

**AALS INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW SECTION
SURVEY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN U.S. LAW SCHOOLS**

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**International Human Rights Law Institute
DePaul University College of Law**

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QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES:

- 1) How many human rights centers, institutions or programs (C/I/Ps) do you have and what are they called?

The International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) – which operates eight major program areas (Impunity and Accountability; International Criminal Justice; International Weapons Control Center; Memory and Conscience; Middle East Peace and Security; Rule of Law; the Sullivan Program in the Americas; and Trafficking. The Institute also supports the educational programs in human rights at the College of Law.

The College of Law also operates an Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, the Center for Church State Studies, and the Center for Justice in Capital Cases.

For each separate one, please answer the following questions:

- 2) When was the C/I/P established and by whom?

IHRLI was founded in 1990 by M. Cherif Bassiouni, current president of the Institute.

- 3) What is the makeup of the C/I/P staff? (full-time staff, part-time staff, law professors, law students, other professors or students, and advisory board)

IHRLI's President and Vice President are law professors. The executive director is a full-time staff member and adjunct professor, supported by 4-5 additional full time staff members. Ten students receive funded fellowships to work at the Institute, with another 4 to 5 students receiving research assistantships. 3 to 6 post graduate international fellows work at the Institute, while 4 to 10 DePaul law students volunteer. The Institute is supported by a 6 member faculty advisory board and a 43 member external advisory board.

- 4) In general, how is the C/I/P funded? What is your annual budget?

IHRLI's work is primarily granted funded, with some salary and in kind support from the College of Law. IHRLI's budget runs around a million dollars per year.

- 5) If it's not obvious from the name of the program, does the C/I/P focus on any specific international human rights law issues (i.e. refugees, women's rights, etc.)?

As indicated in Q1, IHRLI covers a broad range of issues.

- 6) How are law students involved with the C/I/P? (e.g., do they assist staff/faculty in project work, are there journals, newsletters, briefs, or other publications, human rights programs abroad, externships, other international human rights campaigns, etc.)

Students work as Fellows, research assistants on projects both at the College and in foreign sites (including the resulting publications.) They also extern with affiliated programs.

- 7) Can students earn credit for their work? If so, how many credits/semester and what percentage of students take advantage of this option?

Students can earn up to 3 hours of credit per semester, though few have done so.

- 8) What classes, seminars, symposiums, or other events have been offered in conjunction with the C/I/P?

All of the College of Law's offering in international criminal law, international human rights, weapons control and terrorism are offered by faculty affiliated with the Institute. IHRLI also operates the bi-weekly Sullivan Fellows Roundtables (discussions with human rights advocates and leaders), the Memory and Conscience lecture series, and a variety of public presentations throughout the year.

- 9) Does the C/I/P assist students in acquiring internship/externship opportunities with human rights organizations (NGOs, IGOs, etc.)? Which organizations?

We support students in their application for foreign internships/externships in a variety of countries. For example, we have sponsored an intern with the Inter-American Court for Human Rights for the past eleven consecutive years. We have also helped place students and former students at the ICTY and the ICTR.

- 10) Does the C/I/P have any affiliations with human rights groups outside the law school or university? Which ones? What is the nature of the affiliation?

IHRLI has a close working relationship with the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science (Saracusa, Italy). Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni is also the president of that Institute.

- 11) Does the C/I/P allow student involvement in international human rights litigation cases? What is the degree of that involvement?

The Institute is a research, education and advocacy center. It does not litigate cases.

- 12) What, in your opinion, attracts students to participate in the C/I/P?

The Institute is doing outstanding work in a real world context. While the work is scholarly, it is strongly grounded in practice – as evident by the support given by grantors.

- 13) What are some specific projects or cases that the C/I/P has undertaken in recent years?

Among its many activities, IHRLI just completed a major study of the trafficking of women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation in 8 countries in Central America/the Caribbean and in Brazil. The Institute has also recently completed a humanitarian law and human rights education project in the Arab world translating and publishing 3 books in 4 volumes of treaties and commentaries in Arabic. IHRLI has also actively supported and participated in the formation of the International Criminal Court.

- 14) Are there cultural and language barriers that impede your work? If so, how have you overcome these barriers?

Many of our students and staff are multi-lingual and multi-cultural.

- 15) Are there any other suggestions you may have concerning the organization of a C/I/P?

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS CLINICAL WORK: (N/A)

- 16) How many clinics do you have that are handling international human rights litigation or projects? Does your law school have separate clinics handling human rights and asylum cases, or is yours a hybrid program teaching both?

IHRLI is exploring the development of a new international human rights law clinic.

The College of Law has two clinics: one in asylum and immigration law and one handling capital cases litigation. They operate independently of the Institute.

For each such clinic, please answer the following questions:

- 17) When was the clinic established, and by whom? Has it always been a for-credit course (if not, were there human rights advocacy courses offered for credit that preceded the clinic)?

- 18) What is the makeup of the clinic faculty and staff? (full-time, part-time, permanent/non-tenure track/ temporary law faculty (clinical or non-), fellows, law students, other non-law professors or students)
- 19) What relationship does the clinic have to other clinical programs at your law school?
- 20) What is the clinic's annual budget? How is it funded?
- 21) How many semesters is the clinic course, and is it full-credit?
- 22) Are there pre- or co-requisites for clinic enrollment? If so, what? If not, why not?
- 23) Assuming the clinic is limited-enrollment, how do you decide who is admitted when over-enrolled? What is the maximum number of students each semester?
- 24) What kinds of work does the clinic do (e.g., advocacy, litigation, legislative drafting, field-missions)? Do you focus on one or more category of work?
- 25) Does the clinic focus on a specific issue or set of issues (e.g., women's rights)? If so, how did you come to that choice?
- 26) What mix of domestic work (if any) and international cases does the clinic handle?
- 27) In what fora does the clinic practice (e.g., U.S. and/or international courts; NGOs; regional human rights bodies; U.N. agencies; etc.)?
- 28) What percentage of students in the clinic typically travel abroad for their clinic work?
- 29) Do students have the opportunity to meet their clients or partner organizations in person?
- 30) How are projects selected? Who are your case referral organizations or agencies?
- 31) Please list any partner NGOs that assist you in casework or in teaching the clinic.

- 32) How do you integrate lawyering skills into the clinic curriculum (e.g., through simulation exercises, through lectures or presentations, through readings, through project work)?
- 33) Do you have syllabi, simulations or any other material that you are willing to make available to others, either upon request or by putting it up for colleagues on a shared link between the AALS International Human Rights Law Section website and your clinic's website (the AALS link could be password protected if this would be helpful)? Or, please attach here, if appropriate.

RESOURCE RELATED QUESTIONS

- 34) If you were advising colleagues who were starting up a human rights clinic, what would you suggest are the most important substantive books to have on your shelf, the top websites you would bookmark and the most important listservs to join (you do not have to catalogue your library for us, we would just like to know your "top ten list" of resources you most strongly recommend for people who are starting out)?
- 35) If your institution is considering starting a human rights clinic or center, what resources and/or other assistance would you find helpful from the AALS Section and other colleagues?

INDIVIDUAL FACULTY WORK:

- 36) Do you have any faculty that are performing or supervising significant international human rights litigation or other kinds of projects outside the formal structure of centers and clinics? If so, what type of project and how many students are involved?

EXTERNSHIPS & SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS:

- 37) Do you have students receiving credit for human rights service performed outside your law school? Roughly how many students are doing this each year? What percentage of externships involve placement outside the U.S.?
- 1 to 2 students are involved in non-funded externships for credit.
- 38) Are summer human rights fellowships funded by your C/I/P? If not, is funding available to students for such summer internships in other ways? Does your C/I/P facilitate or counsel students in finding placements?

IHRLI offers two Sullivan Summer Internship fellowships in the Americas (one of which supports the internship with the Inter American Court for Human Rights.) The Institute also advises students in finding placements.

- 39) What does your C/I/P do to foster international public interest career development? Do you offer post-graduate fellowships that enable students to pursue international public interest work?

The Institute is exploring how it can assist former students in this regard.

Please add your comments on any other relevant aspects of your law school's human rights activities.

THANK YOU! *A final draft of your responses will be circulated to you before it is uploaded to the Section website. Please let us know if you would prefer that any of your answers not be placed on the website.*