



# cile notes

C E N T E R F O R I N T E R N A T I O N A L L E G A L E D U C A T I O N



## The Continuing Relevance of High Standards and a Personal Approach

By Ronald A. Brand

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Professor, John E. Murray Faculty Scholar, and Academic Director, CILE

The Center for International Legal Education (CILE) at the University of Pittsburgh is in its third decade of educating foreign lawyers and working to improve the education of U.S. law students. During this time, much has changed at CILE, but the basics have remained constant. Our approach to educating students with the goal of sending them out to advance the rule of law has proved to be as important now as ever. Our desire to enroll future leaders, and to keep our class size at a number designed to ensure their ability to achieve their potential, continues to define our approach to our LLM and SJD programs. Our belief that this approach enhances the education of our JD students as well has proved to be well-founded.

While other law schools have dramatically enlarged their LLM classes, that has not happened at Pitt Law. Declining JD enrollment has placed overwhelming pressures on law schools to seek the financial benefits of larger LLM classes. **Four fundamental program principles** at Pitt Law and CILE have cautioned against such an approach, and we believe adherence to those principles has proved to be the better course.

The first two principles have become

the mantra for all of our student-oriented programs at CILE. **All education is personal.** This principle has guided our LLM and JD programs. We seek students who want to connect with Pitt Law professors outside, as well as inside, the classroom. We make sure that social events not only make those connections more easily accomplished, but allow them to flourish. And we make every effort to extend the academic process with summer internships for the LLM students.

**Your transcript will get you your degree, but your résumé will get you your career.**

This principle means that CILE programs for all students emphasize that a strong record in courses is important, but also focus on the need for summer study abroad and summer overseas internships for JD students, and seek to provide challenging extracurricular activities for all students. Our training programs for the Vis Moot, both within Pitt Law and throughout the world, demonstrate the relevance and strength of this last factor.

The third and fourth principles provide the foundation for an LLM program that guarantees integrity in the entire legal education process at Pitt Law. **High quality foreign lawyers in the classroom enhance the experience for**

**American JD students.** LLM students at Pitt Law appreciate the opportunity to take most of their courses alongside Pitt JD students. This enhances the intercultural experience, ensures comparative discussions which add greater understanding, and develops important social and professional networks for all students. For the LLM students, it enriches their understanding of American legal education, generally, and challenges them to accomplish in a second (or third) language—and in a single year—what those beside them are accomplishing in a single language in three years. This requires that we admit strong students, but it also demands that we treat them like respected legal professionals. **LLM students are not second-class citizens in a law school.** While we take a personal approach to the education of our LLM students, this fourth principle means they get no special deals that diminish their value in the eyes of others. Their exams and papers are graded with the same anonymity and adhere to the same standards that are applied to JD students. LLM students are legal professionals and deserve the respect that comes from not being treated as less-than-capable lawyers. We learned early in the LLM program that our graduates want to return to their home countries with a transcript that holds up to scrutiny, and an education that really does prepare them for the challenges of law and leadership.

“ All **education** is personal. ”

The pages that follow catalogue a year of programs and progress based on these principles. We invite you to consider, in particular, the stories in the words of our students and graduates, which appear on a gold shaded background. We also invite you to join us at CILE in our efforts to improve upon what we believe is a strong legal education process. Together, we can apply the four principles outlined above to achieve our **singular goal of changing the world through legal education, one lawyer at a time.** ■

# Your Support is the Foundation for Student Success



**By Richard Thorpe**  
Executive Director, CILE

This year's issue of *CILE Notes* documents, among other accomplishments, another year of achievement by our JD and LLM students both within and outside the classroom. Their successes are a tribute to their talent and dedication, but the opportunities that they have had to demonstrate those qualities depend on the support provided by our alumni and friends. Our future depends on your continued assistance, and I urge to consider contributing to CILE's future in one or more of the following ways:

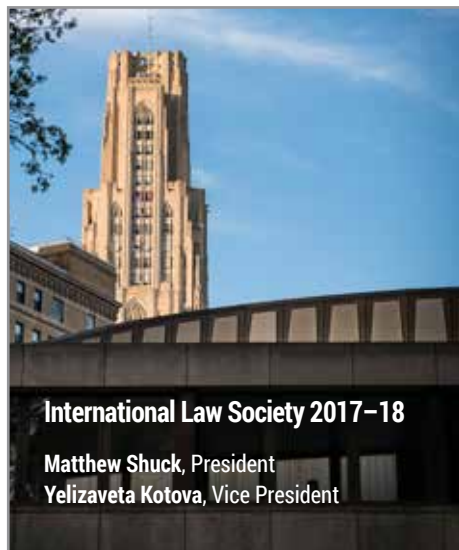
**Host an LLM student as a summer intern in a law office or in-house department in Pittsburgh or elsewhere in the United States.** For many of our graduating LLMs, the capstone of their year in the United States has been the opportunity to see U.S. law in practice by working for one or more months as an intern with a law firm or in-house legal department. This is also a great opportunity for you and your organization to get to know one of our promising foreign-trained lawyers and to build your international network. I work closely with Pitt's Office of International Services and our students to ensure that they obtain the necessary approvals to extend their visas for this practical experience, and then to follow up with both students and hosts to ensure an appropriate match and to assist as needed.

**Assist a JD student with locating an internship outside the United States.** Many of the most rewarding internships that our JD students have found abroad during their 1L and 2L summers would not have been possible without the assistance of CILE's alumni and friends living overseas. This summer, our alumni were key in allowing our students to work in a legal aid clinic in Kenya and with USAID in Kosovo, to name just two examples. Please let CILE know if there is an opportunity for one of our JD students to experience legal work abroad in your or a colleague's organization abroad, whether it be in a private firm, government office, non-governmental organization, or another organization.

**Refer a prospective student to CILE and Pitt Law.** While I am constantly exploring different ways of publicizing our programs, at the end of the day the best advertising that CILE has is you, our alumni and friends. If you know a lawyer abroad who might benefit from an LLM degree, or a college student with an interest in international law, please let them know what Pitt Law has to offer and ask them if you can share their contact information with us.

**Provide the financial support that funds CILE's student fellowships and events.** Our ability to fund the scholarships that help our JD students study and work abroad; to support deserving LLM students from countries in transition; and to sponsor speakers, conferences, and events that enrich the education of all our students; all depend upon the critical financial support that your gifts and pledges to CILE provide. You can easily make your gift or pledge to CILE securely online at [giveto.pitt.edu/cile](http://giveto.pitt.edu/cile).

Please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [richard.thorpe@pitt.edu](mailto:richard.thorpe@pitt.edu) or by phone at **412-383-6754**, if you have any questions about any of the above or if there is any other way that you would like to continue to participate in CILE's work at Pitt and throughout the world. I hope you enjoy this issue of *CILE Notes* and, with your help, I look forward to reporting on an equally exciting and rewarding year come fall 2018! ■



**International Law Society 2017-18**

**Matthew Shuck, President**  
**Yelizaveta Kotova, Vice President**

## cile notes Fall 2017

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**Center for International Legal Education**

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**[law.pitt.edu/cile](http://law.pitt.edu/cile)**

## Bridging the Classroom and Foreign Policy: A State Department Diplomacy Lab at Pitt Law

Professor Matiangai Sirleaf's post-conflict and transitional justice systems seminar students combined their work in the classroom during the spring 2017 term with a contribution to U.S. foreign policy. As a course product, the students provided officials in the U.S. Department of State with a comparative analysis of hybrid and domestic justice approaches to the prosecution of violations of international criminal law in five African countries. The experience grew out of Professor Sirleaf's designation as a Diplomacy Lab partner with State Department. The Diplomacy Lab concept is designed to allow "students to contribute directly to the policymaking process while helping the State Department tap into an underutilized reservoir of intellectual capital," according to the State Department's description.

Professor Sirleaf's selection through the highly competitive process has allowed Pitt to have student involvement in two successive terms. During her first project in spring 2017, Sirleaf reports

The project allowed students to **put into practice in real, concrete ways the things they learned** in the classroom.

**Professor Matiangai Sirleaf**

that "I had thought there would be some students who only wanted to do the seminar portion of the class and not the Diplomacy Lab portion, and what I found was the reverse—every student who was in my seminar wanted to participate in Diplomacy Lab." Students considered five case studies in the prosecution of international criminal law in Africa, examining the different approaches taken in the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Professor Sirleaf notes that, as the United States is not a participant in the International Criminal Court, it has a policy interest in examining other approaches to prosecution of violations of international criminal law: "The State Department is trying to decide how to mobilize and invest its resources, and

figure out what has and has not worked in this area."

After a video conference with State Department officials to introduce them to the project and the government's interests and objectives, each student focused on one of the five countries under examination, researching and writing a report for the State Department. Students presented their work in progress and commented on the work of others which, Professor Sirleaf says, provided the students with "a great opportunity to get feedback from their peers, which can be quite different than receiving feedback from their professors on a particular project. It allowed students to feel more responsible for the work product because they were submitting it as a group."

Additional videoconferences with State Department officials answered questions and focused the research with student reports ultimately being delivered not only to the people with whom they were in communication, but also to others at

embassies and State Department bureaus. Through the process, students also acquired valuable experience in bridging the worlds of academic study and professional practice. As Professor Sirleaf notes, "The project allowed students to put into practice in real, concrete ways the things they learned in the classroom."

Professor Sirleaf credits the performance in her spring seminar as leading to her selection to conduct a second Diplomacy Lab project in her fall 2017 seminar, which will focus on best practices in negotiating and implementing peace agreements. Students will research case studies in disarmament and demobilization provisions in existing agreements, seeking to determine which approaches are most effective in integrating former combatants into the security sector. ■



**Emily Wittlinger** (Class of 2018), a participant in the spring 2017 Diplomacy Lab spoke with CILE Executive Director Richard Thorpe about her experience



"Before law school, I worked in transitional justice for two years in Uganda with an organization called International Justice Missions. They work all over the world

helping victims of violent oppression. One of their main goals is to transform criminal justice systems in post-conflict areas. That is why I went to law school, and I was excited that there was a course on that subject.

We had the option of writing a paper on a subject other than the Diplomacy Lab project, but all of us chose to do the Diplomacy Lab. We were able to pick one of a set of target post-conflict countries—I chose Sierra Leone—in order to look and analyze the different forms of tribunals. We had conferences with the U.S. Department of State employees, who advised us to emphasize the factors we thought would be important for them to consider. Their objective was to understand which forms of tribunals have worked in order to decide whether they should fund these hybrid tribunals. The State Department's main interests were in deterrence and perpetrator liability (as criteria for judging the success of these programs), but they gave us leeway to include other factors (like success in rehabilitation) that we thought were important.

I felt that my prior experience in Uganda did help to inform my work in the class, although it may have made me a bit cynical, too, in the sense of reading things in the academic literature that were theoretical but won't actually work in real life in post-conflict countries. One of the things my organization did in Uganda was court reform work, and one of my critiques of the Sierra Leone tribunals focused on the lack of nationals as staff on the court. That was something I had seen in Uganda—that these are not sustainable because you have a lot of Westerners coming in and setting up these institutions and then the courts die away when those foreigners leave.

The Lab added a lot to the class experience—having the calls with the State Department made it seem like we were doing something that would be legitimately useful. It really inspired me to do a good job, and it has definitely inspired me to pursue this type of work further after graduation." ■

## CILE Hosts International Arbitration Roundtable



Pictured from left to right are Dr. Cristina Mariottini, Elina Aleynikova, Professor Chiara Giovannucci Orlandi, Professor Catherine Rogers, Professor Vivian Curran, and Professor Ronald Brand.

On September 23, 2016, CILE hosted an International Arbitration Roundtable focusing on recent developments in international arbitration law and practice, ethics in international arbitration, and planning for arbitration in the drafting of arbitration clauses. An audience of practitioners, Pitt Law students, and faculty heard presentations by six experts on international commercial arbitration from the United States and Europe.

Pitt Professor Vivian Curran spoke on common law and civil law issues in international arbitration. Professor Chiara Giovannucci

Orlandi, of the University of Bologna, Italy, then discussed the limits of party autonomy in arbitration. Elina Aleynikova (LLM '10; J.D. '14), an arbitration attorney with the Paris office of White & Case, spoke about the degree to which public policy concerns affect the rendering of enforceable awards.

Professor Catherine A. Rogers of the Pennsylvania State University of Law and Queen Mary, University of London, spoke on the ethical issues in international arbitration. Dr. Cristina Mariottini (LLM '11), legal officer at the Hague Conference on

Private International Law, discussed the ongoing negotiations for a global convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in civil and commercial matters. CILE Director and Pitt Professor Ronald A. Brand concluded the proceedings with a presentation on drafting effective arbitration and choice of court agreements.

Video of all of the presentations at the International Arbitration Roundtable are available through the Pitt Law and CILE YouTube channels at the following link: [youtube.com/watch?v=7l5nlluNt6U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7l5nlluNt6U). ■

## CILE by the Numbers

### In the past three years, CILE has

- graduated **46** LLM students from **24** countries,
- enrolled **7** SJD students from **5** countries (and graduated 2 so far),
- facilitated study abroad by **20** JD students in **13** countries,
- facilitated overseas internships by **23** JD students in **13** countries,
- arranged summer internships for **33** LLM students at **19** firms and organizations,
- supported **25** students participating on **7** international moot teams,
- awarded scholarships for summer internships and study abroad to **19** students amounting to **\$23,100**,
- had **22** Pitt Law faculty members lecture and teach more than **76** times in **27** countries,
- supported international and comparative law courses taught by 6 visiting professors from **6** countries,
- received **12** visiting scholars from **8** countries to conduct research at Pitt Law
- presented **107** visiting lecturers from **20** countries, and
- sponsored **4** conferences on major international and comparative law issues.

# Will you help CILE to CHANGE YOUR WORLD?

CILE exposes law students to international and comparative law and develops their competence to become global lawyers. Students from across the country and around the world come to CILE to develop relationships and create diversity in understanding the rule of law. CILE programs train leaders in countries in transition, who will educate future generations of lawyers. Without lawyers there cannot be rule of law, and without good legal education there cannot be the type of lawyers who will help establish and sustain the rule of law. Through direct involvement in training lawyers and promoting the rule of law in transition countries, CILE is changing the world while preparing its students and faculty to become global leaders.



“CILE played a **critical role** in every aspect of my legal education and professional career.”

**Katerina Ossanova, JD '08**  
US DOJ Office of Foreign Litigation

Please join CILE in changing  
the world—one student at a time:  
[giveto.pitt.edu/cile](http://giveto.pitt.edu/cile)

## A gift to CILE will help to sustain and expand these and other key initiatives:

**Scholarships** to support deserving and talented JD students who wish to study at CILE who otherwise would not have the means to do so

**Fellowships** to recruit and support LLM students on the basis of professional promise, rather than their ability to pay

**Training and travel funding** for moot court preparations and competitions around the world

**Global and local internship stipends** to provide experiential learning to students while involving them in CILE's programs across the globe

**Research funding** to enable SJD students to prepare dissertations under the supervision of leading scholars

**Study abroad funds** to build CILE students' competency in the global marketplace and provide experience to launch them into careers in international business and development work

**Housing and part-time salary support** to bring professors from foreign law schools to teach at CILE, providing a unique global perspective to students' legal education



“[CILE's] export of legal education [to Kosovo] has **proven to be one of the most important contributions any U.S. university has made** in a country that is in dire need of local expertise and capacity building.”

**Vjosa Osmani, LLM '05, SJD '15**  
Professor, member of Kosovo Parliament

## To learn more, contact

**Richard G. Thorpe, PhD**, Executive Director, at  
412-383-6754 or [richard.thorpe@pitt.edu](mailto:richard.thorpe@pitt.edu).

## Kotuby and Sobota Provide Historic Update on General Principles of Law in Volume 6 of *CILE Studies*

*General Principles of Law and International Due Process: Principles and Norms Applicable in Transnational Disputes*, by Charles T. Kotuby, Jr. (JD '01) and Luke Sobota, was published in early 2017 as Volume 6 of the *CILE Studies* series, by Oxford University Press.

On April 17, 2017, Kotuby and Sobota visited Pitt Law to discuss their new book, which is an important and long-overdue successor to Professor Bin Cheng's seminal 1953 treatise on the general principles of law that identified core legal principles common to various domestic legal systems across the globe. Such "general principles of law recognized by civilized nations" stand alongside or supplement both treaties and customary international law.

Charles Kotuby is a 2001 graduate of Pitt Law. His global practice at the law firm of Jones Day in Washington, D.C., is focused on international litigation, commercial, and investment arbitration. He has counseled



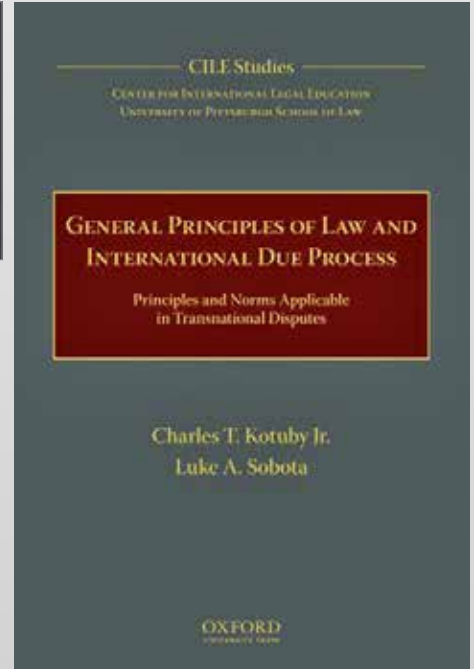
Chuck Kotuby (JD '01)



Luke Sobota

clients in both common and civil law systems, and frequently deals with novel issues of public and private international law. Luke Sobota, a 1999 graduate of the University of Chicago School of Law, is a partner at Three Crowns LLP, an international arbitration firm.

The book is available from Oxford University Press at <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/general-principles-of-law-and-international-due-process-9780190642709?cc=us&lang=en&>. ■



## Summer School in Vicenza, Italy, Provides Spectacular Setting for CLE Credits

On May 22–26, 2017, CILE and the University of Verona School of Law once again combined for a week-long summer school in Transnational Commercial Agreements, Litigation, and Arbitration. After successful programs in Verona in 2015 and Vicenza in 2016, this one was once again held in the historic city of Vicenza. Codirected by University of Verona Professor Marco Torsello and CILE Academic Director Ronald Brand, the program

featured instruction by Professor Brand, Serena Corongiu, Professor Franco Ferrari (New York University), Professor Chiara Giovannucci Orlandi (University of Bologna), Professor Luca Radicati di Brozolo (Catholic University, Milan; Fountain Court Chambers, London), Giuseppe Scotti, and Professor Torsello. Lectures were held in the historic chambers of the Vicenza Bar Association and the University of Vicenza. Participants were able

to earn 24 hours of Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education credits, including 2 hours of ethics credit, while enjoying a city steeped in history and beautiful Palladio architecture.

**Plan Now for the Pitt-Verona Summer Program in late May 2018. Get on our list to be first to get the details by e-mailing [cile@pitt.edu](mailto:cile@pitt.edu)** ■



Class at the Vicenza Bar Association



Pennsylvania lawyers discuss the day's lectures.

## Building Partnerships Across the Globe

CILE partnerships with law faculties and governments throughout the world were strengthened and expanded in 2016–17. Developments include the following:

**Iraq:** In September 2016, CILE hosted Dr. Salah Hadi Saleh, the director general of the Scholarship Department of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education, for several days of discussions on ways to expand the relationship between CILE and Iraq. Dr. Saleh met with Iraqi LLM and SJD students, and participated in a roundtable discussion on Iraqi higher education. ■

**Germany:** In fall 2016, an agreement was signed with the University of Augsburg to facilitate an exchange in which Pitt Law JD students will study in the Augsburg summer program on EU Law and Augsburg students will study in Pitt Law's LLM program. ■

**France:** In fall 2016, an agreement was signed with the University of Paris I (Sorbonne) that will result in Pitt Law JD students enrolling in the LLM program at the Sorbonne and Paris I law students coming to Pittsburgh for the LLM program. ■

**China:** The first collaboration between Pitt Law and Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an, China, under a new Memorandum of Understanding saw Professors Teresa Brostoff and Ann Sinsheimer, and JD student Taylor Staiger (JD '17), travel to Xi'an in October 2016 to teach English for Lawyers and participate in training the NPU Vis Moot team. Their reports are elsewhere in this *CILE Notes* issue. ■



A roundtable discussion on Iraqi higher education featured contributions from (left to right) Professor Haider Hamoudi, Dr. Salah Hadi Saleh, Professor Tamara Capeta (University of Zagreb), Mais Abousy (Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce) and Professor Ronald Brand.

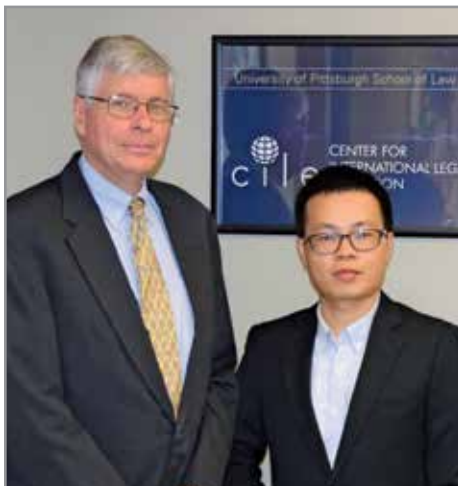
In October 2016, CILE hosted Professor Yuejun He of the law faculty of Ningbo University in Ningbo, China, for discussions about possible academic collaboration. In June 2017, Professor Ronald Brand, CILE academic director, and Professor James Cook, acting director of Pitt's Asian Studies Center, visited Ningbo University to continue these discussions. ■

**Kenya:** From February 27 through March 1, 2017, CILE hosted a delegation from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, consisting of the University's vice chancellor, Laban Aiiyiro, the dean of Moi's law school, Maurice Oduor (LLM '04), and Professor of Law Vincent Mutai (LLM '05). The delegation met with administrators from a number of schools at Pitt to discuss opportunities for further collaboration, including discussions at the Swanson School of Engineering, the School of Nursing, the School of Law, and the University of Center for International Studies. Eleven Moi graduates have completed a Pitt Law LLM, and the collaboration is now

focused on assisting Moi faculty to earn their doctoral degrees, with Professor Mutai beginning studies on his Doctor of Juridical Science degree at Pitt Law in fall 2017.

Moi University was the second public university to be established in Kenya. Professor Mutai is also a director of the Legal Aid Clinic of Eldoret (LACE), which has hosted several Pitt Law students as interns over the past years. Kelvin Isom (Class of 2019) traveled to LACE to assist with the clinic's work during the summer of 2017. ■

**Italy:** The annual Pitt-Verona Summer School and CLE program was held on May 22-26, 2017, in Vicenza, Italy, with a combination of Italian and Pennsylvania lawyers as participants. Our full story on the program can be found on page 6. In spring 2018, Professor Francesca Ragno, of the University of Verona, will be at Pitt Law as the Distinguished Italian Fulbright Chair, teaching "The European Union from an International Law Perspective." Plans are underway for the 2018 Summer School in Italy. ■



Professor Brand and Professor Yuegun He



Pictured from left to right are Professor Mutai, Moi Vice Chancellor Aiiyiro, Pitt Nationality Rooms Director Maxine Bruhns, and Dean Oduor.

## Vjosa Osmani (LLM '05, SJD '15) Honored with 2017 Sheth Award

On April 5, 2017, Pitt Law alumna Vjosa Osmani-Sidriu returned to campus to receive the 2017 Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award. The Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award honors an international Pitt alumnus' contributions to the international community through professional achievements and impact on society. The award was established in 2012 by Madhu and Dr. Jagdish N. Sheth (Business '62G, '66G) and the Sheth Family Foundation to recognize members of the University of Pittsburgh alumni community.

Dr. Osmani joined the LLM program at Pitt Law in 2004 after graduating from the University of Pristina in Kosovo. Even as an undergraduate, her academic accomplishments were tied to public service, as evidenced by her work as a legal assistant with the International Judicial Support Division of the United Nations mission in Kosovo. Dr. Osmani followed her LLM studies with teaching positions at the University of Pristina and at the American University of Kosovo, as well as serving as a visiting professor at Pitt Law. She returned to Pitt Law and completed her Doctor of Juridical Science degree in 2015.

From 2006 through 2010, Dr. Osmani served as chief of staff and foreign

policy advisor as well as legal advisor to the president of the Republic of Kosovo. She was the president's representative in the Constitutional Commission, the body that drafted the first Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as his representative at the National Security Council and a number of working groups that drafted key legislation and established important institutions in the Republic of Kosovo. She supervised the Kosovo legal team at the International Court of Justice for the Advisory Opinion proceedings on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

In 2011, Dr. Osmani moved from the executive branch to the legislature, being elected as a member of the national Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo. During her first term in parliament, she served as chair of the Committee for European Integration and vice chair of the Committee for Constitutional Reforms in Kosovo. She also has been the representative of the Parliament of Kosovo at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Dr. Osmani is considered to be one of the most active members of parliament on issues related to rule of law and foreign policy, and is a strong advocate for women's rights and other human rights. ■

## Program on Russian Hacking Kicks Off New Cyber Institute

The establishment of the University of Pittsburgh's new Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security was celebrated on February 2, 2017, with the institute's inaugural program "Russian Hacking: What Do We Know and How Is This Different?" University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Patrick Gallagher introduced the program and the institute's director, and former U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, David Hickton (JD '78) served as the moderator. Panelists for the discussion were Andrei Soldatov, Russian investigative journalist and security services expert and coauthor of *The Red Web: The Struggle Between Russia's Digital Dictators and the New Online Revolutionaries*; Ellen Nakashima, national security reporter for *The Washington Post*; Luke Dembosky (JD '94), partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Practice; former deputy assistant attorney general for national security; and former U.S. Department of Justice representative at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia; and Keith Mularski, supervisory special agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Pittsburgh Division), and lead investigator of numerous high profile cybercrime cases. ■



Dr. Vjosa Osmani receives Sheth Award from Dean William Carter Jr.



David Hickton (JD '78)





Robert Gyenes (JD '15) at UNCITRAL

## Representing Pitt Law at UNCITRAL

By Robert Gyenes (JD '15)

On April 24–28, 2017, The U.N. Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group IV held a meeting in New York, N.Y. to discuss international trade issues in electronic commerce. CILE was one of the few invited third parties to the closed meeting, and I was fortunate enough to attend the week-long session as CILE's delegate.

UNCITRAL's Working Group IV has influenced modern electronic commerce in a number of ways over the years. If you have ever signed a form online, you might have come across this group's work. In 2001, Working Group IV gave us the Model Law on Electronic Signatures, which helps to create universal principles for signing a document over the Internet. In other sessions, the group has discussed payment by smart phones or the transfer of records online.

The May session dealt with issues related to identity management and trust services. The identity management goal aims to establish a basic framework whereby internet users can confidently rely on the fact that they are dealing with an individual who is the person that he or she claims to be. Trust services is a related concept and often encountered as you access your online bank or brokerage account. The use of passwords, "captchas," personal images, PINs, security questions, SMS-verification, and so on show just how

complicated it can be to prove to your own bank that you should be allowed to see your money. What is enough identity proof before you can access the account?

The group spent a large part of the week defining just what it is they meant with these terms. Identity management and trust services are fluid concepts, and technology changes fast. It could cover everything from cloud computing to Bitcoin, from digital key fobs to fingerprint scanners. The overall preference was to keep the scope vague. When the final report of Working Group IV is published before the next session in Vienna, Austria, it will reflect a very cautious approach.

In the future, Working Group IV will likely have a significant influence on your personal online commerce. If the group can establish a framework that allows a bank, eBay, or Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. to confidently establish a user's identity, then the same methods will be used by many other websites.

It was clear that CILE had established a strong reputation at UNCITRAL, allowing for a great opportunity to network. For that, and for the chance to attend, I would like to thank CILE and Professor Ronald Brand for continuing to support CILE alumni. Other law schools should be so lucky. ■

## Another Boren Award—Zachary Uram in Brazil

*Zachary Uram (Class of 2018) was featured in last year's CILE Notes for his internship in Panama. His commitment to developing international legal skills led him to apply for and be awarded a highly prized and selective Boren Fellowship, which has supported his ongoing studies in Brazil. Boren Fellowships support the study of less commonly taught languages critical to U.S. interests. Successful applicants must commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation.*

In April 2016, I was awarded the Boren Fellowship to study Portuguese and Law in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for one year. As I write this, I am halfway through my program. In my first semester at Fundação Getulio Vargas Direito (FGV). I took classes taught in English and focused on Comparative Constitutional Law and Telecommunications Regulation. My classes were with students from around the world. We studied different perspectives toward the forming of constitutions and comparisons between the United States and other countries. I have been living with a host family that does not speak English in order to improve my Portuguese, and I have had about 200 hours of Portuguese language classes. This is all in preparation for the next semester when I will take law classes in Portuguese at FGV. I also will take the CELPE-BRAS (Portuguese Fluency Test) in October. I hope to return to Pitt Law in Spring 2018 with my Portuguese fluency certificate and the fellowship completed.

*Previous Pitt Law Boren Award recipients include Lauren McChesney (JD '13) and Sarah Paulsworth (JD '13). (see the 2012 CILE Notes, available at <http://law.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/attached/cile/cilenotes-2012replacement.pdf>.) ■*



Zachary Uram in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## Learning the Law, and So Much More, in Xi'an, China

By Taylor Staiger (JD '17)



Professor Brostoff, Professor Sinsheimer, and Taylor Staiger with students and staff of NPU

Today, more than ever, the place of international law in the world cannot be over-emphasized. The world is more interconnected than it ever has been, and the force of law is the only thing keeping the world spinning at times. I am speaking from personal experience that law connects and unites people from places as far from each other as China, Kenya, and Serbia. It is completely thanks to Professor Brand and CILE that I have experienced literally a world of legal systems throughout my law school career at Pitt.

Most recently, I was afforded the incredible opportunity to coach a Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot court team at the Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an, China, in October 2016. Located in the central portion of the People's Republic of China, Xi'an is one of the largest and oldest cities in China. Historically, it was the starting point of the Silk Road; today, it is an important metropolis of industry, technology, and the country's space exploration program. Underneath the gleam of expansive construction that appears to be springing up everywhere, Xi'an has an immense pride in its heritage and culture that stretches back thousands of years to Neolithic village remains and the founding of the Zhou Dynasty.

I accompanied Pitt Law professors Sinsheimer and Brostoff, who were teaching an introductory course in American law to NPU undergraduate and graduate students. During the day I served as a teaching assistant to them, and in the evening I met with my Vis Moot team. I coached a dedicated group of 10 undergraduate women. My initial plan was to teach the basics of international commercial arbitration, the

United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law, The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law Principles, and how to be a serious competitor at the Vis Moot. While that is an imposing amount of knowledge for students to learn in just two weeks, they also had another educational hurdle to overcome. As I quickly realized, Chinese students do not experience essays, papers, or writing assignments. Rather, they are almost completely graded upon exam results. Adjusting my initial teaching plan, and meeting for longer hours, we worked on basic legal writing skills: the difference between primary and secondary authority, what is Issue, Rule, Application, and Conclusion, how to organize a memorandum, and how to properly cite authority. Not only did the team have to learn what has taken me my entire law school career to learn, but they were doing it in a second language. Some days I left each evening discouraged that nothing I said seemed to sink in because of the language barrier or the difficulty of the material, but each morning they returned with draft memos and legal research showing their understanding of the material.

The final day we held a mock argument, with a panel of arbitrators interrupting with questions. I was impressed and proud of the incredible amount of hard work the team had put in over those two weeks and the distance they had come. As much as I was sent to teach a Vis Moot court team in China, my team and time in China taught me so much more about law, culture, and myself. ■

## CILE in Cuba I:

By Allison Fedorka (JD '17)

I studied at the University of Havana School of Law from March 10-19 this past spring. Those 10 days were some of the most impactful experiences abroad I have ever had. Not only were we taught by talented and successful lecturers, we also had the incredible opportunity to experience one of the few remaining communist societies. I cannot recommend the program highly enough to anyone interested in foreign business law or Cuba in general.

Professor Alberto Coll developed the program at DePaul University School of Law and so Camille Woods (Pitt Law JD '17) and I were two of the few non-DePaul students among 32 classmates. I enjoyed meeting the group and attending lectures and social events with them. The lectures often ran over an hour long, but the topics were so interesting that I did not mind. Lecture topics included immigration law, family law, patent law, contract law, and agriculture. We also had question and answer sessions with a group of students and a group of distinguished judges. While some individuals were more candid than others, it became clear that there is a unanimous, strong love for their country and a nearly unanimous desire to see positive economic changes and new immigration policies.

I also had the honor of presenting medical supplies to the Pediatric Hospital of Havana. My father and his friends own companies that produce and sell medical products for premature babies. I tried to make arrangements beforehand to donate to a specific hospital or organization, but communication proved to be very difficult. Professor Coll suggested I bring the items, get them through customs, and he would take care of the rest. I had one full suitcase of baby positioning aides, isolette covers, pacifiers, and a special light to see babies' veins and lungs. The law school arranged a special ceremony for me to present the products and explain how to use them to the doctors in charge of the Havana Pediatric Hospital. (Years ago, I used to sell these products for my father's company, so I was able to give detailed instructions). One of the Cuban professors who witnessed the donation spoke to the group after the ceremony. She cried and said the donation gave her and others great hope that our two countries

can work together for a brighter future. She was touched that we cared so much for their country's babies, or "little angels," and that we were making a difference on many levels. It was one of the most humbling moments of my life that something so simple for me to do could make such a huge impact.

Studying in Cuba will remain a vivid memory for me for the rest of my life. The beautiful, decaying architecture and vintage cars made me feel as though I'd traveled back in time. The people I met were so friendly and interested in Americans, which is not always the case in foreign countries. It was especially surprising due to our current diplomatic relations. I look forward to returning to Cuba on both personal and professional levels and hope to make a difference there one day. ■

## CILE in Cuba II:

By Camille Woods (JD '17)

Before I studied at the University of Havana, School of Law, in March 2017, I knew very little about the relationship between Cuba, the United States, and the rest of the world. This was changed by course readings and lectures on topics which included the History of Cuban-American Relations, the Cuban Political System, Constitutional Law in Cuba, Fundamental Elements of the Cuban Legal System, Elements of the Cuban Legislative Process, Cuban Contract Law/Commercial Law, Cuban Family Law, Fundamentals of the Cuban Economic Structure, the Agricultural Sector of Cuba, Cuban Intellectual Property and Patents, New Laws of Cuban-Foreign Investment, Migration and Immigration in Cuba, and Post-Graduate Education in Cuba. We also benefitted from institutional visits which included a conversation with current and former Cuban Supreme Court Justices, a visit to the Cuban Bar Association, a visit to a Cuban Law firm (that specialized in criminal law, civil law, and international law), a historical tour of Old Havana, and a question and answer session with current University of Havana Law students.

I reserved an AirBNB in the Habana Vieja area of Havana. The apartment was about two miles from the University of Havana but was very close to many historic locations such as the Museum of the Revolution, La Catedral de Habana, El Morro, and the Malecon. I would often travel to the University by foot (about a 45-minute

walk along the water) or I would hire a taxi, often an old American car from the 1950s. A conversational knowledge of Spanish is extremely helpful, even in the most heavily traveled tourist areas of Old Havana.

I had an amazing time. Many of our lectures pertained to the substantial changes that the country is currently undergoing and as a law student, I felt lucky to be able to experience many of these changes first-hand. Cuba is (slowly) opening up its borders to American businesses and tourists. Despite a population of only 11 million people, very little international support, and an aging population, Cuba has been quite resilient considering the economic circumstances with respect to the US embargo.

I highly recommend that any student planning to visit Cuba keep an open mind and not expect to be pampered with first world conveniences- WiFi, cell-phone use, and ATMs are not readily available, and at times are nonexistent. As we often heard during our lectures, "Cubans are different—Los Cubanos son diferentes," thus a successful visit to Cuba requires a law student-traveler to remove any comparative lens through which he or she views the "non-Democratic," "Communist," or "Socialist," world and enjoy the country and the Cuban people as they are. ■



Camille Woods at the University of Havana



Killian Liptrot at EUCOM HQ

## A Summer of Law at EUCOM HQ

By Killian T. Liptrot (Class of 2019)

In summer 2017, I had the privilege of interning at the United States European Command Headquarters (EUCOM HQ). The opportunity to contribute to one of our Nation's Military Combatant Command Headquarters Judge Advocate Offices was both personally and professionally rewarding.

Operating at a Combatant Command HQ level means working at the General Officer level of our nation's military, and the weight of the projects reinforced that standard. My projects fell into three of the four legal departments at US EUCOM HQ: International Law, Civil & Administrative Law, and Operational Law. I was also involved with improving the Legal Review Process for the US EUCOM Commander's official travel.

My main international law project was the development of memorandums concerning Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) between the United States and partner nations in Europe. Working with the International law team allowed me to understand the allocation of criminal jurisdiction under SOFA agreements as well as standing Supplementary Status Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding between the United States and four ally nations: Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. The purpose of these memorandums is to address the proper authorities, obligations, and procedures regarding the allocation of foreign criminal jurisdiction over US forces, members of the force or civilian component, or dependents, within the territories of the given receiving States.

The internship affirmed my conviction that both the legal profession and military service are callings to which I aspire and hope to continue to contribute. ■

## Commercial Law and Culture in Tunisia

By Jonathan Niznansky (Class of 2018)

I spent the summer of 2017 working and living in Tunis, Tunisia, where I interned at A.O. Ouerfelli Attorneys & Counsels (“A.O.” for short), a boutique commercial arbitration law firm. The firm works with clients from all over the region and all over the world on matters such as the resolution of commercial disputes, the conclusion of franchise agreements, the creation of arbitral institutions, and the navigation of potential criminal issues stemming from commercial activity. I did not have, and continue not to possess, any skills in Arabic or in French; I was fortunate to have coworkers who spoke much more of my language than I did of their languages.

Pitt’s ties with Tunisia and A.O. stem from the Willem C. Vis Moot, in which I participated in 2017, and in which Tunisia’s team participates with the support of the Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce and CILE. One of my co-workers at A.O., Yosr El-Benna, coached the Tunisian Vis team this spring, so we had met in Vienna before my arrival in Tunisia.

A French colony for 75 years, Tunisia gained its independence in 1956. What followed was more than 60 years of dictatorial regimes under two autocrats, which Tunisians rose up and overthrew in the spring of 2011, igniting the political wildfire that was the Arab Spring. However, where other nations suffered disorganization and chaos in the vacuum of regime change, Tunisians quickly established a provisional government, drafted a new constitution, and held free and fair elections. The Tunisian legal system exists at the intersection of a civil code descended from French colonialism, institutions still bearing the scars

of nepotism and corruption, and new ways of doing business—many influenced by the English-speaking world. This made my work always varied and challenging.

Working in a Tunisian firm staffed by Tunisians, I did not see another American (other than two friends who were improbably persuaded to make the journey) during my entire two months in Tunis. Mr. Ouerfelli, the firm’s proprietor, spent two decades working as a judge before leaving the judiciary to serve as a legal advisor to the President in the new government of 2011. Following his service to the government, Mr. Ouerfelli moved into private practice and founded A.O. Attorneys and Counsels. I was consistently surprised by the breadth and complexity of the work I received; I did everything from meet with clients over potential contracts with major American corporations to drafting arbitral awards for the Dubai International Arbitration Centre.

My path to Tunis was a product of time, circumstance, and an openness to opportunity. That opportunity came through CILE, and I can write with great confidence that my internship could not possibly have come to be without the assistance of Professor Brand. I once thought that international law was for a sort of person different than me, but I was wrong; international law provides opportunities for all “types” and interests.

I encourage everyone with even a passing interest in international law to follow up on that inclination. I could not have spent my summer in a better way. ■



Jon Niznansky (Class of 2018), third from the left, with his colleagues in Tunis

### Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Recipients for 2017–18

**Robbie Cimmino**

Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (Center for Russian & East European Studies)

**Allison Hall**

Arabic (Global Studies Center)

**Aaron Howe**

Mandarin (Asian Studies Center)

**Adam Shirer**

Turkish (Center for Russian & East European Studies)

### Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship Recipients

**Kevin Huber**

Al Tamimi & Co. in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**Jonathan Niznansky**

Ouerfelli Attorneys & Counsels in Tunis, Tunisia

**Wen Shu**

Junhe LLP, Shanghai, China

**Wade Stephens**

USAID Commercial Law Project, Pristina, Kosovo

### CILE Summer Fellowship Recipients

**Nashid Ali**

Temple University - Japan, Tokyo, Japan

**Meena Ansari**

Kostman & Pyzer, Toronto, Canada

**Melinda Bonish**

Tulane Law Summer Programs, Berlin, Germany and Cambridge, UK

**Lin Ding**

Shandong Yi Qiang Law Firm, Shanghai, China

**Allison Fedorka**

DePaul Law Cuba Program, Havana, Cuba

**Kelvin Isom**

Legal Aid Center of Eldoret, Kenya

**Kilian Liptrot**

US Dept. of Defense JAG Program, Stuttgart, Germany

**Ariel Oliver**

National Lawyers Guild Research Program, Cuba

**Kaitlyn Saal-Ridpath**

Universitat Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation, Lucerne, Switzerland

**Camille Woods**

DePaul Law Cuba Program, Havana, Cuba

### Schulz Fellowship Recipient

**Kelvin Isom**

Legal Aid Center of Eldoret, Kenya

## Human Rights Law Through a Sense of Community

By Yelizaveta Kotova (Class of 2018)

I had the privilege of attending the Lucerne Academy in Switzerland in summer 2017 with students from all over the world. The theme of Business and Human Rights was developed by the professors, including a former judge of the European Court of Human Rights, who taught us the European legal approach to human rights law. We were divided into groups to write memorials and prepare oral arguments on a hypothetical human rights problem. The perceived common law approach that the European Court of Human Rights implements made it simpler for me to understand how to frame and present arguments. Working with students from other legal backgrounds, though, made group discussions fascinating and cultivated complex legal conversation.

We visited Strasbourg, France, and Geneva, Switzerland, to tour the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the United Nations, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. During these visits, our moot problem allowed us to discuss many refugee and immigration issues, particularly in the UNHCR.

In our Business, Human Rights, and Community Lawyering course, the professor dissected our understanding of what a community is and how we as individuals have found our communities in our everyday lives. This experience made us understand



Yelizaveta Kotova and classmates at the Counsel of Europe

each other as students and people who come from very diverse backgrounds. We valued this exercise when we discussed how to approach foreign communities that have suffered human rights violations and how to understand community unity from the point of view of NGOs trying to reach out to them. This also allowed us to consider more carefully and critically readings such as John Ruggie's U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Far from the textbook knowledge I acquired, the most valuable experience was the interaction with students from

many countries. We gathered in my kitchen, discussing legal and human conflicts that arise in our respective countries, per our cultural backgrounds. I left Lucerne with contacts and friendships with future lawyers all over the world. On every continent, we now have ties and have built close friendships with one another. This, paired with invaluable legal practice and experience, made the trip incredible. It also helped that, every day, we were surrounded by the beautiful landscape of the Swiss Alps. I am thankful for the CILE Fellowship that made my trip possible. ■

## Working in China's Capital Markets

By Wen Shu (Class of 2019)

During the summer of 2017, I had the honor of working as a legal intern in Junhe LLP (Junhe) in Shanghai, China. My internship was arranged in connection with a summer study program offered by Santa Clara law school in Tokyo, Japan, after which I joined the Capital Market Group of Junhe. Mr. Shao, the leader of that group, was instrumental in arranging this opportunity for me.

Almost all the attorneys in the Capital Market Group are bilingual, and a majority of them have a JD or LLM degree, or some other learning experience in other countries. In addition, many of the clients of the Capital Market Group are foreign companies, wholly

foreign owned enterprises, or Chinese-foreign equity joint ventures. Thus, this group increasingly needs knowledge of U.S. law and international law.

During my five-week stay in China, my assignments ranged from simple data collection to complex legal research and memo writing. The projects in which I participated involved corporation law, securities law, contract law, and various other Chinese rules and regulations. During the internship, I gained a deep understanding about liquidation under Chinese corporation law while writing an English language memo for a client. I also went on a business trip with a security trader



Wen Shu at Junhe LLP in Shanghai

and an accountant to conduct due diligence for a foreign company's IPO in China.

I will not forget the time I spent with the Junhe lawyers and other summer interns. Thanks to CILE and my Nordenberg Fellowship, I had an unforgettable summer. ■

## Summer in Dubai: Cultural and Legal Learning in an Islamic Nation

By Kevin Huber (Class of 2018)

This summer, I was given the incredible opportunity to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and work as an intern with Al Tamimi & Company, the largest regional law firm in the Middle East. I was stationed in the firm's Dubai office, and worked in the arbitration department performing legal research, assisting attorneys with casework, and writing articles on various legal subjects. It was an amazing experience, and one that certainly could not have been possible without the help of Professor Brand and CILE.

Arriving in Dubai, I was greeted with a breathtaking skyline of towering skyscrapers, the famous Burj Khalifa visibly dominating over all others. Each morning, taking the bus to work down one of Dubai's many eight-lane boulevards, I saw wild peacocks roaming along the dividing median and on the sidewalks. My thoughts in those first couple days mainly centered around the obvious fact that I was a very long way from home. Any nervousness I had about being in a new country vanished, however, when I walked through the glass doors of the firm on my first day. The human resources staff, the legal assistants, paralegals, secretaries, attorneys, all the way up to the senior partners were all incredibly welcoming to me and curious about my studies and ambitions as a lawyer. Dubai is, by nearly all measures, a global and cosmopolitan city. The make-up of the firm and the arbitration team that I worked for was no different. I worked with Emiratis, Americans, Egyptians, Brits, Pakistanis, Indians, Koreans, and people from many other backgrounds, as well as many different religions, during my short time at Al Tamimi. That reality, more than any other, was what I think I value the most about my experience: Working with and experiencing so many different perspectives, all moving within one area of commercial law. I have traveled to several foreign countries during my undergraduate and graduate education, but nowhere was there more diversity in nationality, religion, and general worldview than in Dubai. It was truly an eye-opening experience that has solidified my interest in the areas of international and commercial law.



Kevin Huber dines with his colleagues in Dubai.

The UAE is an officially Islamic country, however, and there were certainly very significant cultural consequences to that designation. The most significant that I experienced during my internship was that the majority of my time in Dubai fell during the holy month of Ramadan. It was incredible to witness an entire country celebrate together, and the shift in attitudes and demeanor from everyone from citizen Emiratis to American expatriots was palpable. Mostly everyone became more gracious and friendly, and the attorneys we worked with would invite me and the other interns to break their fast with them at an iftar meal. As Dubai is an international city, most restaurants remained open during the day, but with thick curtains over the windows so as to respect those who were fasting. It was interesting to see other transformations during Ramadan, with most practicing Muslims staying up long into the night, feasting and celebrating, filling up on delicious Emirati cuisine before they began their long fast for the next day. Many lawyers came into work cheerfully tired, and would leave early in the day to catch up on some sleep before doing it all again once the sun went down. It was an experience and an insight into another culture that I will always remember.

The work I did in Dubai with Al Tamimi's arbitration team was very engaging, as it was precisely the areas of law in which I am interested. I attended and assisted with

“ That ... was what I think I value the most about my experience: Working with and **experiencing so many different perspectives**, all moving within one area of commercial law.

Kevin Huber (Class of 2018)

a complete arbitration hearing, going over the course of three days, where I witnessed lawyers and arbitrators practicing their craft. As I became more comfortable at the firm, and as the attorneys and senior partners approved of my work, I was given better and more challenging projects such as drafting what would turn into a law review article on state responsibility for internationally unlawful acts, working closely with partners, speaking with potential new clients and working on new cases.

Al Tamimi also showcased various guest lecturers on certain days, who covered numerous topics related to arbitration. Interns were not shuttered away and given menial tasks. We were integrated into our various departments almost instantly, and the lawyers trusted us with day-to-day work. It was an honor to be a part of the arbitration team at Al Tamimi, to be recommended by Professor Brand and CILE, and to receive the Nordenberg Fellowship to facilitate my studies abroad. This was truly one of the best educational experiences I have ever had, and one that I will not ever forget. ■

## USAID, Kosovo, and a Summer Well-spent

By Wade Stephens (Class of 2019)

Thanks to a Nordenberg Fellowship, I had the honor of spending two months in summer 2017 as a legal intern with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Contract Law Enforcement Program (CLE) in Pristina, Kosovo. For the last four and a half years CLE has been working on numerous initiatives within Kosovo to assist the government in improving its legal systems. CLE's projects range from reducing the backlog of unenforced court judgements through strengthening enforcement legislation, creating and improving supplemental private institutions, and modernizing judicial tracking measures; to promoting the use of written contracts and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) within the business community.

My work focused specifically on commercial ADR promotion and implementation. Last year CLE drafted a Law on Mediation for review by Parliament, but in order for the law to have any real effect, there has to be agreement by the parties as ADR is a voluntary proceeding. I researched commercial mediation practices around the world and reviewed the most effective means for achieving support for mediation in appropriate cases. CLE hopes

not only to educate the business leaders and Bar Association of Kosovo on the benefits of ADR, and specifically mediation, in resolving commercial disputes, but also to develop a system that addresses the concerns stakeholders have in the process.

The summer of 2017 was an interesting time to be in Kosovo, as the government had been dissolved shortly before my arrival. This put many of CLE's projects into political limbo and created a lull in the workload for many of my colleagues. Yet it also became a very unique social experience as a result. I was involved in daily conversations about the role of government and international organizations in the lives of citizens. It was invaluable to be able to learn the Kosovar perspective on such institutions.

The government's dissolution also created an opportunity to witness Kosovar politics in action. Seemingly every other night in the weeks leading up to the election there were rallies for different political parties, with fireworks giving away their presence even when their constituents chants did not. The streets were filled with jubilation at around 12 AM on election night as the results were announced and the winner

declared. Walking through the town square at that hour is something I will forever remember.

I spent the remaining six weeks of summer as an exchange student at the University of Augsburg Summer Program for European and International Economic Law under Pitt Law's new exchange agreement with that university. The program brought in students, professors, and legal professionals from around the globe, exposing those in attendance to a diverse array of opinions and legal insights. Professors frequently questioned students from different countries to expose the class to different legal systems' rules. These discussions helped the group of students bond quickly, forming what I can only describe as a large family. Students spent evenings and weekends travelling together or relaxing at one of the local biergartens in Augsburg. The classes were definitely challenging and the work complex, but the goodbyes at the end of the program ended up being the most difficult part of the entire experience.

I feel beyond privileged to have had such fantastic colleagues and classmates in both Kosovo and Germany. ■

## CILE in China: English for Lawyers and Vis Moot

In October 2016, Professors Ann Sinsheimer and Teresa Brostoff participated in the Global Partners Conference and taught the U.S. Law and Language course at Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an, China. The 89 students learned about the U.S. legal system and common law reasoning, completing interactive projects using case synthesis and presenting oral arguments using U.S. statutory interpretation methods. The students shared their knowledge of the Chinese legal system and legal culture with the professors. When the students expressed excitement at the announcement that Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize in Literature, the professors and students completed the cross-cultural exchange in singing a rousing version of *Blowin' in the Wind*. Pitt Law student Taylor Staiger (JD '17) joined Brostoff and Sinsheimer for the trip, and trained NPU's Vis Moot Court Team for the Beijing and Hong Kong Vis Moot Court Competitions. See page 10. ■



Pictured from left to right are Professor Ann Sinsheimer, Taylor Staiger, and Professor Teresa Brostoff.



Professor Tamara Capeta

## Visiting Professor Tamara Capeta Discusses Brexit and the European Union

On Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Professor Tamara Capeta spoke on “Brexit and the EU Constitutional Order.” She discussed the implications of the referendum in Great Britain in favor of an exit from the European Union, including the difficulties associated with Britain’s continued membership in EU governing bodies pending the initiation and conclusion of negotiations on its exit from and future relations with the European Union.

Professor Capeta is a professor of Law at the University of Zagreb, where she earned

her Ph.D. in 2001. She completed her LLM at the College of Europe, Bruges, earning the Advance Master of European Law degree in 1993. In 2006 she was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Michigan Law School. Capeta’s many books and articles include the first textbook on EU law in the Croatian language. She participates in the education of judges and civil servants in EU law. Her research interests relate to the EU judiciary, especially questions of judicial interpretation of law and the legitimacy of courts. ■

## Guest Speakers Provide Career Advice

CILE presentations in 2016-17 included a series of programs for students interested in careers in international law, at which distinguished alumni of Pitt Law and government officials shared their personal career paths and provided useful advice on career planning.

**On September 12, 2016**, Mais Abbas Abousy spoke about how to pursue careers in U.S. government, with a particular focus on international affairs. Ms. Abousy is an attorney-advisor with the Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, where she advises governments in the Middle East and North Africa on legal reform and economic development.

**On September 22, 2016**, Elina Aleynikova (LLM '10, JD '14) and Cristina M. Mariottini (LLM '11) spoke on “Working Internationally – Personal Paths from Pitt to Paris and The Hague.” They described how they progressed from their studies at Pitt Law to their current careers in international commercial law. Ms. Aleynikova is an associate in the International Arbitration Group of White & Case in Paris. Ms. Mariottini was a legal officer at the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and will be returning to a position as a senior research Fellow in the Department of European and Comparative Procedural Law at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law.

**On October 11, 2016**, Wes Rist (JD '05), the director of education and research at the American Society of International Law, spoke on how to prepare for a career in international

law. Topics covered included targeted job searching, resume drafting, managing one’s professional contacts, identifying appropriate international experiences, pursuing valuable volunteer and professional membership opportunities, and other practical issues that students encounter in pursuing careers in international law. Rist is a former assistant director at CILE.

**On March 20, 2017**, Luke Dembosky (JD '94) and Todd Shenkin (JD '94) spoke about international legal practice from their perspectives of work in government, large law firms, and corporate legal departments. Mr. Dembosky is a cybersecurity and litigation partner at Debevoise & Plimpton in Washington, D.C., and was this year’s McLean lecturer (see story on page 18). Mr. Shenkin is the vice president and associate general counsel for investments law at MetLife. ■



Elena Aleynikova (LLM '10, JD '14) and Cristina Mariottini (LLM '11) speak to Pitt Law students.

## Lawrence Liang Speaks on Free Speech Challenges in India

On January 26, 2017, Lawrence Liang, Professor of Law at Ambedkar University, and a Rice Scholar at Yale University, spoke on current threats to free speech in India. In a talk titled “Sedition and the Enforcement of Compulsory Affection,” he described the upsurge in recent years in the use of sedition laws to prosecute allegedly “antinational” speech. Professor Liang noted recent cases in which, for example, the law has been used to attempt to require audiences to stand if the Indian national anthem is used in the course of a film plot. He described the emergence of a new style of judicial populism in India that can be tracked through these recent developments.

Professor Liang cofounded Alternative Law Forum (ALF), a public interest and human rights lawyering group in Bangalore that he worked with for 15 years. ALF has engaged in strategic litigation on various socio-legal issues, and Professor Liang’s work lies at the intersection of law, technology, and culture. ■



Professor Lawrence Liang





Pictured from left to right are Professor Nicholas Cafardi, Phil Rinaldi, the Honorable Andrea Canepari, Governor Tom Corbett, Antonio Lordi, and Professor Ronald Brand.

## CILE Cosponsors Roundtable on Italy, Pennsylvania, and the T-TIP

On October 25, 2016, six distinguished panelists gathered in the law school's Teplitz Memorial Moot Courtroom for a roundtable discussion of "Italy and Pennsylvania: An Economic Dialogue on Energy, Research and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership." After brief introductory remarks by CILE Academic Director Professor Ronald A. Brand, the Honorable Andrea Canepari, consul general of Italy in Philadelphia, spoke about Italy, the Ciao Philadelphia festival, and the prospects for collaboration between Italy and Pittsburgh.

The main roundtable discussion was moderated by former Pennsylvania Governor

Tom Corbett. Panelists were Canepari, Professor Brand, Professor Nicholas P. Cafardi (Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law, Duquesne University School of Law), Antonio Lordi (senior contract officer at Siemens Industry USA), and Phil Rinaldi (CEO of Philadelphia Energy Solutions). Each panelist provided a perspective on trade between Italy and Pennsylvania, the effect of the regulatory environment in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on trade and investment, and the potential effects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

The roundtable and the reception that followed were made possible by the generous financial support of three sponsoring law firms: Eckert Seamans, Fox Rothschild, and K&L Gates. Other cosponsors of the event were the Duquesne University School of Law, Ciao Philadelphia, and the Consulate General of Italy in Philadelphia. Video of the conference is archived online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn6nCxCQ4RkI>. ■

## LLMs Present the 2017 Rule of Law Series

One of the founding principles of Pitt Law's LLM program has been the importance of fully integrating LLM students into the academic and social life of Pitt Law. This benefits both the LLM and the JD students through the legal and cultural perspectives brought to the classroom. These synergies are inherent to the annual Rule of Law presentations, in which LLM students deliver lunch-time presentations to the Pitt Law community. Speakers during 2016-17 were:

- Fahira Brodlija (Bosnia and Herzegovina), who discussed the constitutional challenges

facing Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- Jaber Imsheiel (Cyprus), who explained the historical and constitutional background to the current division of Cyprus;
- Ally Kenna (Venezuela), who talked about the interplay between indigenous and national legal cultures in Venezuela; and
- Rishav Soni (India), who spoke about the recent currency reform in India and the reasons for the promotion of a demonetization of the Indian economy. ■

## Raj Bhala Discusses the Trans Pacific Partnership

On February 9, 2017, Professor Raj Bhala, the associate dean for International and Comparative Law and Rice Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas School of Law, spoke on "The Legal Economic, and National Security Dimensions of TPP" in a presentation co-sponsored by CILE and the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies. Professor Bhala previously practiced at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and is an international legal consultant for the Bahraini and Saudi Arabian offices of Blake, Cassels & Graydon (Canada). His books include *International Trade Law: An Interdisciplinary, Non-Western Textbook*, *Modern GATT Law*, *Understanding Islamic Law (Sharia)*, and *TPP Objectively*. ■



Professor Raj Bhala



Rishav Soni

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



Luke Dembosky delivers the 2017 McLean Lecture.

## Luke Dembosky Discusses Cybersecurity in 24th McLean Lecture

On March 20, 2017, the 24th Annual McLean Lecture on World Law was presented by Luke Dembosky (JD '94), who spoke on "Cyber Law, Policy and Security Issues in the New Age of Nationalism." The lecture focused on issues that gained prominence in the 2016 presidential election and its accompanying allegations of Russian-sponsored interference through hacking and the manipulation of social networks. The McLean Lecture on World Law honors the memory and contributions of M.W. McLean, a founder, executive director, and executive vice-president of the World Federalist Association of Pittsburgh.

Dembosky joined Debevoise & Plimpton as a partner in March 2016 after serving as deputy assistant attorney general for national security at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), where he oversaw DOJ's first national security cyber portfolio. He was the senior DOJ official on the Target, Sony Pictures, Home Depot, Anthem, and OPM breaches, among many others, and received the attorney general's Distinguished Service Award for leading the GameOver Zeus botnet takedown. His roles at DOJ included deputy chief for litigation at the Computer Crime and IP Section, DOJ representative at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and federal cybercrime prosecutor in Pittsburgh. He participated in the negotiation of a 2013 cyber accord with Russia and the historic 5-point agreement signed by President Obama and President Xi Jinping of China in 2015. At Debevoise, Dembosky advises companies on managing cyber risks, responding to cyber incidents, and handling related litigation matters. ■



Vis participants from the Pitt Consortium in Vienna, Austria

## Pitt Law at the Vis Moot

Pitt Law's 2017 Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team consisted of Robbie Cimmino, Kevin Huber, Jonathan Niznansky, and Matthew VanDyke (all members of the Pitt Law Class of 2018). In early April 2017, the team advanced to the round of 64 from the original 338 teams from 76 countries. They then defeated New

York University before being eliminated by the University of Münster in the round of 32. Pitt Law received an overall ranking of 30th among the 338 teams, as well as an Honorable Mention for Memorial for the Claimant.

The team began their Vis work at the University of Belgrade Pre-Moot, followed by practice arguments at the University of Zagreb. In Vienna, CILE hosted the Pitt Consortium of teams for a pre-moot at the offices of the CHSH law firm. The Pitt Consortium included the University of Bahrain; University of Belgrade; Dar Al Hekma University, Saudi Arabia; Faculté des sciences juridiques politiques et sociales, Tunis, Tunisia; University of Jordan; Kuwait International University; Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine; Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University; Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University - International Relations, Ukraine; Mostar University, Bosnia & Herzegovina; University of Pittsburgh; University of Pristina, Kosovo; Qatar University; the Royal University for Women, Bahrain; Sarajevo University, Bosnia & Herzegovina; UAE University; University of Zagreb, Croatia; and the University of Zenica, Bosnia & Herzegovina. Pitt Law grads Janet Checkley (JD '14) and Nevena Jevremovic (LLM '16), along with 3L Danielle Bruno administered the Pitt Consortium pre-moot in Vienna, and assisted the Pitt Consortium teams throughout the competition. ■



Professor Harry Flechtner (left) and Vis team members (from left to right) Matthew Van Dyke, Jonathan Niznansky, Robbie Cimmino, and Kevin Huber

## LLM Students Impress at International Moot Competition

On March 23-25, 2017, Flamur Abdullahu, Fahira Brodlija, and Nika Rassadina represented Pitt Law in the Sixth LLM International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, held at American University in Washington, DC. Twenty teams participated from law schools across the United States. The Pitt team placed sixth out of 20 teams in the first day of general rounds, advancing to the quarterfinals where they were eliminated by the team which ultimately won the finals round (Cardozo). ■



2017 LLM Moot team members  
Flamur Abdullahu, Nika Rassadina, and  
Fahira Brodlija

## CILE Hosts 2017 High School ICC Moot

On April 20-21, 2017, CILE and the University's Global Studies Center cosponsored the 2017 Moot International Criminal Court (ICC) for local high school students. Nearly two dozen students from the Pittsburgh region participated in two days of oral arguments based on this year's problem, which required them to wrestle both with the procedural issue of a recharacterization of charges as well as the substantive issue of the mental state and degree of participation necessary to convict a defendant of aiding and abetting under the Rome Statute that governs the ICC. Their scores in the competition also included a separate grading of a written memorial submitted prior to the oral arguments. This year's problem was written with the assistance of Melissa Ruggiero and Arthur Traldi, both of whom have experience working with international criminal tribunals and were able to bring those backgrounds to play in creating a case that was both topical and challenging. North Allegheny High School prevailed in the competition, having both of the teams in the final round. Judges for the competition included Pitt Law students, Professor Matiangai Sirleaf, and CILE Executive Director Richard Thorpe. ■

## Pitt Law Student Wins Moot Court Competition at Human Rights Academy

Kaitlyn Saal-Ridpath (Class of 2019) participated in the University of Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation, in Lucerne, Switzerland, during summer 2017. Her studies included participation in a final moot competition, in which she teamed up with students from Brazil, Switzerland, and Qatar to win the competition, which involved a case concerning the recruitment and transfer of a minor for a European soccer team, with claims relating to human trafficking, discrimination towards transgender people, and effective remedies under the European Convention on Human Rights. Teams pleaded in front of Judges from Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Venezuela, Namibia, and Switzerland. ■



Kaitlyn Saal-Ridpath (Class of 2019) in her winning argument in Lucerne, Switzerland

## CILE Celebrates Contributions of John and Nancy Burkoff

June 2017 brought the retirement of two of the most dedicated supporters of CILE students and programs. Professors John and Nancy Burkoff not only were wonderful teachers and scholars at Pitt Law, but were constant contributors to events and programs that made Pittsburgh, the law school, and CILE welcoming places for students from across the globe. They were both key players in the establishment of the long CILE collaboration with Moi University's School of Law, having traveled to Kenya in the fall of 1995 as part of the American Bar Association's

African Law Initiative Sister Law School Program, where they met with Moi's law faculty and John gave lectures. They both have taught in the Anglo-American Law Program at University of Navarra, in Pamplona, Spain, and at the Bahçeşehir University Program in American Law in Istanbul, Turkey, as well as for the Semester at Sea program, with which they will once more sail in the coming year. At CILE—on behalf of our faculty, students, and graduates—we wish John and Nancy all the best as they “retire” to what we know will be many more adventures. ■



John and Nancy Burkoff at a celebration of their retirement and their many contributions to CILE and Pitt Law

## LLM Internships

CILE has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to assist many of its LLM students to obtain internships in Pittsburgh and elsewhere in the United States for the summer following their year of study. The internships allow a practical perspective following the year of academic study, and foster lasting relationships between the graduates and their hosts. The interns from Pitt Law's Class of 2017 and their hosts this year were:

- Enas Alsaffadi** ..... United Steelworkers
- Khalida Alsharief** ..... Goldstein Associates
- Fahira Brodlija** ..... Alcoa
- Jaber Imsheiel** ..... Robert Creo
- Ally Kenna** ..... Sherrard, German & Kelly
- Dara Omolaja** ..... Marshall Dennehy
- Nika Rassadina** ..... Obermayer Rebhoff
- Thais Safe Carneiro** .. The Honorable Lisa Lenihan
- Rishav Soni** ..... Arconic
- Yuting Xu** ..... Academic Internship—  
Professor Brand



The LLM Class of 2017

## Making the LLM Year Possible: Thanks to our Fellowship Sponsors

Throughout CILE's history, friends in Pittsburgh and around the world have provided fellowships that have made LLM study at Pitt Law possible for students who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Students receiving this support are most appreciative of the invaluable assistance their fellowship providers have made toward their education. Students and their fellowship providers for the Classes of 2017 and 2018 are:

University Center for International Studies

UCIS Global Studies Center Heinz Fellowship

Russian and East European Studies Center

Franklin West Housing Scholarship

Kosovo Transformational Leadership Program

Palestinian Rule of Law Program

### Class of 2017

- Fahira Brodlija
- Nika Rassadina
- Nika Rassadina
- Fahira Brodlija
- Fahira Brodlija
- Dara Omolaja
- Flamur Abdullahu
- Enas Alsaffadi

### Class of 2018

- Olha Kotlyarska
- Arnela Maglic
- Olha Kotlyarska
- Arnela Maglic
- Arnela Maglic
- Rahaf Zaini
- Taulant Hodaj
- Bisan Nemer



Pictured from left to right are UCIS fellow Nika Rassadina, UCIS Director Ariel Armony, and UCIS fellow Fahira Brodlija.



Pictured from left to right are Fahira Brodlija, Caroline West, and Dara Omolaja.



Dr. Alaoudh and Professor Brand

## Recognition for Pitt's Most Recent Doctor of Juridical Sciences

The 2016-17 academic year saw four new students join Pitt Law's SJD program, and one graduate. Joining the ranks of Doctors of Juridical Sciences who have earned their degrees at Pitt Law was Abdullah Suliman F. Alaoudh (Saudi Arabia), who wrote his dissertation on the role of religious institutions and the transition to democracy in post-revolutionary Arab countries. His dissertation supervisor was Professor Haider Hamoudi. He received his LLM degree from Pitt Law in 2011, and received his Bachelor of Islamic Law from Alqassim University in 2005.

Following his graduation in May 2017, Dr. Alaoudh began a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Islamic Law and Civilization at Yale Law School, where he will continue his research and writing, and participate in the academic activities of the Center and Yale Law School. The fellowship is designed to bring a small number of promising junior scholars to Yale Law School in order to advance their academic research relating to Islamic law and civilization and to contribute to the intellectual life of the Law School and Yale University. ■



REES Assistant Director Dawn Seckler (left) and Fahira Brodlija

## LLM Class of 2018

**Yazeed Albegaishy** (Saudi Arabia) received his Bachelor of Islamic Law degree from Imam Muhammed Bin Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2015. He has worked as a human relations manager for Sara Contracting Company in Saudi Arabia and as a financial affairs associate for the Alrabwa Charity Center. He has also studied English at the Spring International Language Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

**Abdulrahman Almuhammad** (Saudi Arabia) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2015. He has been a faculty member at the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh, where he taught courses in law, and prior to that worked as a legal researcher for the National Society for Human Rights in Riyadh. He is the recipient of a fellowship from the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission.

**Juliet Astbury** (United Kingdom) received her graduate diploma in law from Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, England, in 2007, and qualified for the bar with the Legal Practice Course of the College of Law—Moorgate in 2008. She received her bachelor degree in theology from Lady Margaret Hall—Oxford University in 2006. She has worked as an associate in the Private Equity Group of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in London, and prior to that as a corporate associate at Allen & Overy in Abu Dhabi and a trainee in that firm's London office.

**Idalidia Torres Camacho** (Cuba) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University Complutense in Madrid, Spain, in 2012. Her work experience has included an internship with the Juan Jose Cigarran Magan law firm and volunteer work with Lidera ONG.

**Shireen Deeb** (Syria) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Damascus University in Damascus, Syria, in 2000, and a post-graduate diploma in international law from that institution in 2002. Her work experience has included positions as a Corporate and VIP Supervisor for Syriatel Mobile Telecom and as a Public Relations Officer for Emirates Airlines.

**Patrick Dongmo Tsague** (Cameroon) received his Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees from the University of Yaounde II-Soa, Cameroon, in 2008 and 2010, respectively, and received his diploma in Advanced Studies in Public Law from that institution in 2013. He



The Pitt Law LLM Class of 2018 at Fallingwater

has also received master's degrees in political science from the University of Lyon 3, France, and the International Relations Institute of Cameroon. Tsague has worked as an intern at the African Union Representative office in Central Africa, and as an intern at the Division of European Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon.

**Olha Kotlyarska** (Ukraine) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in June 2017. She was a member of the Kyiv-Mohyla Vis Moot team in 2017, its Telders Moot Court team in 2016, and its Central and Eastern European Moot team in 2015. She has worked as a junior associate for Vasil Kasil and Partners in Kiev, Ukraine, as an intern for Member of Parliament Ted Falk in Ottawa, Canada, and as an intern with the Wener Law Firm and the Holosiyivkyi Court, both in Kyiv. She is the recipient of a University Center for International Studies Fellowship and an H.J. Heinz Fellowship administered by Pitt's Global Studies Center.

**Arnela Maglic** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Zenica in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in June 2017, where she was a member of the 2017 Vis Moot team. She also participated in the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition in The Hague, Netherlands, in 2016. Her work experience includes service as General Secretary of the Student Union of the University of Zenica and work as office manager for the SARA Art Fair in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is the recipient of a University Center for International Studies Fellowship, a scholarship from Pitt's Center for Russian and

East European Studies, and a Franklin West Housing Scholarship.

**Orsolya Molnar** (Hungary) received her Doctor of Laws degree from the ELTE University in Budapest, Hungary, in 2012. She has also received a Master of International Relations from Corvinus University of Budapest. She has worked as a trainee lawyer or intern in the Budapest offices of Hogan Lovells, CMS Cameron McKenna, Dentons, and Wolf Theiss.

**Bisan Nemer** (Palestine) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Birzeit University in Ramallah, Palestine, in 2016. She was a member of the 2015 Palestinian Jessup international law moot court team, which competed in Washington, DC. She has worked as a trainee lawyer at the Yaser & Fadi Jaber law firm. She is the recipient of a fellowship from the Palestinian Rule of Law Program of the Open Society Foundations.

**Jacopo Pischedda** (Italy) received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 2006, and his Master of Laws degree in 2008, both from the University of Bologna. He has worked as a junior lawyer for the Office of the Italian Attorney General in Venice, Italy, and as an attorney for law firms in Bologna, Italy; Seville, Spain; and Rome and Padua, Italy; as well as with an immigration services NGO in Washington, DC.

**Benedikt Reissnecker** (Germany) is a law student at the University of Augsburg, Germany. He has interned at both CMS Hasche Sigle in Munich, Germany, and Sonntag & Partner in Augsburg. He has been an active participant and leader in the Law Clinic of the University of Augsburg.

(continued on page 22)

(continued from page 21)

**Inès Soumhi** (France) received a double degree in law and management from the University of Paris I—Panthéon/Sorbonne in 2016, and is pursuing a master's degree in business law and strategic management at Paris I. She has interned in the business law department of the Weil & Associés law firm in Paris, France, and has been active in moot court, legal aid clinic and the university human rights organization during her studies.

**Rebecca Stocklein** (Germany) is a law student at the University of Augsburg, Germany. She has worked as an intern with Sonntag & Partner in Augsburg, Germany, and with the Landgericht court in Augsburg. She has been active with the University of Augsburg law clinic, where she has prepared legal opinions and advised clients.

**Manon Troin** (France) received her Master 2 Degree of English and American Business Law from the University of Paris I—Panthéon/Sorbonne in 2017, in conjunction with its Magistère de Droit des Activités Economiques degree program. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from that university in 2015. She has interned with the commercial contracts division of the Paris Court of Appeal and with the Resource Mobilization Office of UNAIDS in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Rahaf Zaini** (Saudi Arabia) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Dar Al-Hekma University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in May 2017. She was a member of the Dar Al-Hekma Vis Moot team that won first place in the February 2017 Vis Pre-Moot in Kuwait and competed in the Vis Moot in Vienna in April 2017. She has interned with the Jeddah office of Jones Day. She is the recipient of a Franklin West Housing Scholarship. ■

## Part-time LLM Program (Class of 2019)

**John Cencich** (United States) received his LLM from Kent Law School in Canterbury, England, in 2002, and a J.S.D. in international human rights law from the University of Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, Indiana, in 2008. Dr. Cencich is a Professor of Criminology at California University of Pennsylvania, and previously worked as an international war crimes investigator for the UN Office of the Prosecutor in The Hague, Netherlands. He

has also worked as a Special Agent for the Commonwealth of Virginia. His publications include his book *The Devil's Garden: A War Crime Investigator's Story*.

**Alice Sahel-Azagury** (France) received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Paris XI in 2005, and received her Master of Business Law, Graduate Degree in Business Law, and Graduate Degree in Management from the same university in 2005, 2007, and 2008 respectively. She has worked as Senior Contracts Analyst – International at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), and as in-house counsel at Group POMONA in Europe, where she advised the company on M&A, corporate law, real estate, and other legal affairs. ■

## Program in International Commercial Transactions

**Taulant Hodaj** (Kosovo) received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the State University of Tetovo in Macedonia, in 2007, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Pristina in Pristina, Kosovo, in 2008, and a Master of Laws from Riga Graduate School of Law in Riga, Latvia, in 2010. He has worked as the founding partner of the Lexicom Associates law firm in Pristina, Kosovo, as president of Group Alpbach Kosovo, and as a Fellow Associate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands. ■

## SJD Students, 2017-18

### New SJD Students

**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 of Laws degree 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. ■

## Continuing SJD Students

**Hisham Ababneh** (Jordan) is writing his dissertation on a comparative study of foreign investment laws and their application in Jordan and the United States. His dissertation supervisor is Professor Ronald Brand.

**Sulaiman Almualllem** (Saudi Arabia) is writing his dissertation on the US discovery process and its potential adaptation to the Saudi civil procedure system. His dissertation advisor is Professor Jasmine Gonzales Rose.

**Wasfi Al-Sharaa** (Iraq) is writing his dissertation on the use of criminal law in the fields of energy and environmental regulation. His dissertation supervisor is Professor Haider Hamoudi.

**Ohud Alzahrani** (Saudi Arabia) is writing her dissertation on the rights of orphaned children under international and Islamic law. Her dissertation supervisor is Professor Sheila Vélez Martínez.

**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.

**Oday Mahmoud** (Iraq) is writing his dissertation on a comparative study of the electoral systems in Iraq and the United States and their respective compliance with international standards. His dissertation advisor is Professor Haider Hamoudi.

**Zvenyslava Opeida** (Ukraine) is writing her dissertation on improving the subsidies regime in the World Trade Organization, with a comparative analysis of the law in the European Union and the United States. Her dissertation supervisor is Professor Ronald Brand.

**Doris Toyou** (Cameroon) is writing her dissertation a comparative study of the legal protections for private equity investors in the United States and Europe. Her dissertation advisor is Professor Douglas Branson. ■

## Visiting Scholars, 2017–2018

**Yu Chen** (China) is a doctoral candidate at Renmin University in Beijing, China, where he is working on the topic of “Anti-Bribery Supervision over Transnational Commercial Practices.” He received his Master of Business Law degree from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing in 2005, and received his Bachelor of Technology and Engineering degree from the Liaoning Institute of Technology in JinZhou, China, in 1993. He has worked as a foreign investment and corporate law attorney with the Beijing Maxpro Law Firm. He will be in residence with CILE from October 2017 through August 2018.

**Nan Nan** (China) is a doctoral candidate at Wuhan University in China, where she is writing her doctoral dissertation on intellectual property law and the treatment of traditional and indigenous knowledge and cultures. Her research at Pitt Law will explore the development of intellectual property protec-

tions for traditional knowledge in US, EU, and international law. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Taiyuan University in 2008 and an LLM in Private International Law from Wuhan University in 2012. She will be in residence with CILE through September 2017.

**Walter F. Salles** (Brazil) is a professor of philosophy of law in the law faculty of the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas in Brazil, where he is also a professor in the philosophy and religious studies faculties. His research will focus on the subject of the interrelationship of love and justice, with a particular engagement with the work of Paul Ricoeur, whose work is also central to the scholarship of Pitt Law’s Professor George Taylor (with whom Professor Salles will consult during his time in residence). Professor Salles received his doctorate in religious studies from the Methodist University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2006, and a postdoctoral degree in philosophy from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2010. He will be in residence with CILE from January 2018 through December 2018.

**Mei Shen** (China) is a graduate student in economic law at Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi’an, China. Her research topic is “The Legal System of Dispute Resolution in International Project Contracting in America.” She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from NPU in 2016, and during her studies participated in both the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and the CIETAC Commercial Arbitration Moot. She will be in residence with CILE from October 2017 through April 2018.

**Lu Yang** (China) is a doctoral candidate at the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) in Beijing, China, where he is working on the topic of “The Boundaries of Treaty-based Arbitral Authority.” He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from CUPL in 2009 and an LLM in International Law from CUPL in 2012. He has worked as a case manager with the Beijing Arbitration Commission, and has published several articles on international commercial arbitration. He will be in residence with CILE from October 2017 through September 2018. ■

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Student News

**Flamur Abdullahu** (LLM Class of 2017) was a member of Pitt Law’s team at the 6th LLM International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition at American University in Washington, D.C., in March 2017, advancing to the quarter final round.

**Nashid Ali** (Class of 2018) published an article on the website of The Hill on March 10, 2017, titled “Avoiding U.S. Military Action Against North Korea.” Nashid spent much of 2016-17 studying in the Temple University program in Tokyo, Japan, for which he received a CILE Fellowship.

**Meena Ansari** (Class of 2019) interned for the law firm of Kostman & Pyzer in Toronto, Canada, during summer 2017, with support from a CILE Fellowship.

**Melina Bonish** (Class of 2019) studied in the Tulane Law Summer Programs in Berlin, Germany, and Cambridge, U.K., during summer 2017, with support from a CILE Fellowship.

**Fahira Brodlija** (LLM Class of 2017) was a member of Pitt Law’s team at the 6th LLM

International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition at American University in Washington, D.C., in March 2017, advancing to the quarter final round.

**Danielle Bruno** (Class of 2018) helped administer the Pitt Consortium’s Vis pre-moot in Vienna in April 2017, and assisted Pitt Consortium teams during the Vis moot.

**Robbie Cimmino** (Class of 2018) was a member of Pitt Law’s team at the 2017 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria. (See the full article about this year’s Vis team on page 18.)

**Lin Ding** (Class of 2019) interned for the Shandong Yi Qiang law firm in Shanghai, China, during summer 2017, with support from a CILE Fellowship.

**Allison Fedorka** (Class of 2017) received a CILE Fellowship to support her study in the DePaul Law Cuba Program in Havana, Cuba, in the spring of 2017.

**Kevin Huber** (Class of 2018) was a member of Pitt Law’s team at the 2017 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria. (See the full

article about this year’s Vis team on page 18.) Kevin also received a 2017 Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship to support his internship at the law firm of Al Tamimi & Co. in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**Kelvin Isom** (Class of 2019) received both a CILE Fellowship and a Schultz Fellowship to support his internship during summer 2017 at the Legal Aid Clinic of Eldoret (LACE), Kenya. Kelvin also received a Nationality Rooms Scholarship.

**Kilian Liptrot** (Class of 2019) received a CILE Fellowship to support his internship during summer 2017 with the U.S. Department of Defense Judge Advocates General program in Stuttgart, Germany.

**Jonathan Niznansky** (Class of 2018) was a member of Pitt Law’s team at the 2017 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria. (See the full article about this year’s Vis team on page 18.) Jonathan also received a 2017 Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship to support his internship at the law firm of Ouerfelli Attorneys & Counsels in Tunis, Tunisia.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**Ariel Oliver** (Class of 2017) received a CILE Fellowship to help support her work with the National Lawyers Guild Research Program in Cuba during spring 2017.

**Nika Rassadina** (LLM Class of 2017) was a member of Pitt Law's team at the 6th LLM International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition at American University in Washington, D.C., in March 2017, advancing to the quarter final round.

**Kaitlyn Saal-Ridpath** (Class of 2019) received a CILE Fellowship to support her study at the University of Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation in Lucerne, Switzerland, during summer 2017.

**Wen Shu** (Class of 2019) received a 2017 Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship to support her internship at the law firm of Junhe LLP in Shanghai, China, this summer.

**Taylor Staiger** (Class of 2017) received CILE support to travel to Xi'an, China, with Professors Brostoff and Sinsheimer in October 2016 to train law students at Northwestern Polytechnical University for the Vis Moot. (See Taylor's report on her trip on page 10.)

**Wade Stephens** (Class of 2019) received a 2017 Nordenberg Summer Internship Fellowship to support his internship with the USAID Commercial Law Project in Pristina, Kosovo. Wade also participated in Pitt Law's

new exchange program with the University of Augsburg, attending Augsburg's 2017 Summer Program on European and International Economic Law.

**Matthew VanDyke** (Class of 2018) was a member of Pitt Law's team at the 2017 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria. (See the full article about this year's Vis team on page 18.)

**Camille Woods** (Class of 2017) received a CILE Fellowship to support her study in the DePaul Law Cuba Program in Havana, Cuba, in spring 2017. ■

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Luke Bergstrom** (JD '94) has been named Global Co-Chair of the Mergers & Acquisitions practice at Latham & Watkins.

**Kristine Carpenter** (JD '11) and **Tom Carpenter** (JD '11) will be relocating to London in January 2018. Tom will be undertaking a two-year rotation for the PwC London. Tom is a manager in the International Tax Group at PwC. Kristine will be corporate counsel for Wabtec Corporation in their London and Paris offices.

**Janet Checkley** (JD '14) and **Nevena Jevremovic** (LLM '16) helped administer the Pitt Consortium's Vis pre-moot in Vienna in April 2017, as well as assisting the Pitt Consortium teams during the Vis moot. Janet arranged dispute resolution programs for the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy and Nevena is currently an intern at the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

**Luke Dembosky** (JD '94) returned to Pitt Law twice during the 2016-17 academic year.

He was a panelist at a February program on Russian interference in the 2016 elections sponsored by Pitt's new Institute of Cyber Law, Policy, and Security. In March 2017 he was as the 24th annual McLean Lecturer—please read the full story on page 18.

**Ibrahim Faris** (LLM '13) was selected to participate in the Leaders for Democracy program, sponsored by the U.S Department of State. The program included 5 weeks of academic courses at the University of Virginia, and an internship with the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

**Robert Gyenes** (JD '15) represented CILE at the April 24-27, 2017, session of the UNCITRAL Working Group on electronic commerce. (See Robert's report on page 9.)

**Tina Hu** (JD '13) works for the legal recruitment firm Audrey Golden Associates (<http://www.audreygoldenassoc.com/>). She welcomes interest from Pitt Law grads interested in

AmLaw 200 firm placements at all levels.

**Charles Kotuby** (JD '01) has published, with co-author Luke Sobota, a treatise entitled *General Principles of Law and International Due Process: Principles and Norms Applicable in Transnational Disputes*. (Read the full story on page 6.)

**Ravi Reddy** (JD '06), moved to Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2016 after several years as head of the UN Protection of Civilians project in Kabul, Afghanistan. He now works as the legal adviser to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, mandated by the UN Human Rights Council.

**Todd Shenkin** (JD '94) has moved to the Investment Management Unit of MetLife, where he will provide leadership for new products being developed for the MetLife Investment Management platform. ■

## Help Recruit the Pitt Law LLMS of Tomorrow

The 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 help our recruitment efforts.



## Advisory Board Member Max Laun Honored by NLADA

On June 20, 2017, CILE Advisory Board member Max Laun (JD '88) was awarded the Exemplar Award of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) at their annual award dinner in Washington, DC. NLADA's Exemplar Award honors attorneys in law firms or in-house legal departments who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision, dedication and achievement in promoting and supporting equal justice. In making the award, NLADA noted that Mr. Laun, the

General Counsel of Arconic, has championed pro bono work and public service during his 29-year career at Arconic (formerly Alcoa), where he has sponsored a clinic where attorneys can provide legal assistance to elderly and economically disadvantaged individuals. Mr. Laun served on the Board of Directors of Pittsburgh's Neighborhood Legal Services Association starting in 2008, as its President from 2014-2016, and currently as its Immediate Past President. He also serves

on the Board of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, which coordinates the activities of legal aid programs across the state.

You can watch the presentation of the award to Mr. Laun and his acceptance speech here: <https://youtu.be/Tq9isWDaMYE>, and hear him talk further about his commitment to public service in the short video linked here: <https://youtu.be/4xpMUZ76hUc>. ■



Pictured from left to right are Max Laun, Olivia Laun, Alexander Laun, and Diana Petruska.



After the ceremony

## Faculty International and Comparative Law Publications

**Ronald A. Brand**, "Arbitration or Litigation? Private Choice As a Political Matter," 8 *Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation* 20-44 (2016)

**Ronald A. Brand**, "The Continuing Evolution of U.S. Judgments Recognition Law," 55 *Columbia Journal of International Law* 226 (2017)

**Ronald A. Brand**, "The Hague Choice of Court Convention in the United States," 18 *Anali Pravnog fakulteta Univerziteta u Zenici* 31-44 (2016)

**Ronald A. Brand**, "Engaging the world through the rule of law: The U.S. system should remain inspiring across the globe," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (Feb. 20, 2017)

**Pat Chew**, "Opening the Red Door: Empirical Analysis of Chinese Arbitration Cases 1990-

2000," *Harvard Negotiation Law Review* (forthcoming 2017)

**Vivian Grosswald Curran**, "Law and Human Suffering: A Slice of Life of Vichy France," 28 *Law and Literature* 1 (2017)

**Vivian Grosswald Curran**, "Harmonizing Multinational Parent Company Liability for Foreign Subsidiary Human Rights Violations," 17 *Chicago Journal of International Law* 403 (2017)

**Paul Finkelman**, Как американский закон и Конституция США определяли рабство [How American Law and the American Constitution Defined Slavery] / Пер. с англ. Кристины Сарычевой под ред. Николая Поселягина [Transl. by Kristina Sarycheva, ed. by Nikolay Poselyagin] // НЛО [NLO]. 2016. № 142: Рабство как интеллектуальное наследие и

культурная память (специальный выпуск), т. 2 [No. 142: Slavery's Aftermath: Intellectual Legacy and Cultural Memory (special issue), vol. 2]. С. 213-248 [P. 213-248]

**Haider Ala Hamoudi**, "Resurrecting Islam or Cementing Social Hierarchy?: Reexamining the Codification of 'Islamic' Personal Status Law," 32 *Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law* 329 (2016)

**Matiangai Sirleaf**, "The African Justice Cascade and the Malabo Protocol," 11 *The International Journal for Transitional Justice* 71 (2017)

**Rhonda Wasserman**, *Transnational Class Actions and Interjurisdictional Preclusion*, 86 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 313 (2011), reprinted in 2 Wendy Collins Perdue, *PROCEDURE AND PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW* (2017). ■

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

**Professor Elena Baylis** organized and moderated a panel discussion, "International Criminal Justice and Transitional Justice: Tensions and Synergies?" on Oct. 27, 2016, as a pre-event to the opening session of International Law Weekend, at the New York City Bar Association. The event was cosponsored by the American Society of International Law Interest Groups for International Criminal Law and for Transitional Justice and Rule of Law and by the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice. It featured speakers from the International Criminal Court, the International Center for Transitional Justice, the International Justice Project, Stanford Law School, and the High Court of Cape Town, South Africa. On October 29, 2016, Professor Baylis presented the results of her empirical research on post-conflict justice norms and knowledge development at International Law Weekend for the "Empirical Research on International Legal Education" panel. On November 12, 2016, Professor Baylis served as a discussant and moderator at American Society of International Law Research Forum panel on Armed Conflict and International Law. The panel featured papers on detention, hybrid warfare and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

On March 3, 2017, Professor Baylis presented her research on international rule of law initiatives at the IntLawGrrls 10th anniversary conference at the University of Georgia Law School. On March 24, 2017, Professor she spoke at a workshop at the London School of Economics on "Hybrid Justice: Internal and External Resilience in Post-Conflict Societies." On April 14, 2017, Professor Baylis spoke on a panel at the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting entitled "Should the ICC Privilege Global or Local Justice Goals?," focused on the tensions between global and local priorities in the work of the International Criminal Court. On April 29, 2017, she presented a paper at a workshop on "Cognitive Sociology, Culture, and International Law," hosted by the Centre of Excellence on International Courts at the University of Copenhagen. Baylis' paper, "Cognitive Sociology and International Rule of Law Initiatives," addressed the use of models in rule of law programs in post-conflict settings.

**Professor Ronald Brand** moderated and spoke at the International Arbitration Roundtable held at Pitt Law and sponsored by CILE on Sept. 28, 2016. He spoke on "Drafting Effective Arbitration and Choice of Court Agreements." (See the full article about the Roundtable on page 4.) In October

2016, he spoke as part of a panel on the importance of comparative legal education at the Kuwait International Law School in Kuwait on October 11, 2016. He then led a three-day training session on October 12-14, 2016 for professors and coaches of Vis International Arbitration Moot teams from nearly 20 law schools in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the UAE. Pitt Law alums Janet Checkley (JD '14) and Benjamin Morrow (JD '15) assisted Professor Brand in the training sessions.

On October 28, 2016, Professor Brand moderated a panel on "Private International Law: The Year in Review" at the International Law Weekend, hosted by the American Branch of the International Law Association in New York City. On November 15, 2016, he participated in the Public Meeting on the Judgments Project at the U.S. Department of State, which considered the current draft of a Judgments Convention and sought input from U.S. constituencies on future negotiations. On November 18, 2016, he spoke on "The United States and the Hague Choice of Court Convention" in Milan, Italy, at a full-day program on "The 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: New Perspectives in International Commercial Dispute Resolution."

On February 4-12, 2017, Professor Brand he provided training in oral argument skills in Kuwait for Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot teams from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the UAE. He was assisted in the training program by Janet Checkley (JD '13) and Ashley Hogan (JD '17). Professor Brand also provided training for lawyers, professors, and judges to serve as arbitrators for the Seventh Annual Middle East Vis Pre-Moot.

Professor Brand participated as a member of the U.S. Delegation in the Second Special Commission on Judgments of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, in The Hague, Netherlands, from February 16 through February 24, 2017. The Special Commission prepared a draft text to be used in completing a convention on the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Professor Ronald Brand taught a Global Law Studies Course in International Business Transactions at the University of Navarra School of Law in Pamplona, Spain, on March 5-10, 2017. The course was a part of Navarra's International Business Law program, administered in part by Scott Wishart (JD '91).

On March 22, 2017, Professor Brand served as moderator for a Pittsburgh World Affairs Council program on "Vietnam: The Next Great Investment Opportunity for American Business." Professor Brand and Professor Harry Flechtner accompanied the Pitt Law Vis Moot team to Europe from March 30 to April 14, 2017. (See the full article on page 18.) While in Vienna, Professor Brand spoke on April 7, 2017, on "Teaching Arbitration" at the University of Vienna Faculty of Law, as part of a conference of authors for the *Cambridge Compendium of International Commercial and Investment Arbitration*. Brand's chapter on Teaching Arbitration will be included in the Compendium, to be published by Cambridge University Press. On April 25, 2017, Professor Brand spoke by video link to the International Litigation class of Professor Spencer Weber Waller at the Loyola University of Chicago Law School, lecturing on current issues regarding the Hague Judgments Convention and the differences in rules for declining jurisdiction in common law and civil law countries.

On May 22-16, 2017, Professor Brand was a member of the faculty of the Summer School on Transnational Commercial Agreements, Litigation, and Arbitration, in Vicenza, Italy. This yearly Pennsylvania CLE program is co-sponsored by CILE and the University of Verona. On June 21, 2017, Professor Brand spoke on "International Commercial Arbitration: Key Considerations in Adopting Legal Frameworks" at the Singapore Cooperation Program International Dispute Resolution Training Program. The Program was organized by the Singapore Dispute Resolution Academy (SIDRA) and presented to 28 representatives from the Justice Ministries of 26 developing countries. One of the principal organizers of the program at SIDRA was Janet Checkley (JD '15). While in Singapore, Professor Brand also held meetings with law and other faculty members at Singapore National University, Singapore Management University, and Nanyang Technological University. On June 23, 2017, Professor Brand spoke on U.S. Legal Education, and on June 24, he spoke on "Drafting Choice of Forum Clauses for International Contracts: The International Legal Framework for Arbitration and Litigation," both at Ningbo University School of Law in Ningbo, China.

**Professor Teresa Brostoff**, along with Professor Ann Sinsheimer taught in Xi'an, China, for two weeks in October 2016, participating in the Global Partners Conference. (See the full story on page 15.)

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

**Professor Emeritus John Burkoff** has been appointed Executive Dean of the Spring 2018 Semester at Sea Voyage. This is Professor Burkoff's (and former Associate Dean Nancy Burkoff's) seventh Semester at Sea Voyage, and it is his fourth as Executive Dean. (See our tribute to the Burkoffs on their retirement on page 19.)

**Professor Vivian Curran** spoke about "Privacy Issues and French Law and Legal Culture" at the Privacy Forum Conference in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 28, 2016. Professor Curran was elected President of the American Society of Comparative Law at the 2016 annual meeting of the Society on October 27-29, 2016.

**Professor Paul Finkelman** gave the keynote address (and then participated in a panel) on April 15, 2017, at a program on Exodus From Slavery at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi** spoke on October 19, 2016, at the Hartford Seminary in a talk entitled "Sex and the Shari'a." On December 4, 2016, Professor Hamoudi presented a paper on the role of the judiciary in facilitating the rise of authoritarianism in the post-Saddam era at a conference on Judicial Ethics held at the Doha, Qatar campus of Texas A&M. On January 4, 2017, Professor Hamoudi spoke on "Islamic Law in the American Legal System" to the AALS Jewish Law Section at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Law Schools. At that same meeting, he spoke before the AALS Islamic Law Section on January 6 on the subject of "Teaching Islamic Law."

On June 14, 2017, Professor Hamoudi presented his paper "On the Quietist Myth: Shi'ism and the Waqf in Iraq" at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany. Professor Hamoudi spoke on President Trump's proposed travel ban at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh on January 21, 2017, at the Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh on February 3, 2017, and at the Islamic Center of Indiana, Pennsylvania, on March 4, 2017.

**Professor Michael Madison** presented the keynote lecture on "Governing Knowledge Commons," on October 22, 2016, at the 3rd annual International Association for the Study of Commons (IASC) Thematic Conference on Knowledge Commons, in Paris. On October 24, 2016, he spoke on "Copyright in the Era of Big Data" at the Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Free University

of Brussels), Brussels, Belgium. The talk was co-organized by the Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings, the Institute for European Studies and Vesalius College at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Institute for German Studies/Literary and Media Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen. On October 25, 2016, Professor Madison spoke on "Governing Medical Knowledge Commons" at the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law (CIPIL) at the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge, in Cambridge, UK.

**Professor Matiangai Sirleaf** presented her paper "Ebola Does Not Just Fall from the Sky: Global Structural Violence and International Responsibility," on July 9, 2016, at the 10th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop at the University of Iowa College of Law in Iowa City, IA; on September 16, 2016, at the Women in International Law Workshop, held at Duke Law School; on November 12, 2016, at the Mid-Year Research Forum for the American Society for International Law; at the 2017 International Law Colloquium at Temple University School of Law on February 28, 2017, and at the Culp Colloquium at Duke Law School in March 2017.

Professor Sirleaf presented her draft book chapter on "The Criminalization of Trafficking in Hazardous Waste in Africa," at the African Court Research Initiative Conference, Arusha, Tanzania, on July 28-29, 2016. On October 17, 2016, she spoke on "Malabo Protocol and International Criminal Justice in Africa" at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University in Toronto, Canada, as part of the International Law in the Global South Research Seminar Series. On December 10, 2016, she served as a commentator at an interdisciplinary international conference was titled "Canadian/Anglophone African Human Rights Engagements: A Critical Assessment of the Literature," at Osgoode Hall Law School. On January 5, 2017, Professor Sirleaf delivered a presentation at the 2017 American Association of Law Schools annual meeting in San Francisco, California, on "Ebola Does Not Fall from the Sky: Global Structural Violence and International Responsibility," as part of a panel titled "Human Rights Outside the West." She presented the paper later that month at a faculty workshop at the Penn State School of Law.

On March 31, 2017, Professor Sirleaf presented her draft article on "The Criminalization of Trafficking in Hazardous Waste in Africa" at the University of Wisconsin Law School

International Law Journal's Symposium on Regional Human Rights Systems in Crisis. On May 10, 2017, she spoke on "Shared but Differentiated Responsibility for Combatting Highly Infectious Neglected Diseases," at the Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum at the University of Richmond Law School. Later that month, Professor Sirleaf presented her draft article "Ebola Does Not Fall from the Sky: Global Structural Violence and International Responsibility"

Professor Sirleaf was awarded two Diplomacy Lab projects by the U.S. State Department. A team of Pitt Law students in her spring 2017 Post-Conflict and Transitional Justice Seminar conducted research for the State Department on the prosecution of international criminal law violations in Africa. In the fall of 2017, another team of students will conduct research for the State Department on how to shape security provisions during the transitional phase following a conflict. (For more, read the full story on page 3.)

**Professor Rhonda Wasserman** participated in a September 9, 2016, meeting in Philadelphia of the Members' Consultative Group for the Restatement (Third) of the Conflict of Laws, an ongoing project of the American Law Institute. Like its predecessors, the Third Restatement will cover choice of law; judicial jurisdiction; and recognition and enforcement of judgments. Professor Wasserman was a Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School for the fall 2016 semester, where she taught Civil Procedure and Transnational Litigation in U.S. Courts. ■



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