

**AALS International Human Rights Section
Survey for Section Website**

Name of your Institution: Northeastern University Law School

Contact Person for Further Information (name, phone and email):

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Questions about your Human Rights Centers, Institutions or Programs (CIP):

1. How many Human Rights Centers, Institutions or Programs do you have and what are they called?

Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy

For each separate one, please answer the following questions:

2. What is the makeup of the Center/Institute/Program staff? (full-time staff, part-time staff, law professors, law students, other professors or students, and advisory board)

1 part-time administrator, 3 faculty co-directors, 23 affiliated faculty, 2-3 student research assistants; 1 library staff liaison. While PHRGE does not have its own advisory board, our on-line journal, Human Rights and the Global Economy, has an advisory board of a dozen distinguished interdisciplinary scholars in the human rights field.

How are law students involved with the CIP? (i.e. are there journals, newsletters, briefs, or other publications, human rights programs abroad, other international human rights campaigns, etc.)

Student assistants are involved in event planning and substantive research. Examples include: preparation of a human rights training manual for state legislators; serving as reporters for conference sessions; providing research assistance for PHRGE report on Civil Gideon and international law.

3. If it's not obvious from the name of the program, does the CIP focus on any specific international human rights law issues (i.e. refugees, women's rights, etc.)?

Our emphasis is on economic, social and cultural rights, as well as development issues.

4. What classes, seminars, symposiums, or other presentations have been offered in conjunction with the CIP?

Annual Gordon Lecture on human rights; numerous seminars and presentations by visiting scholars and activists, with emphasis on ESC rights; annual state court judges' seminar on an aspect of ESC rights; regular inclusion of international and human rights classes in curriculum; training programs geared toward students preparing for international/human rights coops

5. Does the CIP assist students in acquiring internship/externship opportunities with human rights organizations (NGOs, IGOs, etc.)? Which organizations?

Cooperative learning and field placements are integral to the NUSL curriculum. Many students complete a human rights placement in the U.S. or internationally as one of their four required coops. In addition, we will pilot a targeted human rights coop program in 2007-2008, selecting twelve students to receive a human rights stipends for work with selected organizations. .

6. In general, how is the CIP funded?

By alumni donations and general law school funds. We are in the process of applying for foundation funding.

7. Does the CIP have any affiliations with Human Rights groups outside the law school or university? Which ones? What is the nature of the affiliation?

Yes, through cooperative placements and through Law in a Social Context Program, which uses students teams to complete client projects.

8. Does the CIP allow student involvement in actual International Human Rights cases? What is the degree of that involvement?

To date, no.

9. What, in your opinion, attracts students to participate in the CIP?

Prior exposure to international issues in class, coop placement, undergrad or prior work experience; interest in working internationally and cross-culturally.

10. What are some specific projects or cases that the CIP has undertaken in recent years?

PHRGE sponsors an on-line human rights journal through the Social Science Research Network – the Journal on Human Rights and the Global Economy, available at <http://www.ssrn.com/link/human-rights-global-economy.html>.

PHRGE is involved in briefing issues of international law and Civil Gideon rights domestically, and will be taking a leadership role in raising those issues before the UN CERD Committee as it reviews US compliance with CERD in 2008.

PHRGE offers an annual seminar to Massachusetts state court judges on human rights, co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Black Judges Conference.

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

We would like to be able to place more students in programs abroad, but language is often an issue. We have focused on identifying sites where coop students can contribute as English speakers – for example, in South Africa, Malaysia, the U.K.

11. Are there any other suggestions you may have concerning the organization of a CIP?

Questions about your human rights clinical work:

12. How many clinics do you have that are handling international human rights litigation or projects (by using international law in domestic fora and/or by taking matters to IGOs)?

No clinics. Students may get this experience during their law school education as a part of their cooperative placements. While it is not a clinic, our first-year program, Law in a Social Context, involves student work on behalf of organizational clients. Several of the projects each year involve international human rights law.

For each such clinic, please answer the following questions:

13. What is the makeup of the clinic staff? (full-time staff, part-time staff, permanent/non-tenure track/temporary law professors, law students, other professors or students)

14. In what fora do you practice?

15. Who are your case referral agencies?

16. Please list any partner NGOs that assist you in casework or in teaching the clinic.

17. If you were planning to start up a human rights clinic, what 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 let our colleagues know your “top ten list” of items you most strongly recommend for people who are starting out)?

18. Do you have syllabi, simulations or any other material that you are able to make available to others, either upon request or by putting it up for colleagues on a shared link

between the AALS human rights section website and your clinic's website (the AALS link could be password protected if this would be helpful)?

19. What percentage of the students in this clinic typically travel abroad for their clinic work?
20. Do students have the opportunity to meet their clients in person?
21. What mix of domestic work (if any) and international cases does this clinic handle?

Individual Faculty Efforts:

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

The majority of NUSL's law school faculty identify their work as related to human rights and development. Many of these faculty are also involved in human rights litigation and activism. For example, one faculty member recently served as of counsel on an amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court raising international law issues. Another faculty member is active in ensuring access to AIDS drugs; his activist work involves 50+ students at NUSL as well as other law schools.

Externships:

23. 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.?

Northeastern has a mandatory pro bono requirement that almost all students fulfill through a full-time 3-month coop placement. Many of these placements involve domestic or international human rights work. A list of recent international cooperative placements is available at <http://www.slaw.neu.edu/coop/international.html>.

AALS Human Rights Section:

24. As you know, the AALS human rights section is just getting off the ground and we would be grateful for your suggestions and leadership. Please let us know in writing or by calling Beth Lyon at 610-519-7126.

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.