

From the Academic Director



Ronald A. Brand

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg
University Professor and
John E. Murray Faculty Scholar

"A Pitt Law LLM – One Year Like No Other," is a slogan we and our students have adopted. This year it fits. While we pivoted to online teaching in Spring 2020, the 2020-21 academic year brought us a complete year like no other. Despite visa issues, travel restrictions, and COVID limitations on gatherings, our JD students persisted, our LLM students made it to Pittsburgh, and our SJD students kept their dissertation work alive.

We transformed the celebration of CILE's 25th anniversary from a conference and gala dinner to monthly programs over the academic year - each highlighted below, with links to video recordings. Of particular note, the November 2020 program on CILE and the Vis Moot, including a screening of the "Afghan

Dreams" documentary and an interview with Duniya Stanikzai (LLM '21), a member of the first Afghan Vis Moot team profiled in the film, brought home the more recent tragedy of the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. CILE continues to work with our Afghan colleagues and Pitt's Immigration Law Clinic to help as many students and Vis Moot coaches as we can in this challenging time.

We have already begun CILE's second 25 years on a wonderful note with two new members of the CILE team. Rachael Ochoa, our new Program Administrator, has a love for student exchange (her family is hosting exchange students from Denmark and Germany) and has experience setting up educational programs in Qatar. Professor of Practice, Charles Kotuby, is our new Executive Director, and comes with a long list of international academic and practice accomplishments (see page 3). When added to Nadine Hafaitha, our soft-spoken but powerful Graduate Assistant, our CILE staff brings a wealth of experience and personal strengths, positioning us to do great things in the future. And, of course, our first alumna President, Vjosa Osmani, demonstrates exactly why we are so proud of all of our Pitt Law/CILE graduates. ■

Our First Alumna President!



On April 2, 2021, Dr. Vjosa Osmani (LLM '05, SJD '15) became the Fifth President of Kosovo. Osmani received the 2017 University of Pittsburgh Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award. She has returned to Pitt

Law to teach and speak at conferences, most recently in 2019 for the U.N. Sales Convention conference honoring Professor Harry Flechtner.

From 2006-2010, Osmani served as Chief of Staff and Foreign Policy Advisor as well as Legal Advisor to the President of the Republic of Kosovo, where she

was the President's representative in the Constitutional Commission that drafted the first Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as his representative at the National Security Council and several working groups that drafted key legislation and established important institutions in the Republic of Kosovo. She was a member of the Kosovo legal team at the International Court of Justice in the advisory proceedings related to Kosovo's Declaration of Independence.

In 2011, Osmani was elected as a member of the national Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo. From November 2020 to March 2021, she served as Acting President, following the resignation of President Hashim Thaçi. Osmani has consistently been active in the Assembly, and as President, on issues related to rule of law and foreign policy and is a strong advocate for women's rights and other human rights.



CILE notes Fall 2021

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Help Recruit the Pitt Law LLMs of Tomorrow

Alumni and friends of Pitt Law and CILE can be our most effective ambassadors to prospective new LLM students. Whether by informally sharing your experiences at CILE and Pitt Law with your social contacts or by volunteering to meet prospective students at recruitment fairs abroad, you can help CILE to reach out to the next generation of LLM students. Please contact CILE to find out more about how you can support our recruitment efforts.

From the Executive Director



Charles T. Kotuby, Jr., FCI Arb (JD '01)

Professor of Practice

I have been lucky. From the start of my career, I had mentors to learn from and aspire to emulate. At Jones Day, I had the great Tim Cullen, the first leader of the Global Disputes Practice, who taught me the meaning of client service in a complex and interconnected world. I was also fortunate to work with Don Ayer, who taught me the art of advocacy at the highest level of legal practice. I joined Jones Day seventeen years ago, coming off a clerkship at the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I was a "Weis guy," having clerked for the late Judge Joseph F. Weis Jr. From him, I learned that public service and the advancement of the rule of law is the highest calling of the legal profession.

But it all started at the University of Pittsburgh. I was a scholar-athlete at Pitt (Men's Soccer) from 1993-1997. In 1999, I finished my first year at Pitt Law and left with a Rotary Scholarship to earn my LLM at the University of Durham. I was also then the Research Assistant for Professor Ronald Brand. I didn't know it at the time, but Professor Brand's guidance and mentorship would serve as the foundation of my entire legal career. His Center for International Legal Education was the window

to the world for this young kid from Western Pennsylvania. The education I received at Pitt Law (JD '01) would allow me to build a 20-year career representing multinational clients and sovereign states in public international law and treaty-based disputes and become a Chambers-ranked lawyer in International Arbitration. Pitt Law gave me the foundation to become a partner at Jones Day, one of the best law firms in the world.

The debts we accrue to mentors can never be repaid, but the value they create can be passed along. That is what I can do now. On September 1, 2021, I stepped back from the practice of law and took the position of Professor of Practice and Executive Director of the CILE at Pitt Law. In this position, I will be teaching the next generation of global lawyers, furthering critical scholarship regarding international commercial arbitration, investment treaty arbitration, and international law, and expanding the reach of CILE within the regional bar and business community and into emerging economies around the world.

Reflection, scholarship, and mentorship is critical public service to the regime of international law and international arbitration. This system was built by a generation of lawyers who rightly saw themselves as counsel,

adjudicators, and scholars. The current generation needs to shed the belief that we are merely actors in an arena that has already been built. If international law is to become a true reserve of enforceable rights and legal obligations, and if arbitration is to be a mainstay of transnational dispute resolution, then we need to be long-term investors in the system's well-being. This requires an objective assessment of what we inherited, purposeful effort to improve it, and a desire to bestow something better on generations to come.

This is what I aim to do, and Pitt Law is the perfect place to do it. The City of Pittsburgh stands at the crossroads of the U.S. industrial Midwest and the governmental and finance capitals of the world. CILE has a quarter-century of experience bridging the gap between private parties and international law, rich history of scholarship on international litigation and arbitration, and deep relationships with partner law schools worldwide. My goal is for CILE to become a preeminent institution for international arbitration and global dispute resolution, a bridge for interdisciplinary and international collaboration, and a vibrant forum for ideas, interconnection, and the advancement of the global rule of law. ■



A Year of Celebration in an Online World

Under normal circumstances, CILE would have hosted a major conference and gala dinner to celebrate its first 25 years. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that the academic year 2020-21 was not one of ordinary circumstances. Nonetheless, CILE managed to turn problems into opportunities and celebrated throughout the academic year with seven major programs on a near-monthly basis, as well as video tributes from alumni, faculty, and members of the CILE Advisory Board. All of these may be accessed on our [25th anniversary website](#). You will find the video tributes at the bottom of that webpage. The articles that follow capture the diversity, breadth, and depth of the monthly programs.



Elizabeth Shackelford

SEPTEMBER 2020

Pitt Law Alumna Elizabeth Shackelford (JD '06) Delivers 27th Annual McLean Lecture on The Critical Role of Dissent in Government and Foreign Affairs

On September 22, 2020 **Elizabeth Shackelford** (JD '06) gave the 27th Annual McLean Lecture on World Law, speaking on the importance of dissent and the State Department's "dissent channel." Shackelford graduated magna cum laude with a JD from Pitt Law. She had an active law school experience, much of it related to the CILE. In the summer of 2005, she was a Legal Assistant on the Defense Team for Issa Hassan Sesay at the Special Court

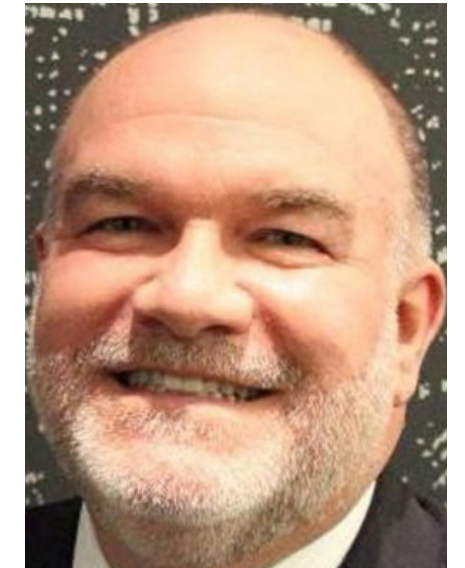
for Sierra Leone in Free Town, Sierra Leone. Contracting both malaria and typhus while she was there, she returned in the fall, saying it was the best summer of her life (an indication of what was to come in her career). She followed with a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship in the Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian language during her second year of law school, combining language and legal education. She was a member of the University of Pittsburgh Law Review and Pitt Law's 2006 Vis Moot team. She practiced law at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., engaged in international development work at Booz Allen Hamilton, and was a career diplomat in the U.S. State Department until her 2017 resignation. She received the Barbara Watson Award for Consular Excellence for her work evacuating U.S. citizens from South Sudan. Her book, *The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age*, tells the story of her work in South Sudan and provides a stark assessment of current on-the-ground U.S. foreign policy.

McLean Lecture on World Law is the premier lecture series on international legal matters at the School of Law. In past years this series has hosted speakers that include two Judges of the International Court of Justice, Members of the Nuremberg Prosecution team, the first woman judge on the European Court of Justice, former Attorneys General of both the United States and Canada, the Solicitor General of Australia, the President Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judges from the Supreme Court of Norway and the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, and other noted international scholars, professors, and practitioners. The lecture honors the memory of **Mac McLean**, a founder of the World Federalist Association, in Pittsburgh and around the world. McLean was a vibrant part of the Pittsburgh international community and was dedicated to the idea that the expansion of the rule of law and the creation of a functioning global legal system is the best way to ensure lasting peace and justice.

Shackelford's lecture marked the opening of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of CILE. It was delivered in an interview format with **Professor Brand**, providing the questions. The program is available on [YouTube](#).



Dennis Unkovic



Max Laun

OCTOBER 2020

An Advisory Board with Depth: Dennis Unkovic (JD '73) Discusses His Book, *America in The Mirror: Before and After COVID-19*, with Max Laun (JD '88)

On October 15, 2020, CILE celebrated the strength of its excellent Advisory Board. The CILE Advisory Board has been a critical part of planning and activities from the beginning and has consisted of a strong group of international lawyers, academics, and businesspersons dedicated to helping CILE review, plan, and improve its programs. The program highlighted **Dennis Unkovic's** most recent book at the time and was led by moderator and interviewer **Max Laun**, both members of the CILE Advisory Board.

Dennis Unkovic is a 1973 graduate of Pitt Law and a partner with Pittsburgh-based Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP. He is an accomplished writer who has written ten books, contributed to three other books, and authored over 140 articles. His 2020 book, *America in the Mirror: Before and After COVID-19*, explores international perceptions of the United States, focusing mainly on the emergence of stark divisions in the country after the 2018 midterm elections and the decline of America's reputation among world powers.

Unkovic's legal work involves projects helping U.S. companies and foreign entities with their international activities and investments. He does both transactional work, including complex commercial transactions such as mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and advising on inbound and outbound direct foreign investment projects, and dispute resolution work, including serving as an arbitrator or party counsel on domestic and international arbitration proceedings. In his work, Unkovic has traveled to 67 countries, with significant involvement in transactions in China, India, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and Europe.

The interviewer for the program, Max Laun, is a 1988 graduate of the Pitt Law. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Romania. His legal career was spent at Alcoa and its spin-off, Arconic, where he served most recently as Vice President & General Counsel before his retirement earlier this year. Laun's work at Alcoa and Arconic included major transactions in China, Russia, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. He has also been active in work with Neighborhood Legal Services and was chair of the Corporate Advisory Committee of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA), receiving the latter organization's 2017 national Exemplar Award, honoring attorneys in law firms or in-house legal departments who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision, dedication, and achievement in promoting and supporting equal justice.

The discussion of *America in the Mirror* provided a look at the United States through the eyes of persons from around the globe, through the book's survey, and the resulting open and revealing comments. Each participant in the survey conducted by Unkovic and captured in the book provided remarks before and after the global outbreak of COVID-19. The book, and the program, carry lessons for all Americans as we consider the future from one of the most complicated and contentious years in recent memory. The program is available on [YouTube](#).



NOVEMBER 2020

CILE and the Vis Moot

On November 17, 2020, CILE celebrated the many ways the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition has been a part of CILE programs, both at Pitt Law and worldwide. The program began with **Professor Brand** discussing the use of the Vis Moot as a pedagogical tool, highlighting Pitt Law's participation in the Moot since 1993 and the many ways in which CILE has used the Moot to train teams and develop curricula at law schools in over 20 countries. He highlighted the number of Pitt Law JD students who have not only participated in the Moot but have served as trainers for teams from transition countries.

Professor Brand's introduction was followed by a screening of the documentary *Afghan Dreams*, which followed the first-ever, all-female Vis Moot team from Afghanistan. After the screening, CILE Graduate Assistant and SJD Candidate **Nadine Hafaitha** interviewed Pitt Law LLM student **Duniya Stanikzai**, a member of that first Afghan team.

Following Stanikzai's interview, representatives from the U.S. Commerce Department's Commercial Law Development Program spoke about their partnership with CILE in using the Moot to develop law school curricula and improve commercial law and dispute resolution understanding

throughout the Middle East and North Africa. This included **Steve Gardner**, General Counsel for CLDP, and CLDP Attorney-Advisors, **Mais Abousy** and **Zmarak Khan**.

The program concluded with comments from **Professor Milena Djordjevic** of the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law, who described how, after completion of her LLM at Pitt Law in 2002, she returned to work with her colleagues to develop one of the most important Vis pre-moots and an annual arbitration conference that has made the University of Belgrade a center for international commercial law and dispute resolution. Her comments include a discussion of her time at Pitt Law and how it prepared her to do the many things she has done after graduation. The program is available on [YouTube](#).



John Kropf

FEBRUARY 2021

John Kropf (JD '84) on Global Privacy Law and Conflict

On February 16, 2021, **John Kropf**, author of *A Guide to U.S. Government Practice on Global Information Sharing*, published by the ABA and now in its third edition, joined **Professor Brand** to discuss the law of privacy and data protection. The discussion covered concerns of governments, companies, and individuals and reviewed the history of legal developments, with attention to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation.

Kropf is a 1984 JD graduate of Pitt Law, also receiving a Master's Degree from Pitt's Graduate School for Public and International Affairs. He is the Corporate Privacy Executive for Northrop Grumman Corporation. Before joining Northrop Grumman, he worked as deputy chief counsel for privacy and information governance for Reed Elsevier (now RELX). Before moving to the private sector, Kropf served for 23 years in the federal government in legal and policy roles. His last position was Deputy Chief Privacy Officer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. His government work also included time at the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and USAID. He is a member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals and has achieved CIPP/US, CIPP/G, and CIPP/E certifications. The program is available on [YouTube](#).



Marketa Lindt

MARCH 2021

Marketa Lindt (JD '94) Provides 28th Annual McLean Lecture on World Law "Cleaning the Sand Out of the Gears: Unwinding the Trump Administration's Extraordinary Use of Executive Action to Restrict Immigration"

On March 23, 2021, **Marketa Lindt** provided an engaging discussion, in an interview format with Professor Brand, covering the Trump administration's immigration policy and early developments in the new Biden administration. The discussion focused on the impact of Trump's singular campaign focus on immigration as a problem, how Trump administration

policies affected immigration law, and how early policy changes during the Biden administration affected practice and set the stage for immigration changes. Lindt's presentation allowed CILE to host two McLean Lectures in a single academic year, following up on **Lizzy Shackelford's** McLean Lecture in October 2020.

Lindt is a 1994 graduate of Pitt Law and Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. As a student, she spent spring break in Miami as a volunteer at the Haitian Refugee Center, preparing asylum applications; completed a summer Refugee Research Fellowship for the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, engaged in a human rights monitoring trip to Mexico, traveled to then Czechoslovakia to educate the Roma population about human rights, and served as a research assistant to Professor **Jules Lobel** on a project on economic rights. After law school, she worked at a non-profit doing immigration rights advocacy. She later entered private practice and is now a partner in the office of Sidley Austin in Chicago. In 2019-20 she was President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She works with U.S. and multinational corporations to implement business immigration visa programs to attract and retain foreign national talent and is actively engaged in national and regional advocacy efforts to improve U.S. immigration laws to foster economic

growth and promote fairness and justice in the immigration system. Lindt has testified at hearings before the House Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee regarding immigration processing delays at USCIS and serves as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce immigration policy committee. She serves as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce immigration policy committee and is recognized by numerous organizations as one of America's leading practitioners of immigration law, including as an Immigration Trailblazer by the *National Law Journal*. She has received the Marjorie Matson "Woman of the Year" Award from the Pitt Law Women's Association to recognize her contributions to the legal field. She regularly speaks on immigration law matters and is a primary author of the immigration law and practice treatise, *Business Immigration Law*. Lindt has demonstrated a commitment to providing access to counsel for underserved immigrants. She advises several Chicago-area cultural institutions and organizations that assist underserved immigrant communities and is a member of the Leadership Board of the National Immigrant Justice Center. The program is available on [YouTube](#).



APRIL 2021

CILE and the Law and Humanities Institute Co-Sponsor Conference on "Sovereignty, Humanity, and Law"

On April 8-9, 2021, CILE partnered with the Law and Humanities Institute (LHI) to sponsor a major two-day conference on "Sovereignty, Humanity, and Law." LHI is a not-for-profit organization now in its fifth decade of encouraging work inter-weaving law with the humanities. One of its leaders is **Richard Weisberg**, Visiting Professor at Pitt Law, and the Walter Floersheimer Professor of Constitutional Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University. The conference was organized by Professor Weisberg in collaboration with Pitt Law Professors **Vivian Curran** and **Ronald Brand**.

On April 8 2021, the Conference opened with its first panel discussion on "Current Litigation of Sovereign Responsibility." Moderated by Pitt Law Professor **Elena Baylis**, the panel considered recent legal developments in the U.S. law of foreign sovereign immunity. The panelists and their presentation titles were:

Professor Vivian Curran, *Professor of Law, Pitt Law*
A Critique of the Genocide Exception to Sovereign Immunity

Professor Richard Weisberg, *Professor of Law, Pitt Law and Cardozo Law School*
The Perverse Reappearance of the Executive Branch in FSIA Disputes

Yanis Klumpp, *Pitt Law LLM '20*
Exhaustion of Remedies Under the FSIA

Comments on the panel presentation were provided by **Todd Grabarsky**, Deputy Attorney General at the California Department of Justice.

The panel was followed by the conference keynote address on "Holocaust Justice and Sovereignty," given by **Stuart E. Eizenstat**, Senior Counsel at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. Eizenstat provided personal and professional remarks on a life dedicated to providing justice for Holocaust victims. Eizenstat served in government positions including chief White House domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981), U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration. He led efforts during the Clinton Administration to provide belated justice for victims of the Holocaust and other Nazi tyranny during World War II as Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust-Era Issues. He successfully negotiated major agreements with, *inter alia*, the Swiss, German, Austrian, and French Governments, covering restitution of property, payment for slave and forced laborers, recovery of looted art, bank accounts, and payment of insurance policies. His lecture covered events from these negotiations, noting the importance of Holocaust litigation and how that litigation was or was not effective, and how it affected his negotiation projects. His book, *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor, and the Unfinished Business of World War II*, covers much of this work and has been favorably received in publications like the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Washington Post*. It has been translated into German, French, Czech, and Hebrew.



On April 9, 2021 the conference continued with two panels. The first panel, "Sovereignty and the Individual in the Law," was moderated by Pitt Law Professor and Vice Dean **Haider Hamoudi**. The panelists and their presentation titles were:

Paul Guyer, *Professor of Philosophy, Brown University*
Sovereignty, Agency, and the Division of Powers: Historical Models

Charles Kotuby (JD '01), *Partner, Jones Day, Washington, D.C.*
Private Rights and Sovereign Obligations under International Law

Ronald A. Brand, *Professor of Law, Pitt Law*
The Role of Sovereignty in International Law

Comments on the panel presentations were provided by Pitt Law Professor **Jules Lobel**.

The second Friday panel, moderated by Pitt Law Professor **Bernard Hibbitts**, took on the topic of "The Sovereign in Literature and History." This panel approached the concept of sovereignty from a literary perspective, ranging from Nietzsche's genealogical approach



to Shakespeare's representations and those of other imaginative writers. The panelists and their presentation titles were:

Bernadette Meyler, *Professor of Law, Stanford Law School*
Pardoning After Trump

Christopher Warren, *Associate Professor of English, Carnegie Mellon University*
Angels and Diplomats: Sovereignty, Dignity, and the Human

Michael Pantazakos, *Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing, Cardozo Law School*
Nietzsche's Sovereign Individual and the Sin of Sodom

Comments on the panel presentations were provided by **Shaina Trapedo**, Lecturer in English, Yeshiva University. The papers from the conference will be pushed in the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*. The program is available on [YouTube](#).





MAY 2021

CILE and Pitt's Asian Studies Center Co-host Conference on "Deals and Disputes: China, Hong Kong, and Commercial Law"

On May 18-20, 2021, CILE partnered with Pitt's Asian Studies Center to co-host a three-day conference on "Deals and Disputes: China, Hong Kong, and Commercial Law." A broad range of speakers considered the structure, reach, and impact of China's Belt & Road Initiative and its implications for commercial relations, dispute resolution, and the future of legal developments in Asia more generally.

On Tuesday, May 18, Professor **Susan FINDER** from the Peking University School of Transnational Law began with a keynote address covering "The Supreme People's Court and the Development of Chinese International Commercial Law." A leading scholar on the SPC, FINDER provided context for the discussions of legal developments that followed throughout the conference. Her keynote address was followed by **Matthew Johnson**, a consultant at AltaSilva LLC, who added foundation by discussing "The Conference Context: China's Belt & Road Initiative." By

analyzing the Belt & Road Initiative, Johnson set up much of the discussion to follow.

The Tuesday Panel discussed "Commercial Law Dispute Resolution in US-China Business Relationships." This discussion came against the backdrop of the decision of the California Supreme Court in the case of *Rockefeller Technology Investments (Asia) VII v. Changzhou SinoType Technology Co., Ltd.*, 9 CAL.5TH 125, 460 P.3D 764 (2020), and led to a discussion of drafting forum selection clauses for US-China business contracts; a comparison of arbitration and litigation in US-China business contracts; possibilities for judicial cooperation between U.S. and Chinese courts; the recognition of judgments and arbitral awards in US-China business relationships; and related issues affected by the Belt & Road Initiative. **Professor Brand** moderated the panel of discussants, which included:

Katerina Ossanova (JD' 08), Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice,
Office of Foreign Litigation

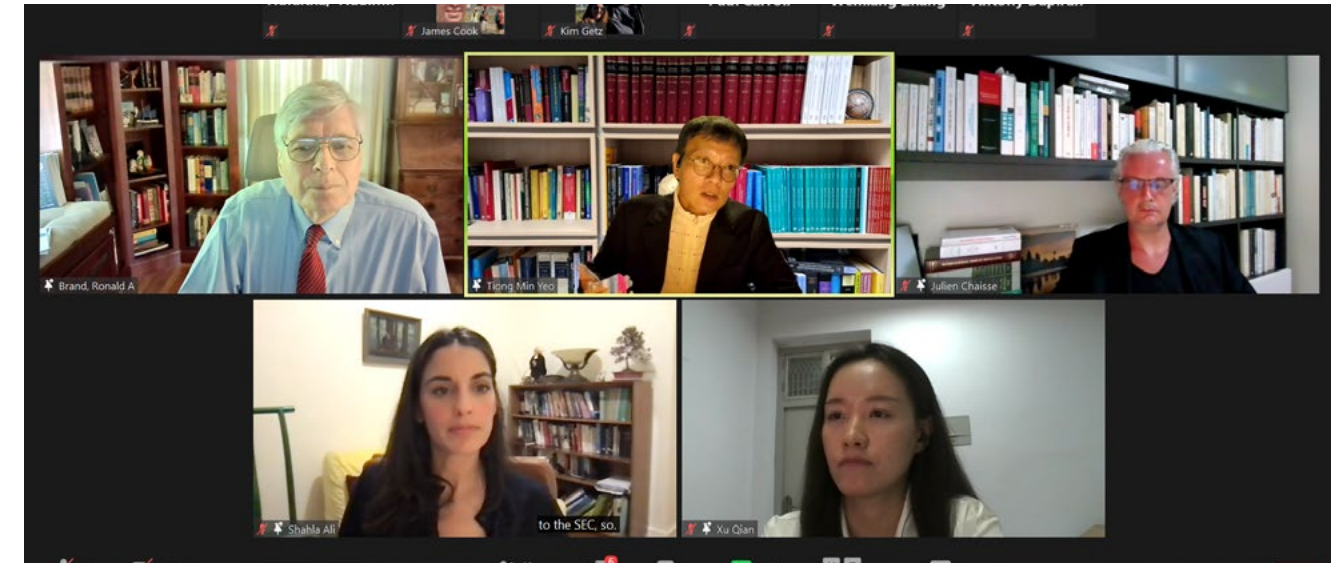
Jie (Jeanne) Huang, Professor of Law
University of Sydney

Wenliang Zhang, Professor of Law
Renmin University

Peter Trooboff, Of Counsel
Covington & Burling, Washington, DC

Wednesday began with a panel on "Hong Kong, Beijing, and Asian Competition for Dispute Resolution Services." This panel viewed the Belt & Road Initiative from the perspective of entrepreneurial opportunities for creating new courts and arbitral institutions to settle international commercial disputes. This included the rise of international commercial courts after the 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements, the shifting reliance on Hong Kong as a dispute resolution center given recent developments in the Special Administrative Region, and related issues. Professor Brand again moderated, with a panel including:

Tiong Min YEO, Yong Pung How
Professor of Law
Singapore Management University



Julien Chaisse, Professor of Law
City University of Hong Kong

Shahla Ali, Professor and Associate
Dean (International)
University of Hong Kong

Xu Qian, Associate Professor of Law
Zhejiang University

The panel was followed by the second conference keynote address by **Antony Dapiran**, a Hong Kong-based writer and lawyer, and author of *City on Fire: The Fight for Hong Kong*. Dapiran spoke on "Lawfare & the Shrinking Space for Civil Society."

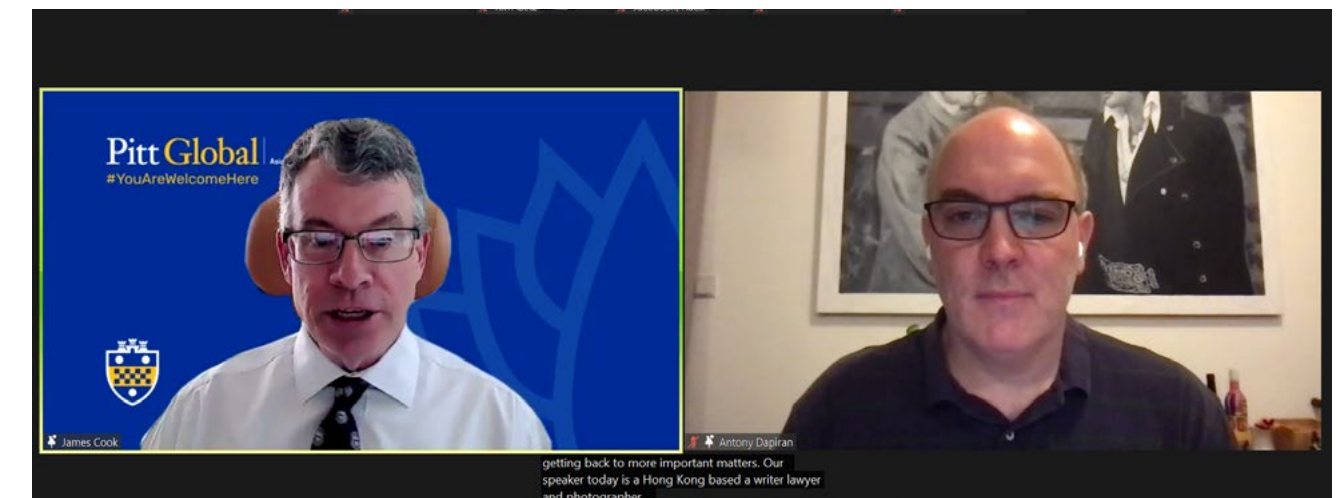
Thursday brought the final panel, discussing "The Future of Hong Kong." This panel discussed the political and legal challenges facing Hong Kong after implementing the National Security Law in June 2020. Speakers reviewed the law's political and legal changes and their effects on the court system, human rights, and the legal profession. Professor **James Cook**, Associate Director of Pitt's Asian Studies Center, moderated a discussion by:

Eva Pils, Professor of Law
King's College London

Pierre Landry, Professor of Government
and Public Administration
Chinese University of Hong Kong

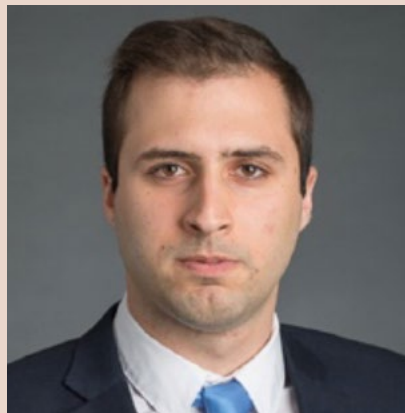
Michael Davis, Global Fellow
Woodrow Wilson International Center,
Washington, DC.

The conference provided a somber and informed look at developments in Hong Kong and China, with particular attention to the evolving legal framework. The three days of the program are available on YouTube: [Day 1](#), [Day 2](#), and [Day 3](#).





A Summer at WilmerHale by Andres Sellitto Ferrari (class of 2022)



Andres Sellitto Ferrari

This summer, I had the privilege to intern at WilmerHale's London office. The firm and this office is renowned for its international arbitration team headed by Gary Born, a world-renowned figure in the field. With excitement, I headed to London to pursue this incredible opportunity in an area I am deeply interested in.

My experience was unique. Being mindful of the ongoing pandemic, work started remotely, but the interns were required in London. This allowed me to learn the city on a flexible schedule, traveling from my West London flat. I established great relationships with fellow interns, visiting foreign consultants, and lawyers.

The work itself was very interesting. I worked on a combination of ongoing client matters, academic research projects, and editorial tasks related to upcoming publications. I took part in diverse assignments, from assisting the president of an arbitral tribunal with a request for bifurcation to conducting due diligence research on very sensitive topics for the Firm's clients. These experiences allowed me to delve into practical work in the arbitration field while developing my scholarship, research, and editorial skills. Working with leading

figures in the field, such as Gary Born and Prof. Dr. Maxi Scherer, was a highlight I feel privileged to have experienced.

Likewise, the brilliant body of attorneys at the office is international and diverse, with attorneys from the U.S. to New Zealand and everywhere in between. Sharing my time and work with interns and lawyers with stellar backgrounds and so much experience and knowledge opened my eyes to an new sphere of legal work to which I had never been exposed. This experience will stay with me and will positively impact my career and future worldview.

Despite restrictions caused by the pandemic, I enjoyed myself outside of work. I traveled to Iceland, Spain, and Malta, taking advantage of Europe's famed low-cost flights. London was progressively reborn throughout the summer, and I experienced it in its many bustling facets. The quaintness of Notting Hill, the thriving cultural scene of the South Bank, or the excitement of Leicester Square, among others, provide enough entertainment to stick around not for months but years.

This was an invaluable experience that would have never taken place without the unwavering financial, network, and logistic support from Prof. Brand, Nadine Hafaitha, CILE, and Pitt Law. I am deeply and forever grateful for this opportunity as I head to Paris for my final year of school, pursuing the Sorbonne LLM exchange program. ■

From Pitt Law to the Middle East Via the Vis Moot by Liz Taylor (JD '19)



Elizabeth (Liz) Taylor, JD '19

When I registered for Professor Brand's International Commercial Arbitration class in the fall of 2017, I had no idea that my personal and professional life would be forever changed. At the end of the year, I was fortunate enough to be selected for the 2018 Pitt Law Vis Moot team, which was, in and of itself, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our team traveled to Serbia, Croatia, and Austria to pursue our Top-32 finish in Vienna, making friends and meeting future international arbitration colleagues along the way. My Vis Moot experience could easily have been simply an enjoyable academic and social exercise. Still, in the years since I participated in the moot itself, it has become much more.

In the fall of 2018, Professor Brand asked if I would be interested in joining CILE and CLDP in Tunis, Tunisia, in assisting with their fall Vis training program. With the encouragement and support of my professors, I journeyed to Tunis with a team of attorneys and advisors, including Professor Brand, Mais Abousy, Janet Checkley (JD '14) Zlatan Meskic, and others who would soon become dear friends. I met dozens of students, coaches, and professors from Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, UAE, Iran, Jordan, and Lebanon, all of whom had traveled to Tunisia to learn about international

commercial arbitration and discuss the Vis Moot problem.

From our first day in the auditorium at the Université de Carthage, I had a renewed understanding of why the Vis Moot competition is special. I was humbled by the kindness, intelligence, and resilience of the students, coaches, and advisors who joined us in Tunis. We shared ideas, strategies, and arguments relating to that year's Vis problem in the auditorium. The advisory team presented students with the tools they needed to craft an effective argument, draft compelling legal memoranda, and give persuasive oral pleadings.

After the week in Tunis, I was lucky to work directly with two teams from Iraq and one from Bahrain helping them prepare for the Vis Moot. We worked together weekly for eight weeks revising (and revising) the teams' legal memoranda. In the spring of 2019, I was again asked to join the CLDP and CILE team for the annual Middle East Vis Pre-Moot in Manama, Bahrain, where we engaged in a comprehensive breakdown of legal issues, acted as arbitrators for pre-moot arbitration rounds, and worked directly with students during "office hours" in the hotel lobby in the evenings. It is easy to mention how rewarding and intellectually stimulating the experience is. Still, it would be a disservice to the CLDP and CILE teams if I didn't mention that these weeks are also simply enjoyable. The attorneys, students, and administrators in the Middle East Vis community are great people.

After the 2019 Vis Moot, where I traveled to Vienna to assist CILE with its annual pre-moot in the days before the actual competition, I was hooked. I worked directly with CLDP's Mais Abousy in planning the Fall 2019 training program. Unfortunately, I could not attend in person as I was only three weeks into my post-graduate career at Reed Smith LLP in Pittsburgh. But CLDP was able to bring another dear friend and Pitt Law grad, who has since become an integral part of the CLDP/CILE Middle East Vis team. Throughout the fall of 2019 and winter

of 2020, I worked not only as one of the coaches for the Pitt Law team, who would go on to rank in the top eight teams in the world, but also helped to coach three teams from Iraq and managed the team mentorship program for approximately 30 teams.

In the spring of 2020, in response to COVID-19, the Middle East Vis Pre-Moot organizers went virtual – with only weeks to go before the moot and with no existing protocols for what a virtual moot would look like. The students, coaches, and advisors showed resilience, flexibility, and willingness to work. Not even ten days after we received word that the Kingdom of Bahrain would not permit us to proceed with an in-person event, the first E-Vis Pre-Moot was held, with Pitt Law as a "home base" where Professor Brand, Mais Abousy, and countless advisors and arbitrators showed up at midnight (8 a.m. in Manama, Bahrain) to give presentations, lead group discussions, and arbitrate teams in practice rounds. One would think that showing up five days in a row to "work" from midnight until 8 a.m. (usually before heading into the office at 9 a.m.) would seem like a chore but getting to participate in this kind of event is so rewarding it was easy to forget the sleep deprivation. Plus, Professor Brand often brought donuts.

The following week, nearly 400 teams learned that the Vienna and Hong Kong Moots would also be virtual. Many advisors feared that teams would be uninterested in participating, but we were pleasantly surprised when the teams embraced the virtual platform and made the best of a unique and challenging experience. Technical issues plagued many teams; teams were competing worldwide on Vienna time, meaning that teams were pleading at 2 a.m., 10 p.m., and everything in between; arbitrators struggled with the platform or missed appointments. But, as with all things Vis, the spirit of the moot saw hundreds of teams through their first-ever Virtual Vis Moot. Teams supported each other, rallied around each other, and kept the excitement alive on various email and WhatsApp

chats. When five Pitt Consortium teams made the top 64 teams, we celebrated teams' successes and supported each other through disappointments.

With the pandemic raging, we planned the entire 2020-2021 program with the intent that it would be conducted remotely. Instead of letting the program's quality suffer because of the remote platform, our fearless CLDP leader Mais Abousy decided it was going to be "better than ever." Yet again, I was impressed by how well the organizers worked with the remote platform, enabling advisors like myself to conduct in-depth and engaging seminars throughout the fall semester instead of limiting ourselves to a single week. As a testament to how inspiring these events are, over a dozen former participants donated their time and committed to multiple weekly sessions with various teams to workshop the problem. When it came to the tenth annual Middle East Vis Pre-Moot (and second annual virtual one), the organizers decided to go big and stay home, accepting requests from teams all over the world to participate – and ultimately hosting over 40 teams. When all was said and done, the teams had a tremendous experience, and there were few, if any, tech issues.

It is easy to focus on how challenging things can be in this profession and how frequently we deal with defeat. But I can honestly say that due to a chance enrollment in Professor Brand's International Commercial Arbitration class nearly five years ago, my life – and my career – have been forever changed. I hope to always participate in the Middle East program – as an advisor, as an arbitrator, and as a friend – because getting the opportunity to engage with such a brilliant and dedicated group of students every year is an honor. I am continually inspired by the students' strength, tenacity, and resilience, coaches, and professors who I am lucky to call friends. Moreover, the lessons I have learned along the way have had a positive and immeasurable impact on my career. ■



All roads lead to Rome by Iva Grgic (LLM '15)



Iva Grgic (LLM '15)

After three amazing years in Pittsburgh, this September, I had the honor of being a visiting scholar at the International Institute for Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) in Rome, Italy. UNIDROIT is a 95-year-old organization with 63 Member States representing the five continents and various legal, economic, political systems, and cultural backgrounds. Throughout decades UNIDROIT has produced numerous studies and drafts, many of which have resulted in international instruments contributing to the harmonization, modernization, and development of private commercial law. For the following three months, I will be associated with the daily life and work of UNIDROIT, and, where appropriate, I will assist the UNIDROIT Secretariat with their work in the areas of contract farming, agricultural development, and dispute resolution. Additionally, I will have access to UNIDROIT's library and all bibliographical material and technical support.

As the saying goes: all roads lead to Rome. My journey toward Rome and UNIDROIT started in 2014 as an LLM student at Pitt Law. I wrote a seminar paper on the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in contract farming. Contract farming is a business model based on the agricultural production contract (APC) in which a supplier of agricultural commodities (Farmer) produces and delivers to a buyer (Buyer) a specific quality and quantity of agricultural commodities. What makes APC different from the

regular sale of goods contract is that the Buyer often supports agricultural commodities by providing necessary inputs (e.g., financial assistance, technology, fertilizers, pesticides, or veterinary products).

As a result of the research for the seminar paper, in 2015, I contributed comments and suggestions to the dispute resolution chapter of the UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Zero Draft of the Legal Guide on Contract Farming. My advice to the UNIDROIT Working Group was to consider the work and success of the Fruit and Vegetables Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC), which was based on the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In particular, I emphasized the importance and success of DRC's multi-dispute resolution processes (i.e., informal and formal mediation or arbitration) and reputational and peer-pressure sanctions, such as warning, expulsion, de-listing, or grey and back listing.

My seminar paper was a catalyst for my doctoral (SJD) dissertation. In 2018, I started my SJD program at Pitt Law under the supervision of Professor Brand. As an SJD student, I am still focusing on contract farming; however, I am tackling unfair trading practices (UTPs) in contract farming this time. I am researching how legal systems regulate UTPs in contract farming and how to ensure commercial justice and contract enforcement to the Farmer as affected mainly by UTPs. I focus on the

imbalance of bargaining power inherent between Farmer and Buyer within contract farming and how that imbalance leads to UTPs that harm the Farmer, the economically weaker party.

The imbalance of bargaining power within the agricultural industry is a well-known issue many governments are putting back on the political agenda. For example, in 2019, after years of research on the imbalance of bargaining power, the European Union enacted the Directive on Unfair Trading Practices in Business-to-Business Relationships in Food Supply Chain to provide necessary protections to small and medium-sized Farmers. In addition, in June 2021, the President of the U.S. signed an Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy. The goal is to put the focus on fair and open competition in agriculture (and other industries) by addressing the negative consequences that monopolies have on Farmers. Following the Executive Order, the USDA has initiated a review of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 100-year-old legislation designed to prevent market manipulation and protect Farmers from UTPs.

The European and American initiatives regarding the imbalance of bargaining power and UTPs in the agricultural industry confirm the importance of finding a solution for these issues. Thus, my dissertation aims to provide a model for the future based on dispute resolution mechanisms designed to help minimize the occurrence and the negative consequences of UTPs and ensure commercial justice and contract enforcement for Farmers. In my dissertation, I argue that a fair and effective dispute resolution mechanism discourages the Buyer from imposing UTPs on the Farmer and provides necessary protections for Farmers. Joining UNIDROIT is a tremendous opportunity for me and my professional career, and I am forever thankful to Professor Brand. This opportunity would not have been possible without his constant support, guidance, and encouragement. ■

Building Bridges Between Legal Systems at the HCCH by Christopher Anderson (JD '20)



Christopher Anderson at the Peace Palace in The Hague

I went to law school with the idea of combining my ability to speak and write French with my interests in international commerce and diplomacy. Through my education, I learned the value of "translating," not just between languages but between different legal systems and traditions. Now, I've joined the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) as a Legal Officer charged with doing exactly that.

I took advantage of the full scope of CILE's opportunities. I traveled to Belgium and Ukraine with a class organized in partnership with GSPIA and the Center for International Studies. I spent my 1L summer in Kyiv for an internship with the international arbitration practice group of a major Ukrainian law firm. As a 2L, I was one of the first two students from Pitt law to complete the LLM exchange program with Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, which I capped off with an internship at a Parisian law firm. And I participated in the Sciences Po International Arbitration Moot Court in conjunction with Professor Curran's seminar class, advancing to the second round of competition.

Every day, I draw on my education that developed my ability to operate in international settings and understand different perspectives within the legal community.

I contribute to HCCH's mission of the progressive harmonization of private international law in my new position. I work primarily in commercial and financial law, focusing on the effective implementation of the 1985 Convention on the Law Applicable to Trusts and on their Recognition and the 2006 Convention on the Law Applicable to Certain Rights in Respect of Securities held by intermediaries. These two conventions and their intersection with the digitalization (and tokenization) of assets is the topic of a conference I am helping to plan for December 2022. I also have responsibilities in the area of family law and child protection.

As two organizations devoted to furthering the rule of law worldwide, the relationship between CILE and HCCH is already decades old. Pitt Law has sent students, Professor Kotuby among them, as interns to The Hague; we have alumni working for the federal government to implement Hague conventions, and Professor Brand himself has represented the United States at Special Commissions and Diplomatic Sessions at the HCCH. I am both proud and excited to carry this tradition into the future. ■



Christopher Anderson at the HCCH offices in The Hague



Nevena Jevremovic (LLM '16) Named Honorary Lecturer, University of Aberdeen School of Law



Nevena Jevremovic (LLM '16)

In 2015, I was coaching the Sarajevo Vis Team and working with the Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce on the Vis Moot Training Program for Bosnia and Herzegovina. I received a scholarship from the British Government to complete an LL.M. in the UK as a Chevening Scholar. My plan was set, and I was excited about the future. And then, as it so often happens in life, that path changed.

I remember sitting with Professors Ron Brand and Harry Flechtner in a coffee shop in Vienna discussing the possibility of me joining the Pitt LL.M. program. Even at that point, I knew Pitt was the best choice for me. Some might have argued otherwise, some of my friends even did. But I knew. And I wasn't wrong. As many former LL.M. students will tell you, a year at Pitt is a year

like no other. We learned, struggled, overcame cultural shocks, became friends – all in all, we grew. After Pitt, I joined the Institute for International Commercial Law (IICL) as an Albert H. Kritzer Fellow. It was a rewarding experience working on the CISG Database, the most significant collection of case law, and scholarly work on the UN Convention on Contracts for International Sale of Goods, helping it become what it is today. I then took a turn towards private international law, working for six months at the Hague Conference for Private International Law. Witnessing the ins and outs of the diplomatic process that led to the Hague Convention on Recognition of Foreign Judgements was as remarkable an experience, as was living and working in the Hague. At that time, I was unsure where to go next. I wanted to continue working in the field of international commercial law and dispute resolution, but was not ready for a full transition

to academia. An opportunity opened up to work with contract and commercial managers from leading companies worldwide. As a Manager for Corporate Learning at World Commerce and Contracting (formerly International Association for Contract and Commercial Management), I worked on designing programs for CCM practitioners, supported senior managers in designing their business plans, and worked with universities such as Leeds and Stanford on CCM academic symposia. The hands-on experience opened new doors for me, allowing me to bridge my academic interests with practical insights. Recently, I have received an offer for the position of Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, School of Law. I shall take on the role officially upon completion of my Ph.D.

Over the past seven years, I had the privilege of working with a diverse group of exceptionally qualified individuals who broadened my horizons, allowing me to adjust to new environments quickly. I am thankful for the opportunities to study alongside, work with, and learn from my peers and senior colleagues on these occasions. I have also been working with students from the Western Balkan region, Western Europe, North America, and West Asia. Yet, none of this would have been as successful and as rewarding had it not been for the year at Pitt Law. For me, the LL.M. at Pitt set the foundations for the winding, but fulfilling career path. Looking back, I can trace my achievements to Barco, its professors, and students. The tremendous support I received from Pitt professors, most notably Professors Brand and Flechtner, inspired me to think outside of the box and confidently express different, progressive, challenging views through my research. I can only hope to influence my students in the same way. ■



Nadine Hafaitha, a year as CILE's Graduate Assistant: The journey from Palestine to Pittsburgh

On July 6, 2018, I left Palestine to continue my legal education. This became possible after I competed in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in 2017 and received the Palestinian Rule of Law Fellowship ("PROL") to complete an LLM at Pitt Law. I was the first person in my family to travel abroad.

At Pitt Law, CILE and the Vis Moot changed my life. I competed as a part of the Pitt Law Vis Moot team in the 26th Vis Moot. Later, Professor Brand recommended I intern at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in London, where I spent a year working as an intern and visiting foreign consultant. Fast forward two years later, we put together the second-ever Palestinian Vis Moot team from An-Najah National University ("ANNU") in Nablus, Palestine. The team, consisting of Noor Abu Hasan, Heba Jamoos, Batool Abuzant, and Danya Qerim, competed in the 28th Vis Moot competition (the team is pictured from left to right). This became possible with the help and support of many great individuals, who found the time to look back at several underprivileged students and worked with me to reach them. This includes Professor Gary Born from WilmerHale, CILE's Professor Brand, CLDP, ANNU, and so many other lawyers and colleagues, including (but not limited to): Glenys Spence, Sameer Thakur, and Philip Ray. Because of their efforts, the team also trained and competed in the 11th Annual Vis Middle East Pre-Moot and the Second AlexU-CRCICA International Vis Pre-Moot.

My goal was to allow these students to learn and gain hope. When in Palestine, you can only see whatever is around you. That is poverty and lack of opportunities (educational and professional). I coached because I had hoped I would help some students meet new people from around the globe and see new futures for themselves in law. This goal remains the same. I see an opportunity for a developed arbitration legal framework to enhance the Palestinian economy. This starts with legal education about international arbitration in Palestinian law schools. The Vis Moot is a wonderful educational tool that will help Palestinian law schools pursue this goal. ■

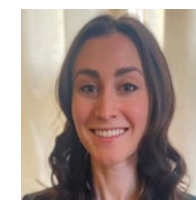


The second-ever Palestinian Vis Moot team

Pitt Law Vis Moot Team Finishes 16th Out Of 389 Teams

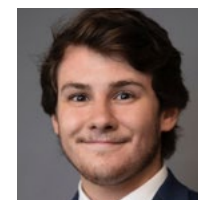


Nicholas Chan

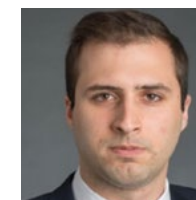


Christina Fulponi

The Pitt Law team of Nicholas Chan, Christina Fulponi, Rob Galloway, and Andy Sellitto Ferrari made a great run in the 28th Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, held on March 27-April 1, 2021. While the moot was all online, rather than in Vienna, all arguments were on Vienna time. After the general rounds, the team scored at number 16 out of 389 teams, which moved them into the "knock-out" round of 64 teams, where (at 2:00 a.m. Pittsburgh time) they defeated the Kutifin Moscow State team. They were one of only two U.S. teams in the round of 32, bowing out to the University of Freiburg.



Rob Galloway



Andres Sellitto Ferrari

Several Pitt Law graduates also participated as arbitrators, provided effective coaching of the Pitt team, and helped train teams from more than 50 other schools. Liz Taylor, Robbie Cimmino, David Zwier, Nadine Hafaitha, Nick Bencsics, and others were a part of this group. Another Pitt Law grad, John Paul Putney, enlisted Jones Day (and the Jones Day Foundation) to support three teams from Kenya, one of which (Strathmore University) made the round of 16 teams. Along with Professor Brand, Professor Harry Flechtner served as a faculty coach from his retirement hideout in Maine.



LLMs and SJDs 2019-2020

LLM DECEMBER 2021 CLASS

Nawaf Albalud (*Saudi Arabia*) received his Bachelor of Laws from Shaqra University in Dawadmi, Saudi Arabia, in 2018. He qualified as a legal advisor with the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce in 2018 and has worked as an intern with Albaloud Real Estate Inc. He is a graduate of Pitt's English Language Institute

Tahereh Nohekhan (*Iran*) received her Bachelor of Laws from the University of Tehran, Iran, in 2016, where she completed research on types and conditions of aviation crimes under the supervision of Professor Mahmoud Mahdavi. She has attended international conferences of the Iran Central Bar Association on international trade law, foreign investment, energy law, and international dispute resolution.

LLM CLASS OF 2022

Luisa Auricchio (*Germany*) is a student at the University of Augsburg. She has worked as an intern with the Augsburg Administrative Court and the World Health Organization and as a volunteer tutor for young refugees with Rudolf Steiner School. The University of Augsburg selected her to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

Dominik Bley (*Germany*) received his Bachelor's Degree in Law and Economics at the University of Augsburg, where he is completing a Master's Degree in Law and Economics, focusing on taxation. He studied in the Republic of Korea as part of his undergraduate program. He has worked as an intern with both the County and District Courts in Munich, with RAW & Partner, and at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Benedikt Cladder (*Germany*) received his Bachelor's Degree in Law and Economics at the University of Augsburg, where he is completing a Master's degree in Law and Economics, with a major in



LLM class of 2022

Finance and a minor in Taxation. Benedikt studied for a semester at the University of Oslo. He has been a research assistant at the University of Augsburg, where he analyzed data on tax law. He also worked as an intern at Ergo Group AG and Unicredit Bank AG. The University of Augsburg selected him to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

Giulia Giannotti (*France*) received her Bachelor's Degree in French and Italian Law with distinction from the University of Paris I – Pantheon Sorbonne, where she is completing her Master's Degree. She has interned with the Castaldi partners law firm and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Sorbonne selected her to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

Clotilde Hocquard (*France*) received a dual Bachelor's Degree in Law and History and Economics and Social Science from University of Paris I–Pantheon Sorbonne, where she is completing her Master's Degree. She interned at Ruben Et Associates and for the Deputy of the Orne Department in Normandy. The Sorbonne selected her to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

Ali Abdullah Kohistani (*Afghanistan*) received his Bachelor's Degree in Law and Political Science from Kabul University and his Master's Degree in International Relations from Kardan University. He worked as an International Compliance Assistant for Prime Counsel, preparing immigration cases for Afghanistan and

Iraq. He has also worked as a legal advisor at the World Bank/Kabul City Urban Transport Improvement Project.

Camille Lulanie (*France*) received her Bachelor's Degree in Public Law, with a University Diploma in Secularism and the Republic, from Caen University. She earned her Master's Degree in Arbitration and International Trade Law from the University of Paris I – Sorbonne. Camille was part of a combined sports-study program: horseriding at a competitive level. She has been a Legal Intern within the litigation department at Crédit Agricole S.A. and has worked in the legal department at GIE Cartes Bancaires-CB. The Sorbonne selected her to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

Julia Lindemiller (*Germany*) is a law student at the University of Augsburg. She studied at Ludwigs Maximilian University in Munich and worked in Australia. The University of Augsburg selected her to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

Andrea Maceri (*Italy*) received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Law from the University of Trieste. He did a two-year internship at a small law firm in Trieste before becoming a Contract Manager for a pipe mill in Louisiana. He is General Counsel for North America for the iron and steel division of the Danieli Corporation, headquartered in Pittsburgh.

Cameron McCrumb (*U.K.*) received his LLB in 2018 from the University of Aberdeen, where he also received a

Diploma in Professional Legal Practice in 2019. He spent six summers in the U.S. working with children from underrepresented backgrounds. Cameron has worked as a Trainee Solicitor at a law firm in Scotland in the oil and gas sector.

Luisa Merten (*Germany*) received her Bachelor's Degree from Saarland University and is completing her Master's degree at the University of Augsburg. She interned at an insurance agency. The University of Augsburg selected her to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

Margaret Nornor-Quadjie (*Ghana*) received her Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Ghana and her Bachelor's Degree of Land Economy from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. She received a Master's Degree in Development Studies from the University of Ghana and a PhD in Healthcare Ethics from Duquesne University. Margaret is founder and CEO of a non-profit that advocates for patient rights and patient-centered care. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Duquesne University.

Ana Luisa Palminha (*Portugal*) received her Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Minho. She finished a mandatory two-year attorney internship before passing the Portuguese Bar exams. Ana Luisa started her career as a Legal Counsel in the Human Resources department at the University of Porto in Portugal. She then moved into a role at the Portuguese Social Security. In 2017, she moved to Pittsburgh, where she worked as a Legal Document Reviewer and volunteered with Pittsburgh Cares.

Alberto Pomari (*Italy*) received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Verona. He was appointed "Alfiere del Lavoro"—one of the 25 best Italian students—by the President of the Italian Republic. Alberto participated in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. He worked as a basketball referee for the major league of Northeastern Italy.

Filip Srbinoski (*North Macedonia*) received his LLB and LLM at the University of Saings Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. He held internship positions in global sales and contract law and at the Open Society Foundation. He participated as an

oralist at the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition. He has been a volunteer monitor for the Municipal Election Process.

Kingson Uwandu (*Nigeria*) received his LLB at the University of Lagos, Akoka, and his Barrister at Law at the Nigerian Law School, Bwari. He then went on to earn his LLM at the University of Lagos, Akoka. He has served as an Adjunct Lecturer at Christopher University, as Principal Solicitor at Elysian Solicitors, as Legal Counsel at Dataflex Nigeria, and as an Associate Counsel at Dele Adesina. He established the Elysian Solicitors to offer free legal services to Nigerian citizens on civil rights matters.

Raphael Vialle (*France*) earned his LLB in French Law from the University of Paris–Pantheon–Sorbonne, where he is completing his Master's Degree in International Business and Tax Law. He interned in tax law at Hogan Lovells, worked in financial delinquency and tax litigation at the Court of Appeal of Paris, interned in corporate law and audit at the French Department of Justice, and was an ambassador assistant at the Albanian Embassy in France. The Sorbonne selected him to participate in their exchange with Pitt Law.

SJD Students, 2021-2022

NEW SJD STUDENTS

Hazim Alotaibi (*Saudi Arabia*) is preparing his dissertation on artificial intelligence in health care. His dissertation supervisor is Professor Mary Crossley. He received his Bachelor's of Law degree in Shari'a Islamic Law from the Jamiat Al-Imam Mohamed Ibn Saud Al-Islamiah University in Saudi Arabia, and his LLM degree from Boston University School of Law in 2016. He has worked most recently as a junior faculty member at King Faisal University College of Law in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia, and has been a visiting scholar at Tufts University.

CONTINUING SJD STUDENTS

Nadine Hafaitha (*Palestine*) is preparing her dissertation on Arbitration related reform in Palestine under the supervision of Professor Ronald Brand. She received her Bachelor's of Law from An-Najah University in Palestine in 2017 and her LLM from Pitt Law in 2019. She was the recipient of the 2018 Palestinian Rule of Law Fellowship for her LLM Studies and received the CALI Excellence for the Future Award in International Commercial Arbitration. She was a member of Pitt Law's 2019 Vis Moot team. She has been an intern and a Visiting Foreign Legal Consultant at Wilmer Hale in London, where she was responsible for researching challenging arbitration-related issues and initiating gradual arbitration-related reform efforts in Palestine.

Wasfi Al-Sharaa (*Iraq*) is writing his dissertation on the use of criminal law in energy and environmental regulation. His dissertation supervisor is Professor Haider Hamoudi. He received his Bachelor's of Law from Shatt-El-Arab University College in 1998 and a Master's Degree in law from the University of Baghdad in 2001. He is an assistant professor of law and assistant dean of academic affairs at Basra Law School in Iraq and recipient of a full scholarship from the University of Basra.

Ahmed Al Yarabi (*Oman*) is writing his dissertation on the legislative process under the constitution of Oman. His dissertation advisor is Professor Jules Lobel. He received his Bachelor's of Law from the College of Law of Sultan Qaboos University of Oman in 2011 and his LLM from Pitt Law in 2014. He has worked most recently as a lawyer for the Oman Telecommunications Company and as in-house counsel for other companies in Oman.

Iva Grgic (*Croatia*) is writing her dissertation on the law of contract farming. Her dissertation advisor is Professor Ronald Brand. She received her Bachelor's of Law from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, in 2013 and her LLM from Pitt Law in 2014. Before returning to Pitt Law, she worked in Zagreb as an associate with Bardek, Lisac, Mušec, Skoko in cooperation with CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz. Her



work experience includes a post-LLM internship with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP and internships with Law Office Lipovscaj and Wolf Theiss, both in Zagreb. She was the coach of Pitt Law's 2015 Jessup Moot team, which won first place honors for its memorial submissions and the 2019 Jessup Moot team.

Mais Haddad (Syria) is writing her dissertation on a comparative study of legal discrimination against religious, ethnic, and other minorities in the different nation-states of the Middle East. Her dissertation advisor is Professor Haider Hamoudi. She received her Bachelor's of Laws from the University of Damascus in Syria in 2004, an LLM in International Law from the University of Damascus in 2008, and her Master of Arts in International Politics from the City University London in 2009. She received a Chevening Scholarship from the Foreign Commonwealth Office of Britain in 2008. She has worked as a financial and investment advisor and was a practicing attorney in Damascus from 2004-2013.

Vincent Mutai (Kenya) is writing his dissertation on the law of parallel importation of pharmaceutical products into the East Africa Community Common Market. His dissertation advisor is Professor Ronald Brand. He received his Bachelor's of Law from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, in 2000; his LLM from Pitt Law in 2003; and an MBA from Point Park University in Pittsburgh in 2006. He has been the head of the Department of Commercial Law at Moi University School of Law, Acting University/Corporation Secretary for Moi University, and is a Founding Director of the Legal Aid Clinic of Eldoret (LACE) and Director of the National Legal Aid Service of Kenya.

Dr. Sulaiman Almualllem Joins Our SJD Alumni

Sulaiman Almualllem (Saudi Arabia) successfully defended his dissertation on "A Reformatory Legal Vision for the Kingdom: The Adoption of Rules of Discovery in the Civil Procedural System of Saudi Arabia: Considering the Example of the United States Discovery Regime," on January 21, 2021. His dissertation advisor was Professor Jasmin Gonzales Rose. He received his Bachelor's of Law from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 2010 and an LLM from Indiana University's Maurer School of Law in 2016. He has worked as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law of King Abdulaziz University and as a teaching assistant in the College of Law of Taibah University in Medina, Saudi Arabia.



Sulaiman Almualllem

Previous Pitt Law SJD Dissertations

2011 Yi-Ting (Cathy) Cheng (Taiwan), [The Future of GATS Article XV: Service Subsidy Regulations Under the WTO](#)

Fatima Waziri (Nigeria), [Strengthening of Anti Corruption Commissions and Laws in Nigeria](#)

2014 Bandar Alrasheed (Saudi Arabia), [Corporate Governance of the Saudi Arabian Publicly Traded Companies: An Appraisal and Proposals for Improvement](#)

2015 Vjosa Osmani (Kosovo), [Treaty Application in Kosovo through Rules of Succession and as Domestic Law: The Example of the CISG](#)

2017 Hisham Ababneh (Jordan), [A Model BIT for Development: The Example of Jordan](#)

Abdullah Alaoudh (Saudi Arabia), [Religious Institutions in the Constitutional Orders of the Post-Revolution Arab Countries: Egypt as a Case Study](#)

Abdullah Alaoudh (Saudi Arabia), [Religious Institutions in the Constitutional Orders of the Post-Revolution Arab Countries: Egypt as a Case Study](#)

Zvenislava Opeida (Ukraine), [Strengthening the WTO Subsidies Regime](#)

2018 Ohud Alzahrani (Saudi Arabia), [The Adoption of Children: An Exploration of Islamic Law in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and How it Compares to the International Standards Set by the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption](#)

2019 Oday Mahmood (Iraq), [The Basis for Judicial Review in the Federal Supreme Court in Iraq: Mediating Between Democracy and Human Rights through Islam's Settled Rulings](#)

2020 Doris Toyou (Cameroon), Private Equity and Investor Protection in the United States and in Europe.

Student International and Comparative Law Publications

Andrés Sellitto Ferrari, [Can the Singapore Convention finally bring upon commercial mediation in outer space disputes?](#), 42 YOUNG ARBITRATION REVIEW 17 (July 2021)

Andrés Sellitto Ferrari, [In Pursuit of the Right Path: The Promise of Islamic Leadership in the Post-Singapore Convention World of International Commercial Mediation](#), UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2021)



Faculty International and Comparative Law Publications

Elena Baylis, [Transnational Collaborations](#) in TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AS BEHAVIOR (Harlan Grant Cohen & Timothy Meyer, eds., 2021)

Elena Baylis, [Extreme Cases in Hybrid Criminal Courts](#), 35 TEMPLE INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW JOURNAL 95 (2021)

Elena Baylis, [White Supremacy, Police Brutality, and Family Separation: Preventing Crimes Against Humanity Within the United States](#), UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2022)

Ronald A. Brand, [The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements-The Triumph of Party Autonomy](#), in ELGAR COMPANION ON THE HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW 296-306 (Rishi Guladi, Thomas John, and Ben Koehler, eds., 2020)

Ronald A. Brand, [Harry Flechtner - A True Teacher/Scholar, With Rhythm](#), 39 JOURNAL OF LAW AND COMMERCE 7-9 (2019-2020), available [here](#).

Ronald A. Brand, [The CISG: Applicable Law and Applicable Forums](#), 39 JOURNAL OF LAW AND COMMERCE 137-154 (2019-2020), available [here](#).

Ronald A. Brand, [Jurisdiction and Judgments Recognition at the Hague Conference: Choices Made, Treaties Completed, and the Path Ahead](#), 67 NETHERLANDS INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW 3-17 (2020), available [here](#). (May 2020)

Charles Kotuby: [Book Review: The Foundation of Choice of Law by Sagi Peari](#) (Oxford 2018), INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW QUARTERLY (2020)

Charles Kotuby: [Book Review: General Principles of Law in Investment Arbitration by A. Gattini et al.](#) (Nijhoff 2019), JOURNAL OF WORLD INVESTMENT AND TRADE (2020) (with Luke A. Sobota)

International and Comparative Law Postings by Pitt Law Faculty

The following are papers on international and comparative law that were uploaded by Pitt Law faculty to SSRN and Digital Commons in the past year. You may view all Pitt Law SSRN posted papers [here](#) and all Digital Commons posted papers [here](#).

Elena Baylis, ["White Supremacy, Police Brutality, and Family Separation: Preventing Crimes Against Humanity Within the United States"](#), UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2022). View [here](#).

Ronald A. Brand, ["A Hague Convention on Parallel Proceedings"](#), working paper [here](#). View [here](#).

Ronald A. Brand, ["The Vulnerable Sovereign"](#), UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW (forthcoming). View [here](#).

Ronald A. Brand, [Harry Flechtner, "A True Teacher/Scholar, with Rhythm"](#), 38 JOURNAL OF LAW & COMMERCE 7 (2019-2020). View [here](#).

Ronald A. Brand, ["The Hague Judgments Convention in the United States: A 'Game Changer' or a New Path to the Old Game?"](#), UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW (forthcoming). View [here](#).

Ronald A. Brand, ["Provisional Measures in Aid of Arbitration."](#) View abstract [here](#).

Vivian Grosswald Curran, ["L'Europe face aux défis de pluralismes inattendus"](#) (Europe and the Challenges of Unexpected Pluralisms) (forthcoming in DES MÉLANGES OUVERTS : CHEMINER AVEC MIREILLE DELMAS-MARTY (Geneviève Giudicelli-Delage et al., ed.s). View [here](#).

Vivian Grosswald Curran, ["Appraising the U.S. Supreme Court's Philipp Decision"](#), UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW (forthcoming). View [here](#).

Vivian Grosswald Curran, ["Federal Rule 44.1: Foreign Law in U.S. Courts Today"](#), 30 MINNESOTA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, (forthcoming). View [here](#).

Haider Ala Haoudi, ["Engagements and Entanglements: The Contemporary Waqf and the Fragility of Shi'i Quietism"](#), 35 JOURNAL OF LAW AND RELIGION 2115 (2020). View [here](#).

Rhonda Wasserman, ["Family Law Disputes Between International Couples in U.S. Courts"](#), 43 FAMILY ADVOCATE 22 (2020). View [here](#).



Faculty Activities



Professor Elena Baylis
On **October 29, 2020**, Professor Elena Baylis spoke on "Preventing Crimes Against

Humanity Within the United States" at the American Society of International Law Research Forum. Her paper on the topic was selected in a competition for the Forum.

On **November 20, 2020**, Professor Baylis spoke on "Systemic Racism in the United States as an International Crime" at the Temple Law School Institute for International Law and Public Policy.

On **May 28, 2021**, Professor Baylis spoke on "Preventing Crimes Against Humanity Within the United States" at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting.



Professor Ronald A. Brand
In **September 2020**, Professor Brand provided a course in cooperation with the Commercial

Law Development Program (CLDP) of the U.S. Department of Commerce to be used in training students for the Willem Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot at more than 30 law schools in the Middle East, the Balkans, and Central Asia. The course includes ten video lectures on the law of international commercial arbitration, followed by online discussions with trainers, including Pitt Law students and alumni. The course will be followed by training sessions in October, in which the material covered in the course will be applied to the 28th Annual Vis Moot problem.

On **November 16-19, 2020**, Professor Brand participated as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Expert Group of the Hague Conference on Private International Law tasked with determining the feasibility of negotiation of a convention on either or both of direct jurisdiction or parallel proceedings in international litigation. The Experts' Group met by video on each of the four days and included participants from eighteen countries.

On **December 8, 2020**, Professor Brand led a breakout session in the ABA International Law Section Virtual Program on "Principles of Treaty Interpretation - Does Vienna Wait for You?" The three-hour program will include an overview of treaty interpretation and breakout sessions on national security exceptions in trade and investment agreements, human rights treaty interpretation, and interpreting conventions of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Brand will lead the Hague Conventions breakout.

On **February 1-5, 2021**, Professor Brand participated as one of the three U.S. members of the Expert Group of the Hague Conference on Private International Law tasked with determining the feasibility of negotiation of a convention on either or both of direct jurisdiction or parallel proceedings in international litigation. The other U.S. members were lawyers from the U.S. Departments of State and Justice. The Experts' Group met by video on each of the four days and included participants from eighteen countries and the European Union.

On **February 21, 2021**, Professor Brand led an "Arbitrators' Roundtable" discussion of the issues in the 28th Annual Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot as part of the 11th Annual Middle East Vis opening ceremonies Pre-Moot. View [here](#).

On **February 21-27, 2021**, Professor Brand helped administer the 11th Annual Middle East Vis Pre-Moot, which is co-sponsored by Pitt Law's

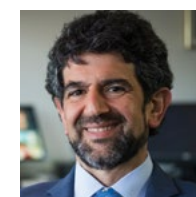
Center for International Legal Education (CILE), along with the U.S. Commerce Department's Commercial Law Development Program and the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution. This year's competition hosted 40 teams from 24 countries. Professor Brand and Pitt Law Professor Emeritus Harry Flechtner were scheduled to arbitrate the final round but were conflicted out when the Pitt Law team of Nicholas Chan, Christina Fulponi, Robert Galloway, and Anres Sellitto Ferrari reached the final round but bowed to the team from the National Law University of India. View [here](#).

On **March 8, 2021**, Professor Brand spoke on "Application of provisions of the CISG as Customary Rules" as part of the opening ceremony webinar for the Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC) 4th Vis Pre-Moot. The Pre-Moot is administered in part by Iranian lawyers who were part of the first Iranian team to the Vis Moot in 2015 and trained by Professor Brand at the Middle East Vis Pre-Moot. View [here](#).

From **March 5 through April 16, 2021**, Professor Brand led and taught in an online course titled "International Topics: Study Abroad at Home" as a cooperative venture of Pitt Law's Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and the University of Belgrade School of Law. The seven-week, one-credit course was taught for credit at Pitt and Belgrade and involved weekly sessions by faculty from both law schools. Pitt Law LLM graduates from around the world participated in a special professors' panel to discuss each lecture and answer students' questions. Each two-hour session was attended online by more than 100 students.

On **April 8, 2021**, Professor Brand spoke on "The Vulnerable Sovereign" as part of a panel on The Sovereign and the Individual in the Law for the Conference on Sovereignty, Humanity, and Law. The conference was co-sponsored by Pitt Law's Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and the Law and Humanities Institute and was part of the 25th-anniversary celebration of CILE.

On **May 18 and 19**, Professor Brand moderated two panels for the three-day conference on "Deals and Disputes: China, Hong Kong, and Commercial Law," sponsored by Pitt Law's Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and the University of Pittsburgh Asian Studies Center. The panels covered "Hong Kong, Beijing, and Asian Competition for Dispute Resolution Services," "Hong Kong, Beijing, and Asian Competition for Dispute Resolution Services."



Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi, Vice Dean

On **March 24, 2021**, Professor Hamoudi spoke at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union

on how Shi'i jurists approach the traditional Islamic crime of banditry. Banditry usually involves threats to the public order that have the effect of frightening people and destabilizing society (highway robbery, acts of terror, piracy on the open road or sea, etc.). Shi'i jurists are traditionally very state skeptical and so seek to balance between, on the one hand, maintaining some semblance of order (i.e., no pillaging the legislature) while at the same time not granting the state excessive license to use this as an instrument of repression against dissent.

On **March 5, 2021**, Professor Hamoudi spoke as part of Harvard Law's Islamic Law Program on viewing Islamic law from the internal perspective—i.e., from the vantage point of one within the system seeking to make arguments based on it rather than viewing it externally as a phenomenon to be studied. He compared that perspective to how American law can be viewed from the internal and external perspectives (for example, from a lawyer or judge on the one hand, or a lawyer or historian on the other) and noted that the Western

academy is skewed towards people who view Islamic law from an external perspective, and hence more critically and skeptically. The skew is a problem in that it results in a distorted view of Islamic law as irrational and less capable of reasoned decision-making in the contemporary era.



Professor Charles T. Kotuby Jr., FCI Arb
On **April 8, 2021**, Professor Kotuby spoke on "Private Rights

and Sovereign Obligations under International Law" as part of a panel on The Sovereign and the Individual in the Law for the Conference on Sovereignty, Humanity, and Law.



Professor Michael Madison
In **2021**, Professor Madison published "[Fair Play: Notes on the Algorithmic Soccer Referee](#)," 23 VAND. J. ENT.

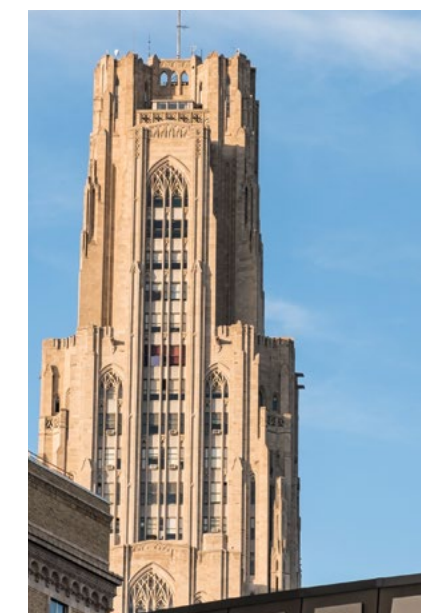
& TECH. L. 341-432 (2021), which is a study of how computers might change governance (i.e., judging) that uses professional soccer as the case study. As Danny Rojas says on "Ted Lasso," football is life. In April 2021, he participated in an online conference on the Future of Legal Services sponsored and hosted by the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. In **June 2021**, Professor Madison was a co-host and member of the steering committee for the IASC Knowledge Commons Virtual Conference, a three-day event. IASC is the International Association for the Study of Commons. The conference was the 4th global convening of the knowledge commons research community. The first was in 2012 in Belgium; the others have been in New York and Paris. Professor Madison is the only person to have attended all four events.

Professor Madison also recorded and released numerous episodes of the Future Law Podcast featuring guests from the U.K., Europe, Australia, and Canada. Listen [here](#).



Professor Andrele Brutus St. Val completed a project in summer 2021 in Uzbekistan through USAID, where she

provided support to a local university in Tashkent to develop their new online curriculum.



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