



# Newsletter for the Committee on the Teaching of International Law

## Welcome from the Committee Chair

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This is a Committee with tremendous talent and energy. Some of the leading names in international law are members of this committee. Our committee serves important goals within the American Branch and the International Law Association.

We are, in many ways, guardians of international law. In our teaching, we impart the principles of international law to our students. In our scholarship, we examine current international law norms and consider what directions international law should take.

We emphasize the impor-

tance of international law and teach that it is a source of rights and duties for nations as well as for individuals. We meet other lawyers and law professors who share common visions about the importance of international law and how it is taught.

I hope that you find this newsletter to be of value. Its purpose is to help committee members connect and share information and ideas about the teaching of international law.

I invite you to become more active within the ABILA Committee on the Teaching of International Law. We can propose programs and

other events, we can undertake and publish studies about the teaching of international law.

This newsletter has information about upcoming events where committee members can meet and exchange information. I hope to see you at some of these events.



**Prof. Mark E. Wojcik**

*The John Marshall Law School  
Chicago, Illinois*

## Committee Membership Directory Planned

The ABILA Committee on the Teaching of International Law has a relatively small number of members (only about 32 at the moment), but this number includes some of the best international law professors in the United States. One of the underlying purposes of the committee is to help professors collaborate so that we can improve our teaching, enhance our scholarship,

and share information about opportunities for international law professors.

I am preparing a committee membership directory that will serve as a resource for committee members. The directory will be published electronically for use by committee members and the leadership of ABILA.

The directory will include contact information as well

as a short bio that may include a list of international law courses taught, scholarly publications and research interests, and other information as appropriate.

I will contact individual committee members about this project, but you may also send me your information now. My contact information appears on page 4.

*Mark E. Wojcik*



## ABILA's Teaching Committee Will Have a Joint Breakfast Meeting with the ASIL Committee on Teaching International Law at the AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans

One of our sister committees, the American Society of International Law's Committee on Teaching International Law (ASIL-TIL), is organizing a breakfast meeting in New Orleans during the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools. Our committee will join them at that meeting.

The ASIL-TIL committee is co-chaired by **Professors**

**Cindy Buys of Southern Illinois University School of Law and Thomas M. McDonnell of Pace Law School.**



Both are pictured at left.

The breakfast program on January 9, 2010 is intended to focus on **writing and pub-**

**lishing international law teaching materials.** It will provide a good opportunity for members of this committee to renew contacts with colleagues in the ASIL Teaching International Law Committee.

**The AALS Annual Meeting runs from January 6-10, 2010 in New Orleans. Information about the AALS meeting is available at [www.aals.org](http://www.aals.org).**

## Online Registration Open for International Law Weekend: Challenges to Transnational Governance

ABILA's annual International Law Weekend will be held in New York City on October 22-24, 2009. The event brings together hundreds of lawyers, professors, diplomats and other representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and law students.

The conference features numerous panels on international law subjects. The co-chairs of this year's ILW are **Pierre Bodeau-Livinec** (of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs), committee member **Will Burns** (Editor-in-Chief, Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy), and **Anibal M. Sabater** (a partner at Fulbright & Jaworski International LLP).

The theme of this year's ILW is "Challenges to

Transnational Governance." Recognizing that economic, political, and social changes of the last decade have reshaped international law, this year's ILW will address challenges posed by these changes with an emphasis on the emergence of "transnational governance" and issues relating to it.

The ILW will take place at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (42 West 44th Street) on October 22, 2009. On October 23-24, the ILW will be held at Fordham University School of Law (140 W. 62nd Street).

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Midtown (440 W. 57th Street), which is located between the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the Fordham University

School of Law. A discounted hotel room rate of \$217 is available until October 1st for individuals who identify themselves as part of the ILW Conference and who use Group Code XLW.

A Friday evening reception will be hosted by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations. Advance registration is essential and space may be limited. There is a minimal fee to attend the reception.

Registration for the ILW is free for members of ABILA, the ABCNY, any cosponsoring organization, and for law school and other graduates. For others, registration is a modest \$75.00 for the three day event.

**More information about how to register for the conference is available at [\*\*Online Registration  
is open NOW  
for the  
International Law  
Weekend  
October 22-24, 2009  
In New York City\*\*](http://www.ila-</a></b></p>
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## ABILA Teaching Committee to Meet in Monterrey, Mexico

The ABILA Committee on Teaching International Law will hold a meeting in Monterrey, Mexico during the fifth **Global Legal Skills Conference**. The conference, which brings together law professors from around the world, will be held at the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey on February 25-27, 2010.

The Global Legal Skills Con-

ference focuses primarily on skills education, including teaching Legal English to lawyers and law students who speak English as a second language. The conference also presents an important opportunity to meet law professors from Mexico and other countries.

A call for proposals for possible presentation at the Global Legal Skills Confer-

ence is still open. Further information is available from the website at [www.fldm.edu.mx](http://www.fldm.edu.mx). That website also has an eight-minute video about the conference.

Please contact Mark Wojcik at [mwojcik@jmls.edu](mailto:mwojcik@jmls.edu) or by phone at 312-987-2391 for more information.



## Ideas for Possible Committee Projects: — Should We Hold a Workshop on “Teaching International Legal Research”?

We teach our students the fundamentals of international law, including (for example) how to interpret the text of a treaty or how to argue that a treaty is evidence of state practice that can be used to demonstrate a rule of customary international law. Our students learn how to open their documentary supplements to find a particular treaty we’re discussing in class.

But if we turned our students loose in a law library, would they necessarily have the skills or knowledge to find a treaty on their own? Would they be able to determine whether the treaty was in force? Would they be able to locate a definitive list of the countries that are parties to a multi-lateral treaty, or to determine whether a country ratified a treaty with any particular reservations, understandings, or declarations?

Locating a treaty is but one example of an international law research problem.

Many of our students do, of course, learn how to research treaties and other sources of international law. We know this is true simply by looking at the excellent quality of the memorials drafted for international law moot court competitions.

But when I think about the students who are not competing in an international law moot court competition, I wonder whether those students would be able to locate international law sources.

Our ABILA Committee on the Teaching of International Law can undertake a number of projects, including proposing panels and holding workshops on topics related to the teaching of international law. Should the teaching of international legal research be one of the

topics that we explore?

I believe that exploring international legal research as a topic may be one that would benefit our students. I also believe that greater attention to that topic may help us in our own scholarship and teaching.

I invite your comments on the question of whether our committee should organize a workshop on teaching international law research. I also welcome your suggestions for other topics of projects that the committee might undertake in the coming year.

Please contact me with your views. (My contact information appears on page 4 of this newsletter.)

**Prof. Mark E. Wojcik**

*The John Marshall Law School — Chicago*

**Should the teaching of international legal research be a topic that our committee should explore?**

# American Branch of the International Law Association

[www.ila-americanbranch.org](http://www.ila-americanbranch.org)

## Committee on the Teaching of International Law

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### International Law Prof Blog

[http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/international\\_law/](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/international_law/)

## Members of the ABILA Committee on the Teaching of International Law

William Aceves	Roman Chaban	Robert Manley
Upendra Acharya	Evan Criddle	Odette McGinnis
Akinrinade Babafemi	Valerie Epps	Luz Nagle
Pamela Alesky	John Gamble	Christian Okeke
Martin Belsky	Mark Janis	Michael Scharf
Andrea Bjorklund	Alexandra Kaan	Howard Schiffman
Daniel Bradlow	Linda Keller	Jason Stephens
Lorraine Brennan	Edward Kolla	Heath Tarbert
William Burns	Hope Lewis	Mark E. Wojcik
Linda Carter	Laima Liutikiene	Nancy Yonge
	Dennis Mandsager	Peter Yu

## ABILA Committees for 2009

- Arms Control and Disarmament
- Commercial Dispute Resolution
- Feminism and International Law
- Intergovernmental Settlement of Disputes
- International Criminal Court
- International Environmental Law
- International Human Rights
- International Intellectual Property
- International Monetary Law
- Islamic Law
- Multilateralism and Accountability of International Organizations
- Teaching of International Law
- Use of Force
- Bilateral Investment Treaty and Development
- Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
- Formation of Rules of Customary International Law
- International Commercial Law
- International Disability Law
- International Family Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- International Judicial Integrity
- International Trade Law
- Law of the Sea
- Space Law
- United Nations Law