International News

“Our mission is to educate diverse, talented students to be responsible leaders in a rapidly changing, interdependent world, to prepare graduates who will be ethical advocates for justice and the rule of law....”

(School of Law Mission Statement)

Loyola to Launch Program in Rome

By Maria Kantzavelos

Law graduates from around the world who want to pursue a career in promoting the rule of law in developing countries, nations in economic transition or countries emerging from conflict can soon receive training in the nuts and bolts of this work through a new program to be rolled out in Rome by Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

The law school has announced that it will launch a one-year, "practice-oriented" Master's of Law degree program in Rule of Law for Development in September at Loyola's John Felice Rome Center in Italy.

The program, also called PROLAW, is the law school's "first truly international law program," said Loyola's Dean David N. Yellen.

Loyola Chicago's law school has long been offering U.S. students overseas study options to include programs and field studies in various countries. But the PROLAW LL.M program in Rome is unique for the school in that an estimated three-quarters of the students in the program are expected to come from outside the United States, Yellen said.

Offering the program in Rome makes sense, the dean said, "because of it being accessible to so many places in the world where these students may come from." Organizers of the new program, which is being supported by a $1.1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said the program also stands out from other law school offerings in that its emphasis is on the "how to do it" end of providing rule of law advice. Yellen said he knows of only one other similar program at a law school in Ohio. "Ours is quite unique in terms of training people to actually go back and do this kind of work," Yellen said.

According to the university's website, the program will prepare graduates to work as rule of law advisers for such places as: governments undertaking legal and justice reforms; international financial institutions, such as the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank; the United Nations...
... and its specialized agencies dealing with peacekeeping and peace building; specialized international organizations such as the International Development Law Organization and the Institute for the Unification of Private Law; nongovernmental organizations like national and international bar associations dealing with rule of law and justice issues; and private consultancy firms, universities and think tanks performing rule of law advisory work under contracts and grants.

Serving as the program's director is attorney William T. Loris, an alumnus of Loyola University Chicago's John Felice Rome Center and the former director general of the International Development Law Organization, a Rome-based intergovernmental organization that works to promote the rule of law and good governance in developing countries, countries in economic transition and countries emerging from violent conflict.

"It's an idealistic career for a lawyer, who has all kinds of other potentials," Loris said, referring to rule of law advisory work. "This is a very practical area they can get into and affect the lives of millions of people."

Loris said there are currently hundreds of millions of dollars going into rule of law initiatives around the world. He said a target for the new Loyola program is to recruit students who are from developing countries that are receiving rule of law advice and people who are actually working in their own countries on rule of law reforms as partners of foreign-sponsored advisers — "so that these people in the developing countries actually develop the same skill set and knowledge base that the advisers have and eventually they would take over completely the responsibility for legal reform."

"The idea there is that, if all of these efforts — which are being financed by the international community, including the United States — are going to be successful, we need to build up a cadre of lawyers and judges and other kinds of legal professionals in these countries who will be able to conceive of and implement the next wave of change and reform long after the assistance from the United States or other countries is no longer available," Loris said.

The program also aims to attract students from countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development — students from "basically the rich countries; from the donor countries," Loris said.

That segment of the program's prospective students would include those from such places as the United States, European countries or Australia, "who are young lawyers and judges who would like to take advantage of the opportunity of their legal educations to help other countries develop the rule of law, and thus provide an essential element of governance, which will help alleviate poverty in the countries in which they work," Loris said.

"There's a huge market now for lawyers from successful countries to contribute to the efforts of other countries in developing their legal systems," he said. "This is an extremely rewarding way to lead your life."

For more information on PROLAW, look at the webpage here.
International Law Symposium

The International Law Symposium is an annual conference on a current subject of interest in international and comparative law and policy and is organized by the Loyola University Chicago International Law Review. This year the Symposium focused on the Laws of War: International Conflict and the Global War on Terror.

The Symposium was a forum to discuss the balancing of human rights issues, national security, and how the international community and the United States government attempt to regulate warfare.

The Symposium owes much of its success to the participation from distinguished practitioners and scholars of international law and policy. We were fortunate enough to have Professor Michael Newton from Vanderbilt University Law School deliver the opening Keynote Address where he framed much of the later discussion and debate about the big issues in this area of law.

After the Keynote, there was a panel discussion on Methods of Warfare and Peacekeeping, the Proliferation of Piracy, and International responses to these problems. This panel featured Professor Kateri Carmola from Middlebury College, Professor Raul Pedrozo of the U.S. Naval War College’s International Law Department, Thomas Nichols, Professor of National Security Affairs at the U.S. Naval War College, and Brian Wilson, Deputy Director of the Global Maritime Operational Threat Response Coordination Center.

The next panel focused on approaches, issues, and responses to the Global War on Terror. Professor Thomas Haney served as moderator of the discussion with Paul Diehl of the University of Illinois, Robert Turner of the University of Virginia School of Law, and Frédéric Mégret of McGill University.

During the luncheon Commander James Kraska delivered our second Keynote Address. Commander Kraska is the Howard S. Levie Chair of Operational Law at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. and specializes in the intersection between international law and international relations. The symposium came to an exciting conclusion with a debate on the targeted killing of the U.S. citizen, Anwar al-Awlaki and the court case revolving around the issue. The debate was lead by Professor Lesley Wexler and Professor Michael Lewis and was moderated by our own, Professor Michael Zimmer.
Law Library Adds Online Version of Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals

By Julienne Grant

The Law Library has long subscribed to the print edition of the renowned Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP), but recently added the online edition to its growing collection of electronic resources for foreign and international law. The multilingual IFLP, which is produced by the American Association of Law Libraries, indexes articles and book reviews appearing in almost 500 legal journals published worldwide. According to the database description, IFLP offers “in-depth coverage of public and private international law, comparative and foreign law, and the law of all jurisdictions other than the United States, the U.K., Canada, and Australia.” The Index platform is available via Ovid Technologies, with coverage from 1985 forward.

IFLP is available to the Loyola community through the Law Library’s website under “Subscription Databases,” and then alphabetically under Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals. The database is accessible from off campus with a Loyola ID and password. For assistance using or accessing IFLP, please stop by the Reference Desk, or call 312.915.7205. More information on the database is available here.

Opportunities for Students Interested in International Law

International Law Summer Stipends

The Law School’s International Programs Committee is pleased to announce that for the 10th year it will offer summer stipends to students who work in non-paying or low-paying jobs related to international law. Four to five stipends, in amounts of up to $3000, will be available. Note the deadline to submit application and materials is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2011. For more information please contact Prof. Stacey Platt at splatt@luc.edu.

The Thirteenth Annual Andrew P. Vance Memorial Writing Competition

The Customs and International Trade Bar Association (CITBA) and Brooklyn Law School (BLS) are sponsoring this Writing Competition to encourage law students who are interested in careers in customs and international trade law. Winning papers will be considered for publication in the Brooklyn Journal of International Law. More information on the writing competition can be found here.