HE PRACTICE OF LAW IS NO LONGER BECOMING GLOBALIZED—IT IS GLOBAL,” says Michael Peil, associate dean for international programs, underscoring the imperative for international interconnection in legal study, programs, and research. Peil says the scope and import of the law school’s international involvement have surged along with the university’s international reputation.

Priscilla Stone, Washington University’s assistant provost for international education, agrees noting that the programs often span school boundaries. “Under Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton’s leadership, the law school, like the rest of the university, has embraced global engagement as a high priority with innovative, stellar programs,” she says.

Like the rapidly transforming world in which it serves justice, the law school is now fully transnational in its programs, course offerings, faculty scholarship, conferences, and events.

Ahead of Its Time: The Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute

At the millennium’s turn, the law school was at the vanguard of universities creating centers on international law. The Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, named for the late Nuremberg prosecutor, is now one of the nation’s foremost centers for research and teaching in international and comparative law.

Established in 2000 by founding director Stephen Legomsky, the John S. Lehmann University Professor, and now directed by Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law, its record is remarkable. The Harris Institute has sponsored more than 75 speakers; held or co-sponsored more than 20 international conferences; sponsored debates on pressing issues in international law and policy; hosted ambassadors-in-residence; held public international law and theory roundtables for international law scholars; and developed programs for student study and work abroad. Additionally, under Sadat’s leadership, the Harris Institute has developed partnerships with the Pulitzer Foundation, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Africa Legal Aid, and other NGOs. It also has received grants from Humanity United and the United States Institute of Peace, as well as generous support from individual benefactors, including alumnus Steven Cash Nickerson, JD ’85, MBA ’93.

Recent events encompass a spirited debate on whether the U.S. drone attacks in the “War on Terror” are lawful; an international and interdisciplinary symposium on climate change related to bringing the United States and China into Post-Kyoto agreement; and the International Humanitarian Law Dialogs, co-sponsored by the Robert H. Jackson Center at the Chautauqua Institution in New York. The dialogs are an annual gathering of international prosecutors from Nuremberg through present day and leading professionals in the international humanitarian law field.

“During the past 10 years, we have broadened and deepened the scope of our activities while staying true to our overall focus of developing innovative global solutions to real-life problems,” Sadat says. “We also have been building a community of scholars across disciplines, institutions, and national boards who share the common goal of increasing the understanding of international legal problems, foreign law systems, and the advancement of the international legal order.

“The international law and legal theory roundtables have been particularly successful in bringing together senior and junior scholars from across the United States, Europe, and Canada to discuss emerging works of scholarship,” she adds.

In recognition of individuals who have achieved distinction in the field of international law and international relations, the Harris Institute bestows an annual World Peace Through Law Award. This fall’s honoree was Fatou Bensouda, deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.
The International Criminal Court (ICC). Previous recipients are M. Cherif Bassiouni, Distinguished Research Professor of Law, DePaul University College of Law, and founder and president emeritus, International Human Rights Law Institute; Justice Richard Goldstone, former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; and Judge Philippe Kirsch, former president of the ICC.

The Harris Institute’s most significant and ambitious project to date is the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative. In 2008 Sadat launched what has become a landmark effort concerning the international rule of law. She has led the development of the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, which addresses the problem that although crimes against humanity appeared in the Nuremberg Charter, unlike genocide and war crimes, they were never elaborated in a comprehensive international treaty. Sadat convened a steering committee of leading international judges and practitioners who wrote, circulated, and debated numerous finely wrought drafts before sending the proposed treaty to the United Nations. She also edited and contributed to the resulting book, *Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (Cambridge, 2011). The volume details process, commentary, and content, including mechanisms to facilitate states’ cooperation in investigating and prosecuting such crimes.

In June 2011 Sadat and high-level international representatives gathered in Paris, where she was serving as the Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Fulbright Chair at the University of Cergy-Pontoise. Agenda items were promoting the initiative and discussing its central role in prevention as well as punishment of crimes against humanity. “The Crimes Against Humanity Initiative is front and center in the effort to prevent genocide in situations like the Libyan and Syrian uprisings, where credible allegations have been made that such crimes are occurring,” Sadat says.

Sadat, along with Karen Tokarz, the Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law & Public Service, is also part of a campus coalition on human trafficking, which includes the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. In fall 2011, the two will work with campus faculty to contribute a legal-regulation perspective because Sadat notes “human trafficking can involve sexual slavery, a crime against humanity. Many governments are allowing trafficking to take place, which may be illegal under international law.”

### Cutting-Edge International Scholarship

**RENOWNED SCHOLARS** in international law and foreign relations law recently gathered to present their works-in-progress at the International Law and Theory Roundtable, hosted by the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute. Professors Leila Nadya Sadat and Melissa Waters chaired the conference. Presenters were:

- Curtis Bradley and Mitu Gulati, Duke University, opt-out rights under customary international law;
- Anupam Chander, University of California, Davis, political freedom in cyberspace;
- Laurence Helfer, Duke University, human rights derogations during national emergencies;
- Frédéric Mégret, McGill University, human rights scrutiny and the International Criminal Court;
- Hari Osofsky, University of Minnesota, federalism and climate change;
- David Sloss, Santa Clara University, implications of Foster v. Neilson;
- Carsten Stahn, Leiden University, analysis of jus post bellum;
- Larissa van den Herik, Leiden University, the ombudsperson’s role; and

For more information, visit: law.wustl.edu/harris.

### One of a Kind: The McDonnell International Scholars Academy

Imagine a program that annually brings to Washington University’s schools some of the best recent graduates from 27 partner universities in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South America, and Australia. Every McDonnell scholar receives full tuition plus living expenses during postgraduate study and is assigned a faculty mentor from the appropriate university. Among this group is a growing number of international law students pursuing advanced degrees.
Academy professors also serve as “ambassadors” to schools overseas and connect with Washington University alumni, friends, and leaders in that country. In turn, the scholars contribute significantly to campus research and discuss their country’s culture, history, and politics. Additionally, the McDonnell International Scholars Academy is sponsoring collaborative research with partner institutions, such as the international energy future initiative, which included a symposium at Washington University last fall.

In addition to the direct benefit to the scholars, the program “helps enhance U.S. law students’ cultural sensitivity, and that will be useful in their careers,” says STEPHEN LEGOMSKY, the John S. Lehmann University Professor and ambassador to the University of Hong Kong. “Law students today have to learn about international law and foreign legal systems because every area of the law increasingly involves global interaction.”

Legomsky’s own research centers on U.S., comparative, and international immigration; citizenship law; and international refugee law, including European migration issues. He emphasizes the importance of the university’s prominence among other top U.S. institutions in the international arena.

A second ambassador from the law school is intellectual property expert CHARLES McMANIS, the Thomas & Karole Green Professor of Law. McManis recruits potential scholars from one of South Korea’s top three schools, Korea University, in Seoul.

He first visited Korea University as a McDonnell ambassador in 2009—“an extremely important and fortuitous time.” Korean legal education had just undergone a sea change, prompted by a government directive that 20 universities immediately establish the nation’s first American-style postgraduate professional law schools. The purpose: to produce Korean lawyers who could compete with sophisticated foreign-trained lawyers in the world market. “My contribution as an ambassador was to help them get started, and I taught a full-week course for their first entering class,” McManis says.

McManis investigates the interplay between international intellectual property and environmental protection, focusing on how IP tools can protect traditional medicinal and agricultural knowledge in indigenous local communities abroad. Through the interdisciplinary Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Clinic, part of a larger program he founded, McManis initiated a collaboration with the Missouri Botanical Garden that included joint efforts in South Africa and Madagascar.

Among his efforts, McManis helped the flourishing nonprofit Blessing Basket Project connect with basket weavers from villages surrounding a forest preserve that is a subject of the Garden’s research on Madagascar. Blessing Basket, which began through the Olin Business School, distributes baskets from these villages through numerous Whole Foods outlets. The project provides an alternative economic backup for these cyclone-prone villages whose crops are periodically destroyed.

MELISSA WATERS, professor of law and ambassador to Utrecht University in the Netherlands, studies international law’s incorporation in domestic legal regimes. She also investigates how transnational judicial dialogue helps develop international legal norms and examines the phenomenon in which U.S. and other domestic courts become mediators between the domestic and international legal arenas. Through her ambassadorship, she learned of sources at other European universities who proved vital to her book-in-progress, which explores the European Union’s influence on debate about the death penalty.

Waters adds that international partners “quite frequently send emails about funding for faculty fellowships and research proposals, as well as about faculty exchanges, which are currently of great interest to the European Union.”

At the invitation of sociocultural anthropologist John Bowen, the Dunbar-Van Cleve Professor in Arts & Sciences, Waters also recently joined the campus’s new Trans-Atlantic Forum on Social Diversities. Housed in the Center for the Humanities, it will build a network of scholars and institutions in Europe and North America to collaborate on research and on training postgraduate students.