

Women in International Law Interest Group

Note from the Co-Chairs

Dear WILIG Members,

We hope you all enjoyed your summers.

In this newsletter, we open the call for nominations for the 2025 Prominent Woman in International Law Award; call for applications for this year's WILIG Mentorship Program; provide information on recent and upcoming WILIG activities; and request your thoughts on future activities.

We hope to see many of you at this year's ASIL Midyear Meeting in Chicago. We hope that you all will join us for our Mentor/Mentee Coffee Hour which is currently scheduled for Friday, Nov 15, 2024 at the University of Chicago!

Call for Nominations

WILIG's Prominent Woman in International Law Award 2025

The Women in International Law Interest Group of ASIL invites nominations for the Prominent Woman in International Law Award. 2025 marks the 32nd year that the award is being given.

The WILIG Prominent Woman in International Law Award honors those who have advanced women, gender, and women's rights in international law.

The diverse accomplishments of previous awardees (list available [here](#)) demonstrate the multiple ways in which honorees achieve this recognition. Past awardees include judges of the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Tribunals, founders of women's rights NGOs, business leaders, government officials, and scholars. Some of these women have broken glass ceilings in the field, others have worked tirelessly to promote women and women's voices in international law, and still others have contributed substantively to advancing, researching, or advocating for women's rights.

Please submit nominations for a Prominent Woman in International Law who meets some or all of the following criteria:

- Employs international law to advance women and women's rights (awardees need not be attorneys, though most are);

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Women in International Law Interest Group

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Call for Nominations *—continued from page 1*

- Breaks through glass ceilings for women in international law;
- Promotes women and women's voices in the field;
- Contributes substantively to advancing, researching, advocating for, or promoting women's rights and/or gender justice;
- Is considered prominent in the field of international law – or has accomplishments that merit further recognition through this prestigious award.

Letters of nomination should be addressed to WILIG's Prominent Woman in International Law (PWIL) Committee, and should be submitted by **October 15, 2024** to the Chair of the Committee, Professor Margaret M. deGuzman margaret.deguzman@temple.edu. Please submit the letter and any other supporting materials as one PDF document titled "[Nominee's name] PWIL Award 2025". The PDF should not exceed 5 pages total per nominee. Please feel free to re-nominate deserving women who have not yet received the award. ■

Call for Applications for 2024-25 WILIG Mentorship Program

2024 marks the twelfth year of the WILIG Mentoring Program, the first of its kind designed to foster the next generation of female international lawyers.

The program connects experienced female international law professionals with female law students and new attorneys interested in professional development in the field of international law. We are proud to announce that the program has connected over 600 mentees to over 70 mentors since its inception.

The program will take place virtually this year, and participants will become part of a strong, inter-connected, and global network that already spans more than 700 women in 45 countries and 60 cities.

The application deadline for MENTORS is September 13, 2024.

The application deadline for MENTEES is September 25, 2024.

You may find the application forms on our website: <https://www.asil.org/asil-women-international-law-mentoring-program>.

For more information about the mentoring program, please contact our Mentoring Program Coordinator, Lucia Solano, at wiligmentorship@asil.org.

WILIG Activities

2023-24 WILIG Mentorship Program Graduation Event: Conversation with Judge Sarah Cleveland

WILIG had the honor to have Judge Sarah Cleveland from the International Court of Justice to speak with participants of the 2023-24 WILIG Mentorship Program during the closing ceremony for this year's program.

Judge Cleveland is the sixth woman, and the second woman from the U.S., to serve as a judge on the International Court of Justice. She is on leave from serving as the Louis Henkin Professor in Human and Constitutional Rights at Columbia University Law School, in New York, where she taught and wrote in areas of public international law, including human rights and the law of armed conflict.

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, June 27, 2024 from 12 – 1 PM Eastern Time. WILIG Co-Chair Yvonne Dutton moderated the session. Judge Cleveland shared with us her experiences as a woman in international law and thoughts about the importance of mentoring in her career. We are very grateful for her insights and for her support, which undoubtedly inspired all of the attendees.

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Member Spotlight

The member spotlight section showcases WILIG members' professional achievements. All are welcome to submit professional updates you would like us to include in future newsletters, whether it be a new book/article, promotion, job, award, or other accomplishment!



Nienke Grossman (Professor of Law, University of Baltimore) was nominated by the United States and elected by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in January 2024 to complete the term of the previous US member of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. The IAJC, composed of eleven members, is an advisory body to the OAS on juridical matters, promotes the progressive development and codification of international law, and studies the possibility of harmonization of national law when appropriate. She is the first US woman to serve on the Committee.



Jennifer Lim has joined Duxton Hill Chambers in Singapore as an independent advocate and counsel. Jennifer represents clients in investor-State disputes, commercial arbitration, and arbitration-related proceedings in Singapore courts. She also sits as arbitrator. She serves as global co-chair of SIAC's young members council, as well as on the international law and alternative dispute resolution committees of the Law

Society of Singapore. Prior to joining Duxton Hill Chambers, Jennifer was a partner at Sidley Austin.



Ramona Vijayarasa (Associate Professor, University of Technology Sydney), winner of the 2023 WILIG Scholarship Prize, has published, "**Comparing Whose Laws? Interrogating Biases in Comparative Law and Scholarship Through the Lens of Domestic**

Violence Workplace Leave," in the *International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations*. Through the lens of domestic violence workplace leave, it discusses how an English-language bias results in a linguistic legal privileging of one jurisdiction over another, burying good-practice laws from Spanish-speaking jurisdictions.



Jenna Dolecek is an Investigator who recently rejoined the Centre for Information Resilience's Myanmar Witness and Eyes on Russia programs after spending two years as an Analyst with the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. She is also an Open Source Investigation and Geospatial Analysis Expert Consultant for Justice Rapid Response and the Global Human Rights Group. Jenna recently became a mentor for law students at the University of New South Wales where she received her first master's

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WILIG Coffee Networking at the ASIL Midyear Meeting in Chicago

WILIG serves as a platform for mentorship, growth, and advocacy, empowering women who are making their mark in international law and guiding aspiring professionals. WILIG had successfully hosted coffee sessions at the ASIL 2023 Midyear Meeting in Pittsburgh and at ASIL Annual Meetings in Washington DC.

We are happy to continue this and invite WILIG members to join us over coffee and pastries in Chicago from 8-9:30 am on Friday, Nov 15, 2024, for conversations dedicated to fostering connections between seasoned professionals and rising international lawyers and scholars while gaining insights into WILIG's programming and initiatives. ■



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degree in human rights law. On September 11, 2024, she presented at the FOSS4G (Free and Open Source Software 4 Geospatial) North America Conference on how open geospatial data could be used for human rights and international criminal investigations.



Blaine Bookey was recently appointed as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly Hastings), teaching international human rights and related courses. Blaine has been an

Adjunct Professor at the college for more than a decade where she also serves as Legal Director of the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies and director of the Haiti Justice Initiative. This summer, she completed an MSc in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford.



Margaret M. deGuzman (James E. Beasley Professor of Law, Temple University) gave the Katherine B. Fite Lecture at the Sixteenth International Humanitarian Roundtable at the Chautauqua Institution on the topic “Re-thinking the Duty to Prosecute: A Feminist Argument”.



Caroline Shilaho (lecturer, University of Nairobi, Kenya) graduated with a Doctor of Laws (LLD) from the University of Pretoria on 16th May 2024. Her thesis was titled “The Role of State Parties in the Interpretation of the

Rome Statute: An Evaluation of Past Practice and Future Prospects.’ She was supervised by ICJ Judge Dire Tladi, then a Professor of International Law at the University of Pretoria.



Christie J. Edwards, former WILIG Co-Chair/Steering Committee Member and Co-Founder of the Women’s Mentoring Program, started a new role in August with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

as the Head of Country Cluster Delegation for Poland, Romania, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Czechia, based in Warsaw, Poland. In this role, she serves as the senior diplomatic representative of the IFRC Secretary General to lead IFRC support to Red Cross National Societies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine through the Red Cross Movement’s largest ever humanitarian response operation.



Dagmar Myslinska (Associate Professor of Law, Creighton University) has been appointed Secretary for the European Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools. Her new research monograph, *Law, Migration and the*

Construction of Whiteness: Mobility within the European Union (Routledge, 2024), interrogates the history, wording, omissions, assumptions and applications of laws, policies and discourses pertinent to mobility and equality, to argue that the parameters of Central and Eastern European nationals’ status within the EU have been closely circumscribed, in line with the entrenched historical positioning of the west as superior to the east. Critics’ reviews can be found on the [publisher’s website](#). ■

Request for Thoughts and Feedback

If you are running an event that may be of interest to WILIG’s membership, please contact Suhong and we will share information about it with our members.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Yvonne Dutton (ydutton@iupui.edu) and
Valerie Oosterveld (vooster@uwo.ca) (Co-Chairs)

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(Secretary)