

PROLOGUE

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It is a great pleasure to write the prologue of this special issue of the *International Law Review* at American University Washington College of Law, one of the most important student-run publications in the country in the field of international law. In keeping with the tradition that started some years ago, this special issue features authors who won the 2015 Human Rights Essay Award, a competition sponsored by the law school's Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian law. The competition has attracted, through the years, important contributions in specific areas of international human rights law, such as: the rights of persons with disabilities; the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered peoples; the rights of indigenous people; and the rights of children.

The topic for the 2015 Human Rights Essay Award was Transitional Justice, attracting record numbers of excellent submissions. These submissions presented insightful interpretations of Transitional Justice, showing us the continued relevance of the topic, not only restricted to accountability for past events, but also addressing the legal and political needs of societies who want to develop the rule of law. The submissions covered important matters such as how to record past violations of human rights, how to achieve truth and justice, and the different models designed to best shape and structure the judiciary and the institutions of a country as a whole in situations of mass violations of human rights.

To enrich the opportunities for participation in the competition, the Academy solicited works in both English and Spanish, and winners were chosen for submissions in both languages. For the 2015 competition, the Honor Jury selected Sarah Gledhill and Jean Franco Olivera Astete as winners. We are proud and delighted to showcase their work in this special publication. In addition to the publication of

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their papers, they both received a full scholarship to attend WCL's renown Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Sarah Deibler, of the United Kingdom, received the Award for her article in English entitled "Rape by any other name: mapping the feminist legal discourse regarding rape in conflict onto transitional justice in Cambodia." Ms. Deibler received her L.L.B. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her L.L.M. from Northeastern University School of Law.

Jean Franco Olivera Astete, from Peru, received the Award for his article in Spanish entitled "Estándares de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos para la reparación del derecho a la verdad en el Perú del postconflicto." Mr. Olivera Astete produced an insightful essay regarding the right to the truth in a post-conflict area.

To recognize the quality of other submissions, in a competition where identifying the winners was extremely difficult, honorable mentions were also awarded and these papers are also published in this special issue. For English papers, the honorable mentions were awarded to Mariano Gaitan, from Argentina, and to Jonathan Kolieb, from Australia. Their papers are titled "Prosecutorial Discretion in the Investigation and Prosecution of Massive Human Rights Violations: Lessons from the Argentine Experience," and "Through the Looking-Glass: Nuremberg's Confusing Legacy on Corporate Accountability under International Law," respectively. For the submissions in Spanish, the honorable mentions were awarded to Sebastian Vera, from Chile, and Ianiv Garfunkel, from Argentina. Their submissions are titled "Cuatro mitos sobre la justicia retributiva como mecanismo de Justicia Transicional," and "Verdad y justicia: ¿términos incompatibles en la justicia transicional?," respectively.

Let me also extend my recognition to The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the sponsor of this essay contest. The Academy brings together members of the judiciary, academics, civil servants, NGOs, and other professionals from all over the world, creating a unique space where, every year, over 200 individuals exchange experiences, network, and participate in courses and seminars offered by some of the most renown faculty in the world in the human rights and humanitarian law field. In 2015, the Academy offered twenty courses—nine in English and nine in Spanish—and

hosted 39 professors from various countries. The long list of renown professors included, among others: Jamie Williamson, Legal Adviser to the International Committee Of The Red Cross, from Geneva, Switzerland; Felipe González, Commissioner and Second Vice-President to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; and Antonio Cançado Trindade, Judge presiding over the International Court Of Justice, United Nations.

Together with these courses, the Academy enriches the experiences of students through the tremendous opportunities that exist in Washington, D.C. For example, the Academy organizes student visits to the Organization of American States, to the Inter-American Development Bank, and to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

We encourage all of you to be alert for the announcements of future Human Rights Essay competitions. Participating in the a competition and in the Academy on Human Rights, will also provide an opportunity to become acquainted with the vast array of programs and activities that take place at Washington College of Law in the field of Human Rights. For example, the Center also promotes human rights and humanitarian law through the *Human Rights Brief*, the Impact Litigation Project, the United Nations Committee Against Torture Project, and the Human Rights in Business Program, among others.

Finally, as one of the Directors of the Academy on Human Rights, let me express my gratitude to the *American University International Law Review*, whose students work diligently and professionally to produce this didactic publication. I am proud to be a part of the same legal and intellectual community as our students. Their commitment and professionalism bodes well for the future of the profession and international human rights law.