Thomas Schweich of the U.N. Serving as Ambassador-in-Residence

Thomas A. Schweich, Special Representative of the U.N.’s Office of Drugs and Crime, has joined the law school as an Ambassador-in-Residence in 2008–09.

Administered by the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, the Ambassadors Program invites diplomatic professionals to the law school to share their experiences and knowledge with the law school and the Washington University community.

“The purpose of the program is to bring the real-life experience of some of our top diplomats directly into the classroom experience of our students,” says Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law and Harris Institute director. “Through the Harris Institute Ambassadors Program, our students are able to complement their training in international law with a practical foreign-policy perspective, thereby enriching their knowledge and practice of both international law and foreign relations.”

In 2007–08, the law school invited Ambassador Carla A. Hills, former United States Trade Representative, to deliver the Tyrrell Williams Lecture. In her talk on “Trade and the 2008 Elections,” Hills stressed that “adherence to a set of trade rules encourages transparency, rule of law, and respect for property, which encourages stability.” Hills believes that a lack of understanding contributes to the declining support for trade. She called on businesses, universities, think tanks, and knowledgeable citizens to help educate Americans about globalization.

In addition to serving as Washington University Law’s Ambassador-in-Residence in 2008–09, Schweich is working as Special Representative of the Director-General of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He is promoting the UNODC’s work in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Third-year law students Daniel Tierney and Laura Crane have been selected to intern with Schweich.

They will aid him in preparing for—and accompany Schweich to—meetings with senior diplomats, politicians, and law enforcement officers in the region. They also will assist in preparation of his reports to the UNODC Director-General and other stakeholders.

Previously, Schweich was Coordinator for Counternarcotics and Justice Reform in Afghanistan and the State Department’s principal deputy assistant secretary (PDAS) for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). He was also chief of staff to the U.S. Mission to the U.N. In conjunction with his role as Ambassador-in-Residence at the law school, Schweich is serving as a visiting professor and is teaching several courses. He also is of counsel at Bryan Cave LLP.

by Ann Nicholson