

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

Name of your Institution:

Seattle University School of Law

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

**Ronald C. Slye, Associate Professor
Director, International & Comparative Law Programs
Director, Center for Global Justice
Phone: 206-398-4045
Email: slye@seattleu.edu**

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?

We have three programs that specifically focus on international human rights. First, we have an international human rights clinic, in which students work under the supervision of clinical faculty on international human rights cases and advocacy projects. Second, we have a Center for Global Justice, which provides opportunities for faculty to explore issues related to human rights and global justice through their scholarship, a speaker series, and conferences. The Center for Global Justice also provides opportunities for students to work on human rights related research for faculty, in connection with a major conference, and with human rights lawyers and organizations around the world. Third, we are initiating a summer program with the Mandela Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa on Global Advocacy. The Global Advocacy program will pair US JD students with South African LLM students, who will enroll in classes involving international humanitarian law, international criminal law, South African constitutional law, and global legal writing and oral advocacy. In addition, we have developed externships with international organizations in Europe, including the international criminal tribunals; and have dedicated internship placements in Nicaragua and Cambodia, in addition to providing funding for students to secure their own human rights related internship placement.

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. Clinic – one full-time tenure track position.
 2. Center – faculty director, part-time administrative staff

3. Summer program – two faculty directors (US, South Africa); part-time administrative staff in both South Africa and US.

3. 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.)
1. Clinic – students enroll in the class, and work with a clinical professor and sometimes outside counsel.
 2. Center – the Center chooses Student Fellows each year who work on a variety of human rights related research and advocacy projects.
 3. Summer program -- enrollment
 4. Other – two student organizations, the Human Rights Network and the International Law Society, provide a variety of opportunities for student involvement, including organizing speaking events and human rights campaigns.

4. 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.)?

No. The programs take a broad and expansive view of international human rights law.

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

Curricular offerings in the area of human rights include the already mentioned clinic, as well as classes in international human rights law, international development law, globalization, international criminal law, international women's rights, and transitional justice.

Two major conferences are currently being planned on corporate accountability under international human rights law, and international development law.

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

Yes, we have placed students with a variety of organizations including the ICTY, the Documentation Center of Cambodia, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the Center for International Environmental Law.

7. In general, how is the CIP funded?

General funds of the law school.

8. 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?

We have worked with the Center for Justice and Accountability, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Hate Free Zone, the Documentation Center of Cambodia, the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and CEJIL.

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

Yes, through the clinic and the Center for Global Justice. In the clinic students directly represent clients with human rights cases. For the Center, students provide supporting research to lawyers and organizations involved in various human rights cases and campaigns.

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

First, the central mission of the law school is to produce lawyers with a strong dedication to social justice. We thus attract, and encourage, students to explore social justice at the local, national, and international level. Second, with the recent developments in the international criminal law area, and the growing awareness of international terrorism, students are increasingly interested in issues of international justice. Third, students are more interested generally in international law, with the growing realization that understanding our global context is necessary even for those who will primarily practice law domestically.

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

In addition to those mentioned above, the program has worked on a petition against the United States before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights challenging US deportation laws and policies; the clinic is counsel of record in a federal lawsuit against the Caterpillar corporation for aiding and abetting human rights violations in the middle east; the clinic is also counsel of record on a case involving conditions of detention of non-US citizens in a federal facility in Washington; a fact finding trip to Swaziland to examine laws and practices involving the rights of women; and representing Armenians seeking justice for ethnic cleansing in the 1990s.

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

We have a diverse student body with fluency in over thirty languages. Our Access to Justice Institute has capitalized on these resources and created a language bank that is available to lawyers and faculty working on cases or projects that require other languages.

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

Questions about your human rights clinical work:

14. 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)?

One.

For each such clinic, please answer the following questions:

15. 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)

Full time tenure track professor.

16. In what fora do you practice?

US federal courts; United Nations; Inter-American Commission of Human Rights

17. Who are your case referral agencies?

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

We have worked with the Center on Constitutional Rights as co counsel.

19. 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)?

Ratner & Stephens, International Human Rights Litigation in US Courts

Steiner & Alston, International Human Rights in Context

Hurst Hannum, Guide to International Human Rights Practice

Websites: Human Rights First; Human Rights Watch; Open Society Justice Initiative; Project on International Courts and Tribunals

20. 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)?

We would be happy to make some of these materials available.

21. What percentage of the students in this clinic typically travel abroad for their clinic work?

None.

22. Do students have the opportunity to meet their clients in person?

Sometimes. With respect to US litigation under the alien tort statute students have been able to meet with some of the clients in person.

23. What mix of domestic work (if any) and international cases does this clinic handle?

The clinic is working with a local immigrants rights organization to develop a program incorporating international human rights law into domestic cases and advocacy.

Individual Faculty Efforts:

24. 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?

Externships:

25. 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.?

We have 2-3 students a year who enroll in human rights related externships. Approximately 4-5 externship placements a year are made overseas, and we are in the process of increasing those opportunities.

AALS Human Rights Section:

26. 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.