and his election to the African Court of Human Rights will inspire the next generation of our students who seek to leave their mark in the field," Scharf said.



A Legacy of Leadership: Steven Petras (LAW '79) Establishes First Endowment for the Canada-United States Law Institute at Case Western Reserve University School of Law

In a remarkable moment for international legal education, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Law has received a generous \$100,000 gift from **Steven Petras (LAW '79)**, a respected attorney, professor, and longtime supporter of cross-border cooperation. This generous gift establishes the inaugural endowment for the Canada-United States Law Institute (CUSLI), ensuring a lasting foundation for one of North America's most unique and vital centers for binational legal dialogue.

Petras, known not only for his legal acumen but also for his unwavering commitment to public service and diplomacy, has long been a champion of the Institute's mission. His gift is more than just a financial contribution, it is a declaration of faith in the power of legal collaboration to shape a more interconnected, peaceful, and prosperous world—bridging nations through law.

Founded in 1976, CUSLI is a bi-national, academic think tank and forum co-sponsored by Case Western Reserve and the University of Western



Steven Petras

Ontario Faculty of Law. It plays a pivotal role in examining legal issues affecting the Canada-U.S. relationship such as trade, security, energy, and environmental policy. In an era of increasing global interdependence, the work of CUSLI has never been more relevant.

Steven Petras has served as CUSLI's U.S. Director the past decade and has been a tireless advocate for

strengthening the rule of law across borders. Through his leadership, the Institute has expanded its influence, organized annual conferences and experts meetings that draw leaders from government and industry, and provided meaningful learning opportunities for law students from both nations.

Petras's \$100,000 gift marks the establishment of CUSLI's first-ever endowment, an enduring source of funding that will support its research, programs, and student engagement for generations to come. "As CUSLI reaches its 50th Anniversary in 2026, this gift is about creating permanence for a vision I deeply believe in," said Petras. "By educating future leaders and fostering dialogue, CUSLI ensures this relationship continues to thrive."

Dean Paul Rose praised the gift noting that "Steven Petras has not only guided CUSLI through decades of service but now ensures its future through this remarkable act of generosity. This endowment is a testament to his leadership and his belief in the power of education to unite nations."

Where in the world?

Alumni take their places on the global stage of international law

Throughout the world, alumni from Case Western Reserve University School of Law employ their expertise at government and nongovernmental agencies, international organizations, corporations and law firms, and serve as mentors for students in the field. Several of our alumni (indicated by an asterisk) obtained their positions after studying abroad at our partner schools in Paris, Madrid and London in their third year while obtaining an LLM at the same time as they earned their CWRU JD. Read on to see where our students have landed.

Government and international organizations

- **Stephen Petras (LAW '79)**, chairman, Board of Directors of the Council of the Great Lakes Region and director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (Cleveland)
- **Anne Simon (LAW '83)**, senior advisor, Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State (Falls Church, Virginia)
- **Mohamed Chambas (LAW '84)**, high representative, Silencing the Guns, African Union, (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)



Mohamed Chambas speaks to our students at graduation.

- **Capricia Marshall (LAW '90)**, ambassador-in-residence, Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, (Washington, D.C.)
- **Francois-Philippe Champagne (LAW '94)**, minister of innovation, Science and Industry (Ottawa, Ontario) (former minister of foreign affairs)
- **Daniel Ujcz (LAW '01)**, international trade counsel at Thompson Hine and Canada's Honorary Consul to Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Indiana.
- **Ahran Kang McCloskey (LAW '05)**, attorney advisor, Office of the Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.)



Canadian Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, presents a fireside chat at the law school

- **Chelan Bliss (LAW '07)**, senior foreign service officer, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.)
- **Reid Swayze (LAW '07)**, chief, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service (Washington, D.C.)
- **Kelly Schmidt (LAW '08)**, legal officer, United Nations Business Transformation and Accountability Unit (New York)
- **Nate Quick (LAW '09)**, prosecutor at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (The Hague)
- **Robert Kayinamura (LAW '11)**, deputy permanent representative, Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations (New York)
- **Caitlin Warner (LAW '13)**, chief counsel, U.S. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (Washington, D.C.)
- **Julia Liston (LAW '16)**, chief executive officer, American Branch of the International Law Association (Cleveland/New York)
- **George Shadrack Kamanda (LAW '22)**, diplomatic and legal affairs officer, Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations (New York)

Human rights law

- **Swithin Munyantwali (LAW '92)**, executive director and co-founder, International Law Institute - Africa Center for Legal Excellence (Pretoria, South Africa)
- **Chris Rassi (LAW '03)**, chief of staff and director, Office of Secretary General, International Federation of the Red Cross (Geneva)
- **Andres Perez (LAW '04)**, legal advisor, Rule of Law and Democracy Section for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva)



Andres Perez (left) while working for the Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.

- **Zach Lampell (LAW '08)**, senior legal advisor, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (Washington, D.C.)
- **Margaux Day (LAW '09)**, executive director, Accountability Counsel (Washington, D.C.)
- **Niki Dasarathy (LAW '09)**, Counsel at EarthRights International (Washington, D.C.)
- **Kimberly Brown (LAW '12)**, foreign service officer, Crisis, Stabilization and Governance, USAID (Washington, D.C.)

- **Rachel Wolbers (LAW '12)**, public policy manager, Meta Oversight Board (Washington, D.C.)
- **Eva Saulnier (LAW '20)***, international family law associate, Zashin Law (Cleveland)
- **Kristina Aiad-Toss (LAW '21)**, associate attorney, Human Trafficking, Babin Law (Columbus, Ohio)
- **Mackenzie Kern (LAW '22)***, junior consultant, Ardea International (London)
- **Elise Manchester (Law '24)**, Human Rights in Practice (The Hague)

Immigration law

- **Austin Fragomen (LAW '68)**, founder, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernstein & Lowry LLP (New York)
- **Lisa Scott (LAW '86)**, founder, Scott Global Migration Law Group (Chicago)
- **Diego Archer (LAW '02)**, client services manager, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernstein & Lowry LLP (Dallas)
- **Joseph Edlow (LAW '07)**, founder, The Edlow Group (Washington, D.C.)
- **Su He (Law '13)**, Porterwright Immigration Practice Group (Cleveland)
- **Rachel Berman-Vaporis (LAW '14)**, trial attorney, Office of Immigration Litigation - Appellate Section, Civil Division, Department of Justice (Washington, D.C.)
- **Seth Garfinkel (LAW '17)**, attorney advisor, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Denver Immigration Court (Denver)
- **Rachel Lehr (LAW '17)**, immigration attorney, George Mann & Associates (Michigan)
- **Malea Hetrick (LAW '17)**, attorney advisor, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Cleveland Immigration Court (Cleveland)
- **Rohmah Javed (LAW '17)**, Legal Director of the Immigrant Justice Program at the Legal Aid Justice Center (Virginia)
- **Aliza Corinne Lopes-Baker (LAW '17)**, attorney advisor, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Cleveland Immigration Court (Cleveland)
- **Lindsay Cook (LAW '18)**, asylum officer, USCIS Newark Asylum Office (New Jersey)
- **Maya Lugasy (LAW '18)**, associate, Brown Immigration Law (Cleveland)
- **Kate Masetta-Alvarez (LAW '18)**, appeals attorney, Department of Justice Immigration Law (Washington, D.C.)
- **Katerina Voronova (LAW '18)**, attorney, YWCA Immigrant and Refugee Services of Greater Harrisburg (Pennsylvania)
- **Shelvy Wade (LAW '18)**, attorney advisor, Arlington Immigration Court (Virginia)
- **Mariya Howykowycz (LAW '19)**, attorney, Howykowycz Immigration Law (New York)
- **James Nichols (LAW '19)**, immigration attorney, Catholic Charities (Cleveland)
- **Amelia Wester (LAW '19)**, associate immigration attorney, Blake Immigration Law PLLC (Alexandria, Virginia)
- **Karla Gil (LAW '20)**, immigration attorney, Berry, Appleman & Leiden (Dallas)
- **Giancarlo Lisciani (LAW '20)**, business immigration attorney, Colombo & Hurd (Miami)
- **Meghan Lunders (LAW '20)**, judicial law clerk, Tacoma Immigration Court (Washington)
- **Kristen Connors (LAW '21)**, immigration attorney, Montroll Ottinger & Barquist (Burlington, Vermont)
- **Asako Ejima (LAW '21)**, immigration attorney, Law Office of Amie D. Miller (San Francisco)
- **Courtney Koski (LAW '21)**, immigration attorney, Costas Network Law Center (Cleveland)

- **Tommy Messner (LAW '21)**, attorney, Brown Immigration Law (Cleveland).
- **Charlee Thomas (LAW '21)**, immigration attorney, Lepore, Taylor & Fox (Paramus, New Jersey)
- **Amy Rubenstein (LAW '22)**, immigration attorney, Novo Legal Group (Denver)
- **Adrian Corona (LAW '23)**, immigration attorney, Sus Abogados Latinos (Painesville, Ohio)
- **Natalie Eberts (LAW '23)**, immigration attorney, Catholic Charities of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)
- **Alexa Stovsky (LAW '23)**, immigration attorney, Costas Network Law Center (Cleveland)
- **Luke Antonczak (LAW '24)**, immigration attorney, Asian Services in Action (Cleveland)
- **Kaela Orrell (LAW '24)**, immigration attorney, Catholic Charities (Cleveland)
- **Nicholas Vanarthos (Law '24)**, attorney advisor, New York Immigration Court (New York)
- **Brandon Joseph Delia (Law '25)**, Brown Immigration Law (Cleveland, OH)
- **Jonathan Z. Kronert (Law '25)**, KIVU Immigration Law (Worthington, MN)
- **Seunghye Kim (Law '25)**, Margaret W. Wong & Associates (Cleveland, OH)



John Sopko, U.S. Special Inspector General, in Afghanistan.

Where in the world? continued

National security law

- **John Sopko (LAW '77)**, special inspector general, Afghanistan Reconstruction (Washington, D.C.)
- **Kevin Nealer (LAW '78)**, principal, The Scowcroft Group (Washington, D.C.)
- **Janet Donovan (LAW '83)**, former admiral and head of Navy Reserve JAG Corps (Washington, D.C.)
- **Robert Altneu (LAW '91)**, director, U.S. Customs Office of Rules and Regulations (Washington, D.C.)



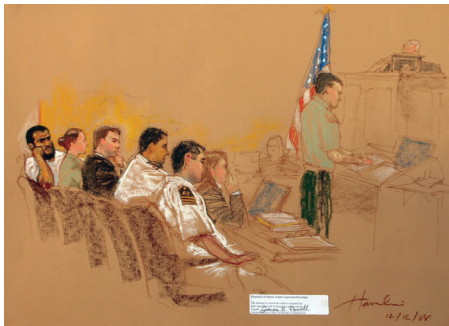
Richard Batson (LAW '02) (center)

- **Ted Fowles (LAW '00)**, chief trial judge, U.S. Coast Guard (Washington, D.C.)
- **Rick Batson (LAW '02)**, Judge Advocate General and Chief Counsel, U.S. Coast Guard (Washington, D.C.)
- **Keith Petty (LAW '02)**, executive officer and chief, Tort Claims Division, U.S. Army Claims Service, U.S. Army JAG Corps (Fort Meade, Maryland)
- **Katharine Quaglieri (LAW '11)**, counsel, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics; former Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington, D.C.)
- **Ted Parran (LAW '13)**, assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security (Cleveland)
- **Hyder Syed (LAW '13)**, assistant general counsel, INTERPOL (Lyon, France)
- **Stephanie Ripma (LAW '17)**, assistant chief counsel, ICE (Cleveland)

- **Alexandra Mooney (LAW '18)**, flag aide to commander, Naval Legal Service Command, Navy JAG (Washington, D.C.)
- **Jazmine Edwards (LAW '21)**, attorney advisor, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Rules and Regulations (Washington, D.C.)
- **Amanda Makhoul (LAW '21)**, Attorney-Advisor, DHS U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Rules and Regulations (Washington, D.C.)
- **Laura Graham (LAW '21)**, Assistant General Counsel, FBI National Security and Cyber Law Branch (Washington, D.C.)
- **David Krawiec (LAW '21)**, attorney advisor, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Rules and Regulations (Washington, D.C.)
- **Kathryn Meyer (LAW '22)**, attorney advisor, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Rules and Regulations (Washington, D.C.)
- **Samual Halpert Rodis (LAW '23)**, U.S. Army JAG Corps (Watertown, N.Y.)
- **Austin Milliren (LAW '23)**, U.S. Army JAG Corps (Tacoma, Washington)
- **Casey Lindstrom (LAW '24)**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Buffalo)
- **Christine Love (LAW '24)**, U.S. Air Force JAG Corps (Washington, D.C.)
- **Tyler O'Neal (LAW '24)**, Senior Intelligence and Litigation Support Specialist, Office of the Chief Prosecutor, Office of Military Commissions (Washington, D.C.)
- **Kendyl Anne Biondich (Law '25)**, U.S. Navy JAG Corps (Washington, D.C.)
- **Casey A. Cascaldo (Law '25)**, U.S. Navy JAG Corps (Washington, DC)
- **Jamie Elise Davis (Law '25)**, U.S. Navy (Washington, D.C.)
- **Nathaniel Gray Sommers (Law '25)**, Department of the Navy, Office of the General Counsel (Washington, DC)

International business and trade law

- **Rick Newcomb (LAW '73)**, partner and chair, DLA Piper International Practice Section (Washington, D.C.)
- **Laura Quatela (LAW '82)**, senior vice president and chief legal officer, Lenovo Group (Morrisville, North Carolina)
- **Michelle (Ya-Ling) Gon (LAW '85)**, partner and international business law specialist, Han Kun Law Offices (Shanghai)
- **William Hayes (LAW '88)**, general counsel, The News Movement (London)
- **Nicole Nason (LAW '95)**, vice president, Federal Affairs at Boeing Co., former assistant secretary of state, Administration (Washington, D.C.)
- **Michele Connell (LAW '03)**, global managing partner, Squire Patton Boggs (Cleveland)
- **Ashley Lee (LAW '11)**, international trade counsel, Coca-Cola Co. (Atlanta)



Keith Petty arguing before the al Qaeda Military Commission.

- **Heather N. Ludwig (LAW '11)**, director of International Trade Compliance Counsel, Nidec Motor Corp.; former attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce (St. Louis)
- **Luke Tillman (LAW '11)**, customs and international trade lawyer, Steptoe and Johnson; former counsel, U.S. Trade Commission (Washington, D.C.)

- **Thomas Au (LAW '13)**, assistant general counsel, Office of U.S. Trade Representative (Washington, D.C.)
- **Zack Walker (LAW '13)**, partner and international trade lawyer, Picard Kentz & Rowe LLP (Washington, D.C.)
- **Tyler Kimberly (LAW '15)**, associate, Blank Rome LLP; former associate, McDermott Will & Emery LLP in the international trade practice group (Washington, D.C.)
- **Gabrielle Feuer (LAW '16)**, assistant general counsel, TransDigm Group Inc. (Cleveland)
- **Brendan Saslow (LAW '16)**, associate at Blank Rome LLP; former litigation attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, Department of Commerce (Washington, D.C.)
- **Kristina Moore (Law '17)**, International Arbitration Counsel at Jones Day (New York).
- **Alison Epperson (LAW '18)**, managing associate, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (New York)
- **Teresa Azzam (LAW '20)***, litigation associate, Miles & Stockbridge P.C.; former international arbitration associate, Squire Patton Boggs (Dubai)
- **Alex Lilly (LAW '19)**, international arbitration associate, Orrick (New York)
- **Douglas Pilawa (LAW '19)***, international dispute resolution associate, Squire Patton Boggs (Cleveland)



Michele Connell (LAW '03)

- **Garo Yaghseizian (LAW '19)***, U.S. associate, Clifford Chance; former associate, Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel (Paris)
- **Katherine Dobscha (LAW '20)**, associate – customs, Grunfeld Desiderio Lebowitz Silverman & Klestadt LLP (New York)
- **Lauryn B. Durham (LAW '21)**, international dispute resolution associate, Squire Patton Boggs (Cleveland)
- **Christina Luo (LAW '21)**, international dispute resolution associate, Squire Patton Boggs (Cleveland)
- **Gavin Andersen (LAW '25)**, International Trade Associate at Braumiller Law Group (Dallas)

International law judges

- **Ian D. Midgley (LAW '98)**, immigration court judge (Miami)
- **Daniel Smuluow (LAW '98)**, immigration court judge (Baltimore)

- **Jennifer Peyton (LAW '98)**, assistant chief immigration court judge (Chicago)
- **Jennifer Riedthaler Williams (LAW '01)**, immigration court judge (Cleveland)
- **Colleen O'Donnell (LAW '06)**, immigration court judge (Laredo)
- **Phil Hadji (LAW '12)**, judge, U.S. Court of Federal Claims (Washington, D.C.)
- **Duncan Gaswaga (LAW '13)**, judge, African Court on Human and People's Rights (Arusha, Tanzania)

International law professors (full time)

- **Ken Davis (LAW '74)**, University of Wisconsin Law School (Madison, Wisconsin)
- **Katy Mercer (LAW '83)**, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (Cleveland)
- **Amos Guiora (LAW '85)**, University of Utah College of Law (Salt Lake City)
- **Charles Norchi (LAW '86)**, University of Maine School of Law (Orono, Maine)
- **Mary-Beth Moylan (LAW '94)**, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law (Sacramento, California)
- **Chip Carter (LAW '98)**, University of Pittsburgh School of Law (Pittsburgh)
- **Hallie Ludsin (LAW '98)**, Emory Law School (Atlanta)
- **Bryan Mercurio (LAW '00)**, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
- **Jack Turner (LAW '02)**, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (Cleveland)
- **Rafael Dean Brown (LAW '02)**, Qatar University College of Law (Doha, Qatar)
- **Greg McNeal (LAW '06)**, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law (Pepperdine, California)
- **Clare Shin (LAW '21)***, IESEG School of Management (Paris, France)



A Community of Experts: Our International Law Faculty

More than three dozen faculty teach courses related to international law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

These experts help prepare aspiring lawyers through instruction and specialized courses that give them an edge over their graduating peers.



Directors



Michael Scharf
Associate Dean for Global Affairs;
Joseph C. Hostetler-Baker Hostetler Professor of Law
Formerly attorney adviser for United

Nations Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, Scharf headed up the International Law Program at Case Western Reserve University School of Law for a dozen years before serving as dean from 2013-2024. He returned in 2025 to the faculty as Associate Dean for Global Affairs. He is the co-founder and managing director of the Public International Law & Policy Group. He just published his 21st book, "Ukraine and the Legal Accountability of Russia: The Emergence of a New Global Order" (Routledge, 2025), and is among the most-cited international law professors in the United States according to a recent Sisk study. Scharf was selected for life membership in the Council on Foreign Relations in 2019, to the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law in 2021 and was elected president of the American Branch of the International Law Association in 2022. Scharf teaches **Fundamentals of International Law**, leads the **Case Western Reserve University Journal of International Law** seminar and coaches the **Jessup International Law Moot Court team**. He is also host of "Talking Foreign Policy," a quarterly radio show and podcast produced by Cleveland's NPR station..



Stephen J. Petras Jr. (LAW '79)
Director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center; U.S. Director, Canada-United States Law Institute

Petras practiced international business transactions as a partner in the Business Practice Group of BakerHostetler LLP, where he led the International Industry Team from 1998 to 2012, and retired in 2018. He has served as president of the Greater Cleveland International Lawyers Group, chair of the

International Section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, chair of the Board of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, vice chair of the World Affairs Councils of America and president of the Cleveland World Trade Association. Today, he teaches **Doing Business in the USA** in the International LLM Program, is vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Council of the Great Lakes Region and is a director of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs.

He also serves as a director of several private companies.



Juscélino Filgueiras Colares
Schott-van den Eynden Professor of Business Law and Professor of Political Science;
Co-Director, Frederick K. Cox International Law Center

Before joining the CWRU faculty, Colares clerked for Jean-Louis Debré, chief justice of France's Constitutional Court, and practiced at Dewey Ballantine LLP in Washington, D.C., where he litigated 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 serving in the U.S. Roster of North American Free Trade Agreement (Chapter Nineteen) Panelists since 2013 and the U.S. Roster of United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement Panelists since 2021. Colares teaches Civil Procedure, **Conflict of Laws**, Federal Courts, **International Environmental Law**, **Trade Law** and **International Business Transactions**. For the last eight years, he has organized a series of Trade Law Fall Updates, practitioner-oriented gatherings of leading trade lawyers, federal judges and trade agency officials. The winner of CWRU School of Law's 2018 Faculty Research Award, Colares is the author of more than 35 articles and book chapters, as well as a book, *Restructuring Trade Agreements* (Wolters Kluwer, 2021).



Avidan Y. Cover
Professor of Law;
Director, Institute for Global Security Law and Policy

Cover previously served as senior counsel in Human Rights

First's U.S. Law and Security Program and now teaches **International Law** and **International Human Rights Law** at Case Western Reserve University. Recently, Cover oversaw students' filing of special procedures complaints with the United Nations' Human Rights Council concerning excessive force at anti-police brutality protests in the United States and the arbitrary arrests and detention of Uyghur citizens in China. He recently published "Sanctions and Consequences: Third-State Impacts and the Development of International Law in the Shadow of Unilateral Sanctions on Russia" in *Detroit Mercy Law Review*.



James C. Johnson
Adjunct Professor and Director of the Henry King War Crimes Research Office

Johnson has been the Chief Prosecutor of the Residual

Special Court for Sierra Leone since 2019. Prior to that, he served as chief of prosecutions for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, supervising multiple trial teams, including the team that prosecuted former Liberian president Charles Taylor. At the School of Law, Johnson teaches the **International Law Research Lab**, where students prepare research memoranda for international criminal tribunals and organizations. He also serves as the advisor for the Yemen Accountability Project and organizes the annual International Humanitarian Law Roundtable in Chautauqua, New York, which is co-hosted by the Cox Center. Johnson is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel.



Jonathan Gordon
Professor of Lawyering Skills and Director of the International SJD Program

Gordon, a graduate of Columbia Law School, joined the CWRU School of Law faculty after serving several years as a trial attorney with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He teaches Professional Responsibility, the First-Year and Advanced SJD Seminars, and several courses in the joint program with Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, China, including two courses in China in December 2024. In May 2025, Gordon taught Legal Terminology to judges and staff at the Saudi Board of Grievances in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He has served as co-chair of the Legal Writing Institute’s Global Legal Writing Skills Committee and on the Program Committee for the Global Legal Skills Institute’s 16th GLS Conference in Bari, Italy, in June 2024, and the 17th GLS Conference in June 2025 in Brno, Czechia, where he presented on “AI and Academic Legal Writing.”



Jack Turner II (LAW ’02)
Professor of Law and Director of Foreign Graduate Legal Studies LLM Program

Turner is the Director of our international LLM program and teaches Contract Law and Scholarly Legal Writing to LLM students. He teaches in our China partner programs. Turner also directs the Summer Language and Law Institute for incoming LLM students and international legal professionals.

Associated Faculty



Anat Alon-Beck
Associate Professor of Law

An expert in business law from Israel, Alon-Beck’s research has recently been cited by the U.S. Congress, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. She has a weekly column on forbes.com. Alon-Beck holds JSD and LLM degrees with honors from Cornell Law School, where she served as an editor of the *Cornell International Law Journal*. She received her LLB from Tel Aviv University Buchmann Faculty of Law and served as an editor of Theoretical Inquiries in Law. This year, Alon-Beck was appointed as advisor on legislative proposals for the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee.



Michael Benza (WRC ’86, LAW ’92)
Professor of Practice

An expert in criminal law who has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, Benza coaches CWRU’s

International Criminal Court Moot Court Team, whose members won best speaker in 2015 and 2016 and best brief in 2017. Benza coached the team to the semifinals in 2018, the finals in 2021 and 2023, and the international rounds in 2021 and 2023, when they earned individual advocate and writing recognitions. Benza teaches courses in the school’s joint LLM degree program at Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, China.



David Carney (LAW ’05)
Adjunct Professor

Carney is a partner at BakerHostetler LLP and practices in the group’s Privacy and Digital Risk Class Action and Litigation team. In the past, Carney has been one of Law360’s Cybersecurity and Privacy MVPs and a Rising Star for Privacy. Carney teaches **Cybersecurity Law** and directs Frederick K. Cox International Law Center’s Supreme Court amicus brief writing team.



Eric C. Chaffee
John C. Hutchins Professor of Law; Co-Director of the Center for Business Law; and Director of the Compliance, Risk Management & Financial Integrity Institute

Formerly an attorney at Jones Day, Chaffee now writes about comparative and transnational securities regulation, and he has recently published a book chapter on comparative insider trading regulation. He has taught at Université Paris Dauphine in France, University of Silesia in Poland, University of Szeged in Hungary, and most recently at the National Taiwan University in March 2025. Chaffee is the co-coach of the Law School’s award-winning **William Vis International Commercial Law Moot Arbitration team**.



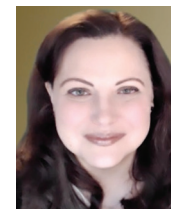
Thomas Crist
Adjunct Professor

Tom Crist is an international arbitration and disputes specialist headquartered in the United States and the UAE, who chairs the Benesch law firm’s Global Infrastructure Team and leads the firm’s Middle East Practice. He teaches **International Arbitration**.



Aleksandar Cuic
Adjunct Professor and Director of the Immigration Law Clinic

Cuic is a partner at Robert Brown LLC, where he oversees the firm’s litigation practice group. During his legal career, he has represented individuals across the United States in more than 40 immigration courts and Homeland Security offices. He is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars, bar associations, and community and religious groups. He has been selected annually by The Best Lawyers in America as well as Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in the area of immigration law. At the School of Law, Cuic oversees the **Immigration Law Clinic**. In May 2024, Cuic was named the Austin and Gwen Fragemen Distinguished Practitioner in the Immigration Clinic.



Shannon E. French, PhD
Inamori Professor of Ethics; Professor of Philosophy and Law; and Director of the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence

French taught in the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, before joining CWRU’s faculty in 2008. Here, she teaches **War and Morality**, based upon her primary expertise in military ethics. This year, French was appointed senior research fellow at the Simon Center for Ethical Leadership and Interagency Cooperation and was re-appointed as the General Hugh Shelton Distinguished Chair in Ethics for the Command and General Staff College Foundation. She also published “War and Technology: Should Data Decide Who Lives, Who Dies?” in *Ethics in the AI, Technology, and Information Age* and the third edition of *The Code of the Warrior: Exploring Warrior Values, Past and Present*, which features a foreword by the late Sen. John McCain.



Brian Gran
Professor of Sociology, Applied Social Sciences and Law

Gran’s research concentrates on human rights, specifically those of children, demonstrated in his books, *Sociology of Children’s Rights* and *Children’s Rights and Independent Children’s Rights Institutions*. He teaches **International Children’s Rights** and co-directs the International Survey of Human Rights. With support from the National Science Foundation in both the United States and in Switzerland, as well as the Fulbright Commission, he recently completed a major study of independent children’s rights institutions.



Philip Hadji (LAW ’09)
Adjunct Professor

A former Editor-in-Chief of our *Journal of International Law*, Hadji was appointed by President Biden in September 2023 as a judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C. From 2011 to 2023, he served as an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, with a practice focussed on government contract law. He teaches **Government Contract Law**, which focuses on military and civilian procurement issues.



Sharona Hoffman
Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law, Professor of Bioethics, Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center

Hoffman, who teaches **Health Care and Human Rights**, has published over 70 articles and book chapters and lectured nationally and internationally on civil rights and health law topics. She has published two books—*Aging with a Plan: How a Little Thought Today Can Vastly Improve Your Tomorrow* and *Electronic Health Records and Medical Big Data: Law and Policy*. She frequently appears in the media, is a member of the American Law Institute, and received the

2023 Case Western Reserve University School of Law Distinguished Research Award.



Lewis Katz
Emeritus Professor of Law

A longtime member of our faculty (since 1966), Katz founded our LL.M and SJD programs for foreign students over thirty years ago. He continues to teach courses in our **foreign LL.M program** and directs our **comparative law program for Saudi Administrative Judges** in both Riyadh and at Case Western Reserve.



Alek El Kamhaw
Adjunct Professor of Law

Past director of the Law School’s Saudi Arabian Masters of Financial Integrity program, El Kamhaw is an American Business and Criminal Defense Lawyer who is fluent in English, Arabic, and Russian. El Kamhaw teaches in Case Western Reserve’s **Financial Integrity Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD)** program and at the American Common Law Center at Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv, Ukraine, which he co-founded in 2013.



Raymond Ku
John Homer Kapp Professor of Law

Ku teaches **Cyberlaw** at the School of Law and previously served as associate dean for academic affairs and co-director of CWRU’s Center for Law, Technology and the Arts. Before joining the faculty, Ku clerked for Timothy K. Lewis, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He practiced constitutional, intellectual property and antitrust law with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and First Amendment and media and intellectual property law with Levine Pierson Sullivan & Koch LLP, both in Washington, D.C. He has taught at Cornell Law School, Seton Hall University School of Law, Thomas Jefferson School

of Law and St. Thomas University School of Law. Ku is the lead author of the first casebook devoted exclusively to the study of cyberspace law.



Kenneth F. Ledford, PhD
Associate Professor of History and Law
Ledford teaches **European Legal History** and **European Union Law** and writes

about private practitioners and judges in Prussia during the German Second Empire and Weimar Republic, exploring the contours and limits of the rule of law. He serves as chair of Case Western Reserve's Department of History, as parliamentarian of the Council of the American Historical Association and on the Board of Editors of the Law and History Review.



Julia Liston (LAW '16)
Instructor and International LLM Program Fellow
A former Editor-in-Chief of our *Journal of International Law*, Liston returned to

CWRU after serving as assistant general counsel at INTERPOL Washington, D.C., in the U.S. Department of Justice, where she worked to bring the world's most-wanted fugitives to justice. Liston recently served as the Chief Operating Officer of the American Branch of the International Law Association. At CWRU Law, she teaches U.S. Legal Writing and Foreign Graduate Seminar to LLM students.



Stacy Cozart Martin
Adjunct Professor
Cozart Martin teaches **Immigration Law** and **Immigration Law II: Business Immigration Law**. She is a partner at MJB Immigration

in Independence, Ohio, where she has focused her practice on business and family-based immigration since 2000. Ohio Super Lawyers magazine named her a Rising Star annually from 2006 to 2013 and she has a "Superb 10.0" rating from Avvo. Cozart Martin served as president

of the Ohio Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association from 2015 to 2017 and as an Ohio Supreme Court Mentor since 2009. She was selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016–2023 in the field of immigration law. Additionally, she was named the *Best Lawyers*® 2020 and 2023 Immigration Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Cleveland. Cozart Martin was also selected as Adjunct Professor of the Year for 2025.



Laura McNally
Professor of Law, Associate Dean for Experiential Education, and Director of the Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic
McNally is co-director

of the Law School's new **Spring Break in the Hague** program. This past year she taught Introduction to the American Legal System to the judges of the Saudi Board of Grievances (Administrative Court) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. McNally has also taught American Legal English in our joint LLM Program with Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, China.



Kathryn Mercer, PhD (LAW '83; SAS '83; GRS '97)
Professor of Law
Mercer teaches Mediation and Dispute Resolution in the joint LLM Program

in Chongqing, China. She is a frequent lecturer at international conferences, most recently the Global Legal Skills Institute's 16th GLS Conference in Bari, Italy, in June 2024, and the 17th GLS Conference in June 2025 in Brno, Czechia, where she presented on "Implementing the International Bar Association's Guidelines for Inclusion and Wellbeing in Legal Education." At the law school, she teaches Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation Representation, and Vis International Arbitration Practicum. Mercer coaches the law school's award-winning **Vis International Arbitration Moot Court team**. Her recent lectures have focused on immigration and international child welfare.



James Moroney
Adjunct Professor
In private practice, Moroney focuses on white-collar criminal defense and taxpayer representation. He recently retired after

a 30-year career as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Ohio, where he prosecuted a wide variety of white-collar cases—including frauds in the areas of securities, financial institutions, corporations, money laundering and taxes—in addition to national security cases. He additionally served as a counterterrorism prosecutor, chief of the National Security Unit for the Northern District of Ohio and, while at the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, was the national security coordinator for all 94 attorney offices in the U.S. Department of Justice. Moroney joined the Case Western Reserve law school faculty in 2017 and teaches **Counter-Terrorism Law**.



Dale A. Nance
Albert J. Weatherhead III and Richard W. Weatherhead Professor of Law
Nance teaches **Conflict of Laws** and **Law of Archeological Artifacts**

at the School of Law. Much of his scholarship focuses on evidence law. In the wake of the publication of his book, *The Burdens of Proof: Discriminatory Power, Weight of Evidence, and Tenacity of Belief*, Nance applied his theory to unsolved problems in private international law. He explored these themes further in "Choice of Law for Burdens of Proof" in *North Carolina Journal of International Law* in 2021, as well as in "Burdens of Proof and Choice of Law" in *Evidential Legal Reasoning: Crossing Civil Law and Common Law Traditions* in 2023.



Craig Nard
Galen J. Roush Professor of Law, Director of the Spangenberg Center for Law, Technology & the Arts
Nard teaches **International**

Intellectual Property Law. He was a visiting lecturer at the University of Strasbourg Centre d'Etudes Internationales de la Propriete Intellectuale in 2017 and recently served as a senior lecturer at the World Intellectual Property Organization's Master of Laws program in Torino, Italy.



Gregory P. Noone, PhD
Adjunct Professor
Noone is the director of the National Security and Intelligence Program and a professor of political

science and law at Fairmont State University. At Case Western Reserve, he teaches **International Humanitarian Law** and **International Criminal Law**. Noone is a retired U.S. Navy Captain who has served as the commanding officer of both the Navy JAG International and Operational Law reserve unit and the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies reserve unit. He was also director of the Department of Defense's Periodic Review Secretariat. Noone is the co-author of the widely used textbook *International Law and Armed Conflict*. Since 2020, he has been executive director of the Public International Law & Policy Group, a Nobel Peace Prize-nominated non-governmental organization.



Sarah Okuh (LAW '10)
Adjunct Professor
Okuh is the managing attorney for the removal department at MJB Immigration. Her practice includes removal defense,

asylum, assistance for survivors of violent crimes, family-based immigration, naturalization, appellate work and federal litigation. Okuh teaches Immigration Law I but also has taught both the

Immigration Law Clinic and the **Asylum and Refugee Law** courses at Case Western Reserve.



Steven Paille (LAW '13)
Adjunct Professor and Program Director of the Canada-United States Law Institute
Paille works at Charles

Schwab, leading compliance risk assessments that encompass all business lines and inclusive of the firm's international entities. He previously worked in people advisory services and assurance services at Ernst & Young. Paille is a member of the Greater Cleveland International Lawyers Group, Council of the Great Lakes Region, and World Affairs Council of Hilton Head (South Carolina). He is a contributor to the Wilson Center's Canada Institute and a mentor for Hire Heroes USA. Paille teaches **Canada-United States Law Journal** and Independent Study at Case Western Reserve.



Ted Parran III (LAW '13, MA '18)
Adjunct Professor and Managing Director of the Canada-United States Law Institute
Parran is an Assistant

U.S. Attorney with the Southern District of Texas. He practices criminal, civil, and international law while prosecuting transnational criminal activity—including human smuggling, drug trafficking, money laundering, and international trade fraud. He has worked in U.S. and international corporate investigations and compliance; for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (appeals chambers); as an assistant prosecutor for the State of Ohio; and as an assistant chief counsel with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He has also authored legal scholarship on comparative Canada-United States law and policy issues and supervises the **Canada-United States Law Journal** at the School of Law. He was co-author of an amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Monasky v. Taglieri*, 140 S. Ct. 719, concerning the

application of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction.



Cassandra Burke Robertson
John Deaver Drinko-Baker & Hostetler Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Professional Ethics
Prior to joining the

CWRU faculty in 2007, Burke Robertson clerked for the Texas Supreme Court and served as assistant solicitor general in the Office of the Texas Attorney General. She now teaches **Transnational Litigation** for the School of Law. Her scholarship on citizenship, due process and transnational litigation has appeared in numerous journals, including *Columbia Law Review*, **NYU Law Review** and *Vanderbilt Law Review*. This year, she published "Adopting Nationality" in the *Washington Law Review* and "Integral Citizenship" in *Texas Law Review*. She also published "The United States Experience," a chapter in the *Research Handbook on Extraterritoriality in International Law*. Burke Robertson recently was reappointed as one of Ohio's representatives to the Uniform Law Commission and was appointed vice chair of its study committee on the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (also known as the Singapore Convention).



Paul Rose
Dean and Professor of Law
Joining our law school from Ohio State Moritz College of Law in 2024, Rose is an expert in International

Business Law and Securities Law. He has served as Senior Legal Consultant at the World Bank and has co-authored a book to guide countries in establishing strategic investment funds and sovereign wealth funds. He has taught as a visiting professor at law schools across the globe.



Rumu Sarkar, PhD
Adjunct Professor
 Sarkar teaches **International Development Law** and the **International Development Law Lab**. She is an

independent legal consultant to social impact international NGOs and private equity firms, and focuses on Africa and Asia. She was formerly the general counsel and chief risk officer of the Global Innovation Fund, a social impact investment NGO headquartered in London. She was also the general counsel to Millennium Partners Consulting, an international development consulting group. She has served as the general counsel for the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission; general counsel for the Overseas Basing Commission; assistant general counsel for administrative affairs for the Overseas Private Investment Corp.; and attorney-advisor in the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Agency for International Development. She has widely published legal texts and law reviews.



Maya Simek (SAS '07)
Lecturer in Law,
Director of the Human Trafficking Law Clinic
 Simek is a clinical law professor and oversees the **Human Trafficking Law Clinic**, which is

supported by a VOCA grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.



Steven G. Stransky
Adjunct Professor
 Stransky joined CWRU School of Law in 2018 and teaches **Foreign Affairs and National Security Law**. He is a partner and vice chair

of the Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice Group at Thompson Hine LLP. Stransky previously served for more than 10 years in the federal government, including at the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In addition, Stransky served on the President's National Security

Council, where he provided legal and policy advice to White House officials on developing and coordinating policies and programs with respect to homeland security, counterterrorism and cybersecurity.



Rachel Wolbers (LAW '12)
Adjunct Professor and
Advisor to the Journal of Law, Technology & the Internet
 Wolbers has served as head

of global engagement at Meta's Oversight Board, and worked at the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration as the subject matter expert on international internet policy. She has also worked as the policy director at Engine Advocacy and as counsel for a congressman on the House Judiciary Committee. As a student at CWRU School of Law, she served as president of the International Law Society, managing editor of War Crimes Prosecution Watch and editor-in-chief of the **Journal of Law, Technology & the Internet**, which she now supervises. Last year, she was awarded the Fulbright New Zealand Ian Axford Fellowship in Public Policy researching the "Next Steps to the Christchurch Call to Action: Creating Multi Stakeholder Institutions for Regulating Social Media."



Jessica Wolfendale, PhD
Professor of Philosophy and Law
 Originally from Australia, Wolfendale joined the philosophy department at Case

Western Reserve University in 2022 with a secondary appointment at the School of Law, where she teaches courses on **state violence, moral responsibility, and armed conflict and bioethics**. This year, Wolfendale co-published (with Matthew Talbert) "Drone Warfare, Civilian Deaths, and the Narrative of Honest Mistakes" in *Honest Error? – Combat Decision Autonomy 75 Years after the Hostage Case*, and "Moral Injury, Moral Health, and Moral Distress" in *Preventing and Treating the Invisible Wounds of War: Combat Trauma, Moral Injury, and Psychological Health*.



Andrew A. Zashin (LAW '93)
Adjunct Professor
 Zashin is managing partner of Zashin Law, where he practices family and international family law. He has

published several academic articles in law journals, lectures widely and has earned numerous awards. Zashin is ranked among the top family law attorneys in Cleveland, has been rated as a Super Lawyer and consistently makes the list of Top 100 Lawyers in Ohio. Worth Magazine has named Zashin one of the Top 100 Lawyers in America. He has practiced at every level of court in Ohio as well as in federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court where, in 2022, he won a case concerning the Hague Convention on Child Abduction. In the past year, he has served as an expert witness regarding children traveling internationally, a topic about which he has also been quoted in The New York Times. For nearly two decades, Zashin has taught every family law offering at the School of Law, including **Advanced and International Family Law**.



Student Leaders Honored

Every year on commencement day, the International Law faculty pay tribute to a dozen or so student leaders for their contributions to the International Law Program in a special ceremony at the law school attended by parents and friends. Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of the Case Global Leadership Awards:

Annalie Buscarino, Editor-in-Chief of the *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*

Caroline Smith, Managing Editor of the *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*

Jessica Toncler, Managing Editor of the *Canada-U.S. Law Journal*

Ellie Buerk, Executive Director of the Yemen Accountability Project and Co-Captain of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Team

Anna Buczek, Editor-in-Chief of *War Crimes Prosecution Watch* and Senior Cox Center Fellow

Brianna Schmidt, Co-Captain of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Team

Naomi Matthusen, Jessup International Law Moot Court Team

Rose Lekan, Captain of the ICC Moot Court Team

Jim FitzGibbon, Co-Captain of the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team

Nathaniel Sommers, Co-Captain of the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team

Kendal Biondich, International Law Society President

Jack Sartee, Senior Cox Center Fellow

Yuqi Sun, International Development Law Lab

Alexander Bae, LLM Mentor



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WHAT MAKES OUR INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM STAND OUT?

\$5.7 million: Size of our International Law Program endowment

20: Number of our Study Abroad and Concurrent Degree Partner Schools

A+: Rating of our International Law Program (PreLaw Magazine)

T13: Ranking of our International Law Program (U.S. News & World Report)

Top ranked: Foreign LLM Program (International Jurist)

#23: Most-cited International Law Journal (Washington & Lee Journal Rankings)

#1: Jessup Moot Court World Championship (2008)

#1: Jessup Moot Court Best Brief in the World Award (2011)

#1: Jessup Moot Court Best Oralist in the World Award (2022 and 2023)

#1: Nobel Peace Prize nomination for our War Crimes Research initiative

