**International Experts’ Meeting on the Illegal Use of Force: Reconceptualizing the Laws of War**

The Harris Institute and the Planethood Foundation will host an International Experts’ Meeting titled The Illegal Use of Force: Reconceptualizing the Laws of War on September 11-12, 2015 at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. Attendance is by invitation only.

This Experts’ Meeting will consider whether the international community would be better served by a reconceptualization of the laws of war that does not reflect a sharp distinction between the *jus ad bellum* and the *jus in bello*.

In conjunction with this Experts’ Meeting, the 2015 World Peace Through Law Award will be bestowed upon former Nuremberg Prosecutor Benjamin B. Ferencz. This award recognizes individuals who have achieved great distinction in the field of international law and have considerably advanced the rule of law and thereby contributed to world peace.

**Alumnus Douglas Pivnichny Selected for the Prestigious International Court of Justice University Traineeship Program**

Former Harris Institute Fellow Douglas Pivnichny, JD ’13, has been selected as an International Court of Justice University Trainee for 2015-2016. He has been assigned to Judge James Crawford (Australia) and will be responsible for assisting Members of the Court by carrying out research, preparing case files, and drafting various types of documents. Participation in the ICJ Traineeship Program is open only to a select group of universities around the world.

Pivnichny says that this opportunity would not have been possible without the tremendous assistance of Washington University School of Law and the Harris Institute. As a law student, Pivnichny was on the Jessup Moot Court team from 2011 to 2013 and served as a research assistant to Professor Sadat. He also received the 2012 Dagen-Legomsky Hague Academy Fellowship award to study public international law at The Hague Academy. After graduating from Washington University, Pivnichny enrolled in the master’s degree program at the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (IHEID), in Geneva, Switzerland.
Global Perspectives on Colorism Conference

Colorism, the practice of discrimination based on skin tone even among people of color, is rarely addressed publicly and is uniquely different from racism. On April 2-3, 2015 the Harris Institute addressed this growing international phenomenon in what organizers believe was the first international colorism conference in the United States.

Participants included internationally and nationally renowned scholars and practitioners who represented a wide range of academic disciplines including law, social work, sociology, developmental psychology, history, economics, political theory, media and communications. Attended by more than 200 people, the two-day conference addressed the economic, social and psychological harms of colorism. Panel topics ranged from Human Rights Protections for Color under International Law to The Effects of Color on Native Americans, Latin Americans and Immigrants of Color. Dr. Carlos Moore, a Cuban writer, researcher, and social scientist internationally known for combating racism and defending pan-Africanism, delivered the keynote address Humankind Against Itself.

Professor Vinay Harpalani, a participant from Savannah Law School, noted that “while the presentations were truly informative, enlightening, and inspiring, there was also an appropriate level of tension, frustration, and dissent—which particularly came out during the international human rights panel, as we became immediately cognizant of the fact that the legal frameworks to address these important issues are sorely lacking. It was a healthy critical discourse, with intense but civil exchange, all in a manner that reminded us how much work there is to do.”

The Conference was organized by Professor Kimberly Norwood and Harris Institute Director Leila Sadat. Professor Norwood’s Color Matters: Skin Tone Bias and the Myth of a Post-Racial America is a collection of the most up-to-date research on this insidious form of discrimination and includes perspectives from the disciplines of history, law, sociology and psychology.

The Conference was also supported by the Office of the Provost and co-sponsored by the Gephardt Institute for Public Service.
Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) delivered a lecture titled *International Justice: Beginning of the End or End of the Beginning?* on March 3rd. He observed that modern international criminal law began two decades ago with the establishment of the ICTY in 1993, discussed lessons learned from the ICTY experience, and shared his predictions for future developments in international justice.

Professor Laurence R. Helfer, Duke Law School, delivered a lecture entitled *LGBT Rights in International and Comparative Law: Progress and Contestation* on February 20th in conjunction with the Public Interest Law and Policy Speakers Series (PILPSS). His talk opened the 10th LGBT Midwest Conference hosted annually by Washington University School of Law’s OUTLaw student group.

Professor Curtis Milhaupt, Columbia Law School, delivered the 8th Annual William C. Jones Lecture on February 17th, jointly sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. His lecture, *Party-State Inc.: Chinese Corporate Capitalism in the 21st Century,* asserted that the Chinese economy is a kind of corporate capitalism, which he calls a “State-Oriented Economy.” He argued that the global economic regulatory regime is not designed for this type of economic structure.

On February 6th, the Institute hosted a conference on international commercial arbitration titled *International Dispute Resolution: Protecting Your Client in the Global Economy,* featuring eight panelists. Topics included international arbitration and the cross border deal and the un-tapped opportunities of mediating international disputes.

Professor Stephanie Farrrior, Vermont Law School, spoke on *International Human Rights Law in Action: Lessons from the Field* in a lecture jointly sponsored with PILPSS on April 1st. Her lecture highlighted both the cultural competencies required for effective engagement on human rights issues internationally, and ways that individuals can seek relief in international forums when domestic laws fail to provide sufficient protections.
Law Students Working and Studying Abroad

As part of the Harris Institute and the law school’s ongoing efforts to provide students with opportunities to work and study abroad, three students were selected for the 2015 Dagen-Legomsky Fellowship program. Li Chen, JD ’16, studied at the Xiamen Academy of International Law in Fujian, China while Olivia Espy, JD ’17, attended an intensive three-week course at The Hague Academy of International Law and worked at the ICTY. Abadir Barre, JD ’16, worked at the International Development Law Organization in Nairobi, Kenya.

Fifteen students also participated in the Global Public Interest Law Fellowship program this year at NGOs, legal aid organizations and courts in Chile, China, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Panama, and South Africa. One student, Marla Borkson, JD ’17, is the first Washington University law student to work in Nepal through this program. Having lived and worked in Nepal briefly prior to law school, Borkson arrived in the country just days after the 7.9 magnitude earthquake to work with America Nepal Medical Foundation and volunteer at Legal Aid Advocacy Center, a non-governmental legal resource organization promoting Nepali women’s and children’s access to justice. Borkson spent the second half of her summer working for the State Department as a Consular Affairs Intern for the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu, China.

2015 Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Team Results

Washington University’s Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Team had another successful year. They won the 2015 South Regional Competition for the third year in a row and advanced to the International Rounds in Washington, D.C. They placed 16th among the 116 teams competing in D.C., out of more than 550 teams competing worldwide, and tied NYU Law School for the U.S. National Championship. The team is coached by Gilbert Sison, JD ’00 and Leila Sadat serves as its faculty advisor.

Farewell to Harris Institute Fellow Madaline George

The Harris Institute would like to thank Harris Institute Fellow Madaline George for her exemplary service. Madaline is off to South Africa where she will work with legal refugee organizations and assist in the launching of projects to promote human rights and education in Zimbabwe and Malawi. She will be sorely missed by students, staff, and faculty alike. We wish her the utmost success in her future endeavors in international law and policy.