Innovative Approaches to International Law

Washington University Law is expanding into the global legal environment by developing first-ever partnerships and initiatives, deepening overseas opportunities for students, broadening faculty scholarship, adding course offerings, and fostering meaningful discussion of contemporary legal issues.

(above) Marguerite Roy, JD ’07, disembarks in Afghanistan during her work as head of office for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in Mazar-e-Sharif.

(left) Whitney R. Harris, right, presents Justice Richard J. Goldstone with the Harris Institute’s 2008 World Peace Through Law Award at the Harris Institute rededication in January 2008.
Drawing from the passion and initiatives of key faculty and administrators, Washington University Law’s International Programs are reaching beyond traditional borders.

“Washington University Law has become very entrepreneurial in international and comparative law,” says Kent Syverud, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “Our professors and administrators have innovative ideas for students, research, and service—and they have the wherewithal to implement them.”

In the last two years alone, the law school has hired a new assistant dean for international programs, recruited several outstanding international law faculty, launched a first-of-its-kind Transnational Law Program, greatly expanded offerings of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, augmented its international student externships, and won two world championships and several other high-profile student competitions.

A key component of the international programs is the law school’s Harris Institute, which sponsors academic programs on important legal topics of the day, as well as student training and fellowships. Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law, was named the institute’s third director in fall 2007. A natural for the directorship, Sadat has championed the cause of the International Criminal Court (ICC) since the late 1990s and has published widely on international criminal law and human rights topics. She is one of many key faculty members stressing that the study of international law is not only relevant, but essential.

“We have a strong foreign affairs perspective at the law school. Our students are in more countries and doing more work as a result of our faculty interests and expertise,” she says. Sadat’s own Harris Institute benefactors and leaders cut the ribbon at the January 2008 rededication of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute. From left, Justice Richard Goldstone, Dean Kent Syverud, Anna and Whitney Harris, Institute Executive Director Michael Peil, Institute Director Leila Nadya Sadat, Professor Stephen Legomsky, and Professor John Haley.

Participants in the 2007 Summer Institute for Global Justice stand in front of the Peace Palace in The Hague after meetings with Judge Thomas Buergenthal of the International Court of Justice and representatives of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

(Left) Sitting, from left: former Dean John Morison, Queens University Belfast; Dean Adriaan Dorresteijn, Utrecht University; and Dean Kent Syverud sign the Memorandum of Understanding creating the Transnational Law Program. Standing: Assistant Dean Michael Peil

Transnational Law Program summit participants outside the Utrecht University Faculty Club
Michele Shoresman, associate dean for graduate degree programs, left, meets with Fulbright Scholars Nadine Germanos, a judge from Lebanon, right, and Sophia Espinoza Coloma, an intellectual property lawyer from Ecuador. Coloma is also a JSD student this fall conducting research on the protection of traditional knowledge.

experience has opened the door each year for many students to visit The Hague and witness firsthand the inner workings of the ICC, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and International Court of Justice.

**Faculty and Administrative Expertise**

The global view taking shape at the law school traces its roots back decades to pioneering professors who followed their academic passions in international law. The late William C. Jones, the Charles F. Nagel Professor Emeritus of International and Comparative Law, traveled to China to study Chinese law. His translation of the great Qing Code is now required reading for Chinese law specialists. Likewise, the late Gray Dorsey, the Charles F. Nagel Professor Emeritus of Jurisprudence and International Law, was one of the first to teach and research in the areas of international law, comparative jurisprudence, and jurisculture.

The law school has since expanded to include other standouts, including comparative and international law professors: Frances Foster (Chinese inheritance law and socialist and former socialist legal systems), John O. Haley (Japanese law), Stephen Legomsky (international immigration and refugee law), Charles McManis (international intellectual property law), and Stanley L. Paulson (European legal philosophy). Additionally, A. Peter Mutharika, who specializes in international investment law, currently is on leave serving as a chief advisor to Malawi’s president (see page 27).

Recent hires Gerrit De Geest (comparative law and law and economics), David Law (comparative public law), Carl Minzner (Chinese law), Adam Rosenzweig (international tax), and Melissa Waters (foreign relations and human rights law) are further deepening faculty expertise. These and other faculty are publishing international law books and articles, advising foreign governments and organizations, and teaching and conducting research around the world. The *Global Studies Law Review* also supports scholarship on current international law issues.

Additionally, Michele Shoresman, associate dean for graduate degree programs, has spent the last decade building the school’s LLM Program in U.S. Law for foreign law students, the Intellectual Property and Technology Law LLM, and the JSD program. Michael Peil, assistant dean for international programs, was hired in 2006 to further enhance international and comparative law offerings.

“The heavy emphasis on learning international law in-depth is one of the great strengths of the law school,” says Luke A. McLaurin, JD ’07, who

Each year, the law school sponsors lectures and conferences on a variety of international issues. Recent presenters have included, from left: J. Mark Ramseyer, Mitsubishi Professor of Japanese Legal Studies, Harvard University; Patricia Visser-Sellers, former legal advisor for Gender-Related Crimes, Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; and M. Cherif Bassiouni, distinguished research professor and president emeritus of the International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University College of Law.
in fall 2008. The combined four-year JD and LLM degree program is being offered in association with four distinguished European institutions: Utrecht University, Queen’s University in Belfast, Italy’s University of Trento, and Catholic University of Portugal.

“This is the first and only program of its kind in the world,” says Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr., the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, dean emeritus, and chairman of the TLP’s faculty steering committee. “The fully integrated educational experience will be more than getting a JD here and an LLM in Europe. Students will acquire a multilegal ability to think in the law of both Europe and the United States.”

In addition to a targeted, integrated curriculum, the TLP offers students internships with U.S. and European corporations, law firms, courts, enforcement and administrative agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

International Public Service Initiatives

Building on their individual expertise, faculty members have undertaken many exciting initiatives that involve students in public advocacy around the world. Karen Tokarz, the Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law and Public Service and professor of African & African American Studies, has worked with students in Africa since 2001. Tokarz, along with Kim Norwood, professor of law and of African & African American Studies, has coordinated summer internships for more than 60 students through the Africa Public Interest Law & Conflict Resolution Initiative. C.J. Larkin, senior lecturer and administrative director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, has been similarly overseeing student placements in Southeast Asia. Working with the world’s poorest citizens in places such as South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Nepal, India, Thailand, and Cambodia, students are involved in civil rights advocacy, urban renewal, AIDS education, and dispute resolution, among other important issues.

“We have core faculty championing each program and sharing their passion with students,” Tokarz says.

Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute Events

Following on the success of a major conference last year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Nuremberg
Its record in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the largest and most prestigious international competition in the world, is second only to Harvard during the past 10 years. Two-time International Rounds oralist and St. Louis attorney Gilbert Sison, JD ’00, brings invaluable expertise as the team’s coach.

The law school won championships this year in the Jessup Competition, the Niagara International Moot Court Competition, and the D.M. Harish Memorial International Moot Court Competition in India.

“This was a very successful moot court year; our list of awards is quite impressive,” Peil says. “Moot court success indicates two things about the law school. First, it means we have a breadth and depth of international law that goes beyond just memorizing facts from a book. Second, we have a terrific clinical and practice-training program, including specialized training with Adjunct Professor Gilbert Sison.”

This year, Washington University and Cornell University were the first American law schools to compete in the Harish competition, held in Mumbai, India. Samir Kaushik, JD ’08, and Andrew Nash, JD ’08, won the competition.

“It was an honor to represent the law school in India,” says Kaushik, now an associate in the Dallas office of Jones Day. “I learned a tremendous amount of substantive international law while also improving my advocacy skills.”

After the competition, Kaushik and Nash spent an additional week meeting with lawyers, law professors, and law students in Mumbai and Delhi.

“Everywhere we went people were excited about the idea of working more closely with Americans and U.S.-trained lawyers,” says Nash, now a clerk for Judge Duane Benton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

The Future is Now

Graduates who have experienced the electricity of Washington University Law’s international programs avidly support its leap into the next generation of law practice.

Marguerite Roy, JD ’07, is putting her international law training to work. As a student, she was a Jessup team member, participated in the law school’s Summer Institute for Global Justice in Utrecht, and enrolled in numerous international law courses. Now she serves as head of office for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

“Through the international law programs, I gained an understanding of the body of law that forms the basis of the work I do with the United Nations in Afghanistan,” she says. “The most important feature of my education was that this knowledge was directly acquired from faculty who are experts in their field. Regardless of whether or not you plan to practice international law, in the global society in which we live, it is in your best interest, and that of your future firm or organization, to familiarize yourself with international law.”