



Speaker Biographies

LAW, ETHICS AND ARMED CONFLICT

International Legal Symposium
& Continuing Legal Education Course*

Sponsored by:

the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Task Force Spartan
The International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee
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*application for New York and Indiana CLE accreditation for this course is currently pending

Ghada Hatem Al-Tahir

António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, appointed Ghada Hatem Al-Tahir Mudawi of Sudan as the Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait. Ms. Al-Tahir boasts over 25 years of experience in humanitarian and development affairs, having held various key positions at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in New York. Notably, she served as Deputy Director in the Division of Operations and Advocacy and briefly acted as director from March to August 2022. She has also served as Chief of Eastern and Southern Africa and as Acting Deputy Director for Middle East and North Africa, overseeing activities of the UN Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in those regions.

Before that, Ms. El-Tahir served as the Executive Director of the *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) Gulf Cooperation Council Regional Office in Abu Dhabi; Country Director of MSF in Yemen and Nigeria and Nigeria Country Director of *Solidarités International* and of iMMAP.

Ms. Eltahir holds two master's degrees in development studies from Erasmus University-Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands, and a Master of Science from Ahfad University, Sudan. She has also served on numerous international advisory boards and panels.

Ambassador Karen Hideko Sasahara

Ambassador Karen Hideko Sasahara assumed her duties as U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait on November 26, 2023. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North Africa from November 2020 to July 2022. Before returning to Washington, she served as Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan from March 2019 to August 2020, and Consul General in Jerusalem from



August 2018 to March 2019, where the focus of her work was diplomatic engagement and public outreach to the Palestinian people.

Her previous assignments include Senior Advisor in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Assessor on the Foreign Service Board of Examiners, Deputy Chief of Mission in Sana'a, Yemen and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commanding General of Special Operations Command Central. Her earlier assignments include Baghdad, Beirut, Mexico City, London, Jeddah and Washington, D.C.

A native of Massachusetts, she holds an M.A. in Near East Studies from the George Washington University, and a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is married to former Foreign Service Officer Michael Ratney.

Nisreen Rubaian

Nisreen Rubaian currently serves as the Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the State of Kuwait. With over 20 years in refugee and humanitarian operations, she has led missions across Romania, Nauru, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Egypt, the UAE, and Libya. Nisreen holds a Bachelor's degree in Law and English Studies from the University of Jordan and a Master's in Human Rights and International Law from the University of Bristol. Her extensive experience spans both operational and diplomatic roles in complex humanitarian settings.

Daniel A Degelow, MG

Major General Daniel A. Degelow is the Commander of the 38th Infantry Division. Prior to his current position, Gen. Degelow served as Deputy Commanding General (Sustainment) of the 38th Infantry Division and as the Assistant Adjutant General of Indiana.

His career highlights include service as the Aviation Operations Officer, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 38th Infantry Division, Executive Officer, Headquarters and headquarters Company, 38th Combat Aviation Brigade, Aviation and Airspace Management Officer, TACT Command Post 38th Infantry Division, Liaison Officer, 38th Combat Aviation Brigade and Branch Chief, Joint Forces Headquarters-Indiana. His field grade command assignments are Rear Detachment Commander, 38th Infantry Division, Commander 38th Combat Aviation Brigade and Commander 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion. Major General Degelow deployed as Aviation Task Force Liaison Officer, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, 38th Infantry Division at USARCENT, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in 2008-2009.

Major General Degelow earned a Bachelor's degree through Purdue University for Industrial Technology and a Master's of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His military institutional training includes Armor, Aviation and Medical Service Corps Officer Basic Courses, Aviation Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff Officer Course, Dual Status Commanders Course (NORTHCOM), Joint Task Force Commanders Course (NORTHCOM) and the Army Senior Leader Development Seminar (SLDS).

Ambassador Steven Rapp

Ambassador Stephen J. Rapp served as the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues from 2009 to 2015, heading the Office of Global Criminal Justice in the U.S. Department of State. Appointed by President Obama, he was confirmed by the Senate, and assumed his duties on September 8, 2009. Prior to his appointment, he served as Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone beginning in January 2007, leading the prosecutions of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons alleged to bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed during the civil war in Sierra Leone. During his tenure, his office achieved the first convictions in history for sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity, and for attacks on peacekeepers and for recruitment and use of child soldiers as violations of international humanitarian law.

From 2001 to 2007, Mr. Rapp served as Senior Trial Attorney and Chief of Prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, personally heading the trial team that achieved convictions of the principals of RTLM radio and Kangura newspaper—the first in history for leaders of the mass media for the crime of direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

Mr. Rapp was United States Attorney in the Northern District of Iowa from 1993 to 2001, where his office won historic convictions under the firearms provision of the Violence Against Women Act and the serious violent offender provision of the 1994 Crime Act. Prior to his tenure as U.S. Attorney, he worked as an attorney in private practice and served as Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency and as an elected member of the Iowa Legislature. He received his BA degree from Harvard College, and attended Columbia and Drake Law Schools and received his JD degree from Drake.

Admitted to practice law in: Ohio

Mamadou Sow

Mr. Mamadou Sow serves as the Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation for the Gulf Cooperation Countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). With nearly two decades dedicated to humanitarian service, he has served in some of the most challenging regions across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. His journey is shaped by a rich Muslim and Senegalese upbringing, complemented by a diverse educational background in the United States and Canada.

As the Head of Delegation at the ICRC for the Gulf Cooperation Countries, he works to promote and ensure respect for the rules of war, mobilize support for ICRC operations worldwide and engage in critical dialogues with governments, civil society, military and diplomatic officials. The ICRC is mandated with ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law.

Michael A Fish, COL

Colonel Michael A. Fish is the Staff Judge Advocate of the 38th Infantry Division, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, and currently serving at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In his civilian career, the Honorable Michael Fish is the sitting Judge of Porter Superior Court #1, a general jurisdiction court located in Valparaiso, Indiana. Michael is the former owner of Michael A. Fish, Attorney at Law, where he practiced litigation, bankruptcy, and general practice law. He earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana State University, Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University School of Law, and Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a member of the Indiana Judge's Association, Indiana State Bar Association, and Porter County Bar Association. Michael has served as a member of the Indiana Army National Guard since 1989. He previously deployed to Afghanistan, the Indo-Pacific, and Kuwait. He is admitted to practice in Indiana, the Northern District of Indiana, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Admitted to practice law in: Indiana

Dr. Felicity Gerry

Dr. Felicity Gerry KC is an international barrister at Libertas Chambers London and Crockett Chambers, Melbourne and Professor of Legal Practice at Deakin University. Labelled “The International Dynamo”, Felicity has been recognised for her work across jurisdictions on career defining cases including in the UK Supreme Court on #jointenterprise law, the Australian High Court on rights to second appeal, a due diligence memorandum on investment listing on SGX for Justice for Myanmar, which led to the \$82m divestment of the Golden City scheme and for her role in saving a trafficked woman from death row in Indonesia. She is leading the legal petition for Christine Keeler to receive a posthumous pardon after the fallout of one of Britain's biggest ever political scandal, The Profumo Affair, in the 1960s. Her successful petition for mercy for Zak Grieve, a young Indigenous man in Australia, has been described as “rock star lawyering”.

Felicity holds a PhD on human trafficking and is regularly called upon to handle complex and sensitive matters at trial and on appeal. She has appeared on all major news channels and is an expert on issues relating to women and law, technology and law and reform of justice systems. She is currently Senior Anti-Human Trafficking Expert Consultant and Trainer for Lawyers Without Borders.

Admitted to practice law in: Australia, International Criminal Court (ICC) and Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) in The Hague, in England & Wales and Australia (Victoria & High Court Roll) and has had ad hoc admission in Hong Kong and Gibraltar.

Daniel B Bagley, LTC

LTC Daniel Bagley is the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for Task Force Spartan, serving at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Having joined the military as a direct commission Judge Advocate officer through membership in the Missouri National Guard in 2005, LTC Bagley deployed to Kosovo for Task Force Falcon in 2008 through 2009. There he was assigned as Chief of Legal Assistance and as the United States Foreign Claims



Commissioner for the countries of Kosovo, North Macedonia and Albania. From 2009 to 2011, he provided Legal Support Services at Camp Atterbury, Indiana for Soldiers mobilizing to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other overseas missions. In September of 2011, he was mobilized for a one-year tour in Egypt, where he served as Brigade Judge Advocate for Task Force Sinai. He has been a full time Legal Advisor for the Indiana National Guard since October 2012 to the present, with the primary duty of Human Resources Director from 2018 to 2022. Prior to his military career, he served as a Prosecutor for McDonald County in the state of Missouri from 2006 to 2008 and as Assistant City Attorney and later as a City Prosecutor for Joplin, Missouri from 1999 to 2006. He holds a Juris Doctor from Oklahoma City University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Admitted to practice law in: Indiana, Missouri (Inactive)

Dr. Omar Mekky

Dr. Omar Mekky serves as Regional Legal Coordinator for the Near and Middle East of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Previously, he served as a judge and public prosecutor in the Egyptian Judiciary. Prior thereto, he was an Investigative Assistant at the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. He holds a doctorate in Public International Law from the Geneva Graduate Institute, a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law and Legal Studies from University of St. Thomas School of Law and a Bachelor of Laws from Alexandria University Faculty of Law.

Dr. Mekky is the author of *Islamic Jihadism and the Laws of War: A Conversation in International and Islamic Law Languages*, published in 2023 by Oxford University Press.

Admitted to practice law in: Egypt

John Balouziyeh, MAJ

John Balouziyeh serves as Chief of National Security Law in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Task Force Spartan. As a civilian, he serves as a partner at the international law firm Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP, where he splits his time between New York and the Middle East. John is an accomplished international lawyer with an acknowledged depth of expertise in public international law, human rights, dispute resolution and foreign direct investment. John, who serves as treasurer of the International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee and as an instructor for the American Red Cross International Humanitarian Law program, previously worked as a Human Rights Officer at the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), reporting to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He also acted as an International Humanitarian and Criminal Law Consultant and later Legal Officer for the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD). He began his legal career as a law clerk for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica.

As a Reservist, he has served as Chief of National Security Law, International Law Officer, Prosecutor and Defense Counsel. His previous assignments include the Guantánamo Bay war crimes tribunals, the Pentagon and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was competitively selected to represent



“unprivileged enemy belligerents” in the 9/11 case, one of the most complex and high-profile criminal cases in U.S. history, tried before the first American war crimes tribunals in over fifty years.

John is the author of *Public International Law: Conventions, Cases and Commentary*, published by Kluwer Law International in 2025.

Admitted to practice law in: New York, Barcelona, Washington DC, International Criminal Court, Ukraine (international participant), Saudi Arabia (affiliate member)

Sara Elizabeth Dill

Sara Elizabeth Dill provides legal advisory and consulting for individuals, corporations, governments, and non-governmental associations. Her areas of focus include human rights, foreign affairs, sanctions, war crimes, cross border finance, national security, business and human rights due diligence, and anti-corruption.

Sara presently serves as the Vice-Chair of the International Bar Association’s War Crimes Committee. From 2019-2022, Sara served as the Middle East and North Africa Region liaison officer. Sara is a certified financial crime specialist and certified global sanctions specialist.

Sara has published numerous articles in recent years on international law, sanctions, terrorism, human trafficking and free speech. Sara frequently speaks at international legal conferences and conducts trainings for legal professionals, corporations, financial institutions, government officials, military, and law enforcement regarding investigating and prosecuting war crimes, human rights, sanctions, compliance with international criminal law, national security, and counter— terrorism, including efforts in Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, and the Gulf Region. Her TEDx, “Women Are Not Weapons Of War,” is frequently used in trainings specifically focused on conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking. In 2024, Sara was a co-author of the Defense Counsel Handbook, a manual for Ukrainian defence lawyers representing Russians and others accused of war crimes in Ukrainian court.

Sara was a founding member of the Dulles Justice Coalition, an organization of lawyers quickly mobilized to provide legal assistance in response to the Muslim Ban. Most recently, Sara was named as a senior board member for the Blue Tulip Human Rights Group and selected as an expert fellow for the Forum on the Arms Trade.

Sara holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and economics, a Juris Doctorate with a focus on litigation and international law, an LLM with high honours in international human rights law from Northwestern Law School and a Master’s Degree with Merit in International Conflict Studies from King’s College London School of War and Security Studies.

Admitted to practice law in: Florida and Illinois



Jonathan Hafetz

Professor Jonathan Hafetz is an expert on constitutional law, national security, human rights, and international criminal law. He joined Seton Hall Law School in 2010. Professor Hafetz is the author of the books, *Punishing Atrocities through a Fair Trial: International Criminal Law from Nuremberg to the Age of Global Terrorism* (Cambridge Univ. Press 2018), and *Habeas Corpus after 9/11: Confronting America's New Global Detention System* (NYU Press 2011), which received the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award for Media and the Arts, Honorable Mention, and the American Society of Legal Writers, Scribes Silver Medal Award. He is also the editor of *Obama's Guantanamo: Stories from an Enduring Prison* (NYU Press 2016) and the co-editor (with Mark Denbeaux) of *The Guantanamo Lawyers: Inside a Prison Outside the Law* (NYU Press 2009). Professor Hafetz's scholarship has appeared in numerous publications, including the Yale Law Journal, UCLA Law Review, Columbia Law Review Sidebar, Wisconsin Law Review, William & Mary Law Review, International Journal of Human Rights, and Cambridge Journal of Comparative & International Law, and has been cited by numerous courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Professor Hafetz received a Fulbright Scholarship award for 2021-2022, and served as a Visiting Professor at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, Japan. From 2014-15, Professor Hafetz was a Visiting Research Scholar in the Program in Law and Public Affairs at Princeton University.

Professor Hafetz earned his J.D. from Yale Law School. He holds an M. Phil in Modern History from Oxford University and a B.A. from Amherst College. He previously received a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research in Mexico. Following law school, Professor Hafetz served as a law clerk to Judge Jed S. Rakoff of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and Judge Sandra L. Lynch of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Admitted to practice law in: Australia

Joseph "Joe" H. Gardner II, BG

BG Joseph "Joe" H. Gardner II commissioned from Morehead State University ROTC program in 1995. Upon completion of Engineer Officer Basic Course, he was assigned as a Platoon Leader with the 206th Engineer Battalion of the Kentucky Army National Guard (KYARNG). BG Gardner assessed into the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program in 1999. As an AGR and member of the Kentucky Army National Guard, Joe has served in positions of increasing levels of responsibility and has held command at all levels through Brigade culminating as the Kentucky Army National Guard G3 and Chief of Staff.

BG Gardner holds a Master of Science in Management from the University of Maryland Global Campus and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Joe is married to the former Michelle Dawn Bach of Walton, Kentucky. They have been married for 24 years and have a daughter, Grace. They enjoy watching Grace play tennis and traveling to historical points of interest. Joe's hobbies include hunting, fishing, and woodworking.

Mohammad Fadel

Mohammad H. Fadel is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto, which he joined in January 2006. Professor Fadel wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on legal process in medieval Islamic law while at the University of Chicago and received his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. Professor Fadel was admitted to the Bar of New York in 2000 and practiced law with the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in New York, New York, where he worked on a wide variety of corporate finance transactions and securities-related regulatory investigations. Professor Fadel also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Paul V. Niemeyer of the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit and the Honorable Anthony A. Alaimo of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. Professor Fadel has published numerous articles in Islamic legal history and Islam and liberalism.

Shirley Magniez-Pouget

Shirley serves as Avocate à la Cour and Legal Director of Business and Human Rights at DLA Piper in Paris. She has 20 years + experience advising clients on human rights matters and compliance with international and national frameworks, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD Guidelines and the French Vigilance law. Her practice focuses on assisting clients in strengthening local structures of governance and helping them create rights-respecting culture within their operations. Shirley advises companies and non-for-profit organisations in the design of compliance programmes- from policy drafting, due diligence processes including stakeholder engagement, establishing grievance mechanisms to running trainings.

Over the past few years, she has developed a niche practice on the social and integrity risks associated with protection of biodiversity and the implementation of climate solutions. Shirley is currently advising the Ministry of Justice in Madagascar on their illegal wildlife trade legal framework and acts for a protected area in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the establishment of a human rights grievance mechanism.

Shirley regularly delivers seminars on international human rights law, business, human rights and climate for Masters students at the University of law of Aix en Provence.

Admitted to practice law in: France

Federica D'Alessandra

Federica D'Alessandra is the Deputy Director of the Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict (ELAC), and founding Executive Director of the Oxford Programme on International Peace and Security at the Blavatnik School of Government. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the School's Alfred Landecker Programme, an Academic Affiliate of the Oxford Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, and on the Steering Committee of the Oxford Network of Peace Studies. Prior to joining Oxford, Federica held various appointments at Harvard University, including at the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government, and at the Harvard Law School, where she focused on mass atrocity response and prevention, transitional justice, national security, and human rights. Her current research spans a variety of

pressing, contemporary issues on which she has published widely, including: international aggression; judicial accountability for mass atrocities; new institutional developments in international justice; States' legal duties in mass atrocities situations; the role of new actors and new technologies in atrocity crimes documentation; and the UN accountability turn, among others.

Admitted to practice law in: Italy

Dr. Mohamed E. Badar

Dr. Badar is Professor of Comparative and International Criminal Law, Northumbria University and Legal Consultant in the *Al Hassan* Case at the International Criminal Court. Prof. Badar joined Northumbria School of Law as a Reader in comparative and international criminal law in July 2013. He previously held a position as a Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Brunel Law School, London (2007-2013). He has also taught and acted as a convenor of International Law & Islamic Law module at Durham Law School (2011-2013).

Prof Badar served as Senior Prosecutor and Judge in Egypt from 1997-2006. He is currently a Senior Expert for Euromed Justice IV, a project funded by the European Commission for enhancing Euro-Mediterranean mutual legal assistance on the investigation and prosecution of complex judicial cases i.e. terrorism, money laundering and cybercrime. He also served as a senior Police investigator in Egypt (1991-1997). He was a member (investigator) of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate and report on allegations of human rights violations during the civil unrest in Bahrain in February/March 2011.

He had the opportunity to work as an expert for the United Nations Interregional Crimes and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

Prof Badar holds a PhD in comparative and international criminal law from the National University of Ireland, Galway, a first class honours LL.M. degree in international human rights from the same university, a Bachelor of Law (LLB) and a Bachelor of Police Sciences from the Police College, Police Academy, Cairo, and a Diploma in international legal relations from Ain Shams University, Cairo.

Admitted to practice law in: Egypt

JohnPaul LeCedre, COL

Colonel JohnPaul LeCedre is the Commander of the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade, an organization composed of over 1,000 Soldiers providing regionally aligned Civil Affairs support and expertise to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, with particular focus on support to U.S. Forces Korea. Constituted on January 31, 1966, the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade comprises an airborne capable Headquarters and Headquarters Company, located in Riverside, California, and four subordinate Civil Affairs Battalions, two of which are on active airborne status, located across Southern California and Arizona.

Colonel LeCedre initially commissioned into the Active Duty Army as a Second Lieutenant from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2004, transitioning to the U.S. Army Reserve in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the United States Military Academy in 2004, a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University in 2014, and a Master of Law from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) in 2014. He is additionally a graduate of the Army War College National Security Fellowship at Harvard University.

In his civilian occupation, Colonel LeCedre is an Assistant United States Attorney at the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California in Los Angeles. He specializes in the criminal prosecution of complex international organized crime and international money laundering.

Admitted to practice law in: California

Dr. Saad Rustem

Dr. Rustem serves as Program Coordinator for Geneva Call, an international NGO that promotes global compliance with international humanitarian law. He is a research-oriented, seasoned academic with 22 years' experience as professor, author, researcher and university lecturer. He holds a PhD and two MAs in Islamic Studies with a concentration on Islam's rejection of violence. Dr. Rustem authored 13 books on Legal, Religious, Social & Psycho-social topics, including: "Islamic Humanitarian Law"; "Moral and Ethical Code for Fighters in Islam"; "The Rights of Refugees, IDPs, and Asylum-Seekers in Islamic and International Law", "Islamic sects and schools From the beginnings until today", "Christian Sects and Cults from the Dawn of Islam till today". He is a multilingual professional with over 20 years of experience in translation in various Theological, Legal, Political, Social, Philosophical and Psychological fields with 23 publications.

His specialties include: International Humanitarian Law, Islamic Studies, Islamic Jurisprudence, Quraan and Hadith Studies, Comparative Religion, Islamic Sects, Persian Literature, NGO, Leadership, Modern Islam, Non-violence in Islam.

Dr. Iyad Nasr

Dr. Nasr is the Chief Executive Officer of The London House of Consultants. He has experience in the field of International Humanitarian Law, Humanitarian work, protection, and Humanitarian Diplomacy for more than two decades. He is an expert in dealing with non-state arms carriers in armed conflicts with a focus on Law of Armed Conflicts and its relationship with the Shariat and Islamic Law. Dr. Iyad has vast knowledge and understanding of the MENA region and its different socio-political aspects. He worked on security issue and negotiation of access with armed groups in Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Thailand, Iraq, etc. He is a Professor of IHL in different universities and regional academic institutes. He also served as the Head of media relations for the ICRC and IHL training and capacity building for ten years.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Educational Psychology and communications at Cairo University, a PS of Law in IHL, law and IHL at the University of Palestine, a Master's degree in Public Health and



Community Rehabilitation from at Al-Quds Open University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Community Rehabilitation and Case Management at the University of Calgary.

Douglas M Fahl, LTC

Douglas Fahl currently serves as Chief of Administrative and Fiscal Law for Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR), a multinational military formation established by the U.S.-led international coalition against ISIL. Led by United States Army Central (ARCENT), it is composed of military forces and personnel from over 30 countries.

Prior to this deployment, LTC Fahl served as the Indiana Army National Guard's first Military Judge. He has served in various legal positions including Brigade Judge Advocate, Chief of Military Justice, Trial Counsel and Legal Assistance. LTC Fahl deployed to Balad, Iraq in 2008 and Guantanamo Bay in 2016.

As a civilian, LTC Fahl serves as the Judge of the Whitley County Superior Court in northern Indiana. LTC Fahl was first elected to the position in 2010. He has been re-elected twice since. As Superior Court Judge, LTC Fahl has implemented an Indiana State certified Veteran's Alternative Treatment Court, a certified Drug and Alcohol Program, a certified Pre-Trial Services program, a certified Jail Chemical Addictions Program and a certified Modest Means Mediation Program. LTC Fahl is a 2023 graduate of the Indiana Judicial Graduate Program.

LTC Fahl received his Juris Doctorate from the Valparaiso University School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in History from Indiana University- Bloomington.

Admitted to practice law in: Indiana State Courts and the Southern and Northern Federal District Courts

Meriam Nazih Al-Rashid

Meriam Alrashid is a globally ranked International Disputes Resolution Counsel, Independent Arbitrator and is Adjunct Faculty member of Fordham School of Law. She has until recently served as the Global Co-Chair of International Arbitration and Co-Head of the Latin America Arbitration Practice at Eversheds Sutherland US LLP, former to that, was the US Head of Investment Disputes and Public International Law at Dentons based in New York and London, UK.

Ms. Al-Rashid's vast experience serving as counsel, sitting arbitrator and, at times, "negotiator" spans disputes and transactions involving parties, sectors, industries, arbitral institutions and jurisdictions across the globe with matters and clients in or related to the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia and Central and South America. Her experience includes participation in arbitrations before a number of the most prestigious institutions, including the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA). Ms. Al-Rashid is an inaugural member of the Board of Directors of the Business and Human Rights Lawyers Association, and of the advisory committee to ArabArb, an association for US-based arbitration practitioners with links to the Arab World.

In addition, Ms. Al-Rashid works on matters surrounding post-conflict peace negotiations and governance, mediation of civil society separatist organizations, investigation and adjudication of war crimes and crimes against humanity, working with governments and civil society NGOs in high-conflict areas and war zones, as well as advising Sovereign States and corporations on Business and Human Rights (BHR). She has worked, advised and advocated on legal accountability under international law, re atrocity crimes against the Rohingya population in Myanmar, advised on legislative and judicial reform to prevent, protect, against and repair economic violence against women Latin American countries; advised the government of Kenya and civil society organizations in their efforts to promote domestic accountability for election related violence and politically motivated Human Rights abuses, and advised global banks and MNEs on their corporate responsibility to abide by the UN Governing Principles on Business and Human Rights and matters of due diligence to ensure the respect of Human Rights through the supply chain in the business practices of large corporations.

She earned her B.A. in Criminology Law and Society from University of California, Irvine, her Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, and her LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from The George Washington School of Law.

The Jurisdictions in with admitted to practice law: New York, Washington D.C. and California.

Dr. Mohamed Abdelaziz Ibrahim

Dr. Ibrahim currently works with the United Nations in New York as an Islamic Law Expert at the Department of Peace Keeping operations "DPKO" Criminal law and judicial Advisory Service. He also serves as a Judge at Cairo Court of Appeal on secondment from the Ministry of Justice to work as a Legal Adviser with the United Nations. He worked previously as the Director of the Rule of Law, Judicial System, Prison Advisory and Security Sector Reform Section at the United Nations Mission in Sudan "UNMIS" and also with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan "UNAMA" as a Rule of Law Officer at the Rule of Law section. He earned his SJD doctoral degree at Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago in 2007, in the field of International Human Rights Law. He worked as a Legal Adviser at the Egyptian Legislation Department, the Ministry of Justice. During my two years at this department, he participated in drafting Egypt's first Anti-Money Laundering Law, Securities Depository Law, Anti-trust law and several other laws. He served as a Judge at North Cairo Court for five years, handling Tort, bankruptcy, commercial, and investment cases. Before that I spent five years in the Attorney General's Office as a Public Prosecutor (District Attorney) at Central Cairo District, where he was involved in handling criminal cases; terrorism cases, in addition to investigating violations of human rights in terms of abuse of power, arbitrary detention and police harassment. He has several publications, most of them in Arabic. He received his LL.M Master of law in International Criminal Law from University of Notre Dame Law School, Indiana, in 1997 and earned his License en Droit (Law Degree) from Cairo University, Faculty of Law, Cairo, Egypt in 1988. He speaks Arabic (Mother tongue), English, French and Italian.

Admitted to practice law in: Egypt



Simona P. Rosekelly, MAJ

Major Simona P. Rosekelly is the Chief of Military Justice for Task Force Spartan, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 38th Infantry Division, currently serving at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In her civilian career, Simona is a litigation counsel for GEICO, where she is responsible for the management of class actions and complex litigation relating to business operations. She earned her bachelor's degree in business management from Stony Brook University and her Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law. She commissioned as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) twelve years ago, and is currently a member of the DC Army National Guard.

Admitted to practice law in: Pennsylvania

Bryan Root, MAJ

Major Bryan Root is a Judge Advocate in the Indiana Army National Guard. He is currently mobilized to active duty to serve as an Intelligence Law Officer, assigned to 38th Infantry Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. As a Judge Advocate, MAJ Root represents and advises Command on operational, national security and administrative law.

MAJ Root commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham into the Georgia Army National Guard in May 2012 as an Intelligence Officer. In 2017, He transferred into the Alabama Army National Guard after he graduated from law school, finishing in the top 20% of his class. In 2018, then CPT Root finished his Judge Advocate Basic Officer Course. Afterwards, he transferred one last time to the Indiana National Guard after meeting his wife, CPT Chelsea Root. Bryan and Chelsea have two children, Stephen and Katie.

Prior to assuming his current position, MAJ Root was an Assistant District Attorney in Alabama. Afterwards, he was called to active duty to the National Guard Bureau from 2020-2024 to serve as a Special Victims' Counsel in sexual assault cases.

Admitted to practice law in: Alabama, Indiana

Frank Lumpkin IV, 1LT

Frank Lumpkin IV is a judge advocate in the United States Army Reserve, currently serving as a national security law judge advocate for Operation Spartan Shield at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In this role, he advises general officers and their staff on operational law and international law in support of U.S. Central Command's mission in the region.

In his civilian practice, Frank works at Hall Booth Smith, where he focuses his practice on complex trial and appellate civil practice as well as on a range of government relations matters. He holds a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he was actively involved in student leadership, including serving as President of Blue Key Honor Society and as president of his class.

Before joining his firm, Frank negotiated and authored multiple legislative documents, one of which became federal law (Pub Law 177-58) in a deal between Senators Raphael Warnock and Ted Cruz. Frank interned with the Honorable Clay D. Land at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and the U.S. Congress.

In his spare time, he enjoys being outdoors and exploring. He holds private pilot, navigation master, and rescue diving certifications.

Admitted to practice law in: Georgia

Dr. Humoud Alfadhli

Dr. Humoud Alfadhli is a legal scholar specializing in international criminal law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and administrative law. He is currently a Visiting Academic at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge and serves as an Assistant Professor of International Criminal Law at Kuwait University College of Law, where he is actively engaged in legal scholarship, teaching, and research.

He previously served as a State Attorney for the Government of Kuwait, practicing for four years at the District Court of Kuwait and two years at the Appellate Court. He also completed a nine-month legal internship at the Public Institution for Social Security (PISS) in Kuwait, where he gained practical experience in regulatory and social security law.

Dr. Alfadhli earned his S.J.D. from Emory University School of Law, his LL.M. (Class Honors, Dean's List) from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and his LL.B. (Class Honors) from Kuwait University School of Law. He also holds a Research and Training Certificate from the Public Institution for Social Security in Kuwait. He was awarded a full five-year scholarship by Kuwait University to pursue his advanced legal studies.

In addition to multiple scholarly publications and book chapters, he is the author of *Prosecuting Superior Responsibility in International Criminal Law: From Nuremberg and Tokyo to The Hague and Beyond*, forthcoming from Asser Press/Springer (2025). His research examines the evolution and application of the doctrine of superior responsibility in international criminal tribunals, connecting foundational legal precedents to contemporary mechanisms of accountability.

Dr. Zahra Albarazi

Dr. Zahra Albarazi is a human rights lawyer specializing in international human rights law and refugee. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP) since its founding and is currently serving as Head of Research. She specializes in international human rights law, refugee law and specifically on the nexus between forced displacement and citizenship issues, as well as the interlink between discrimination and statelessness.

Dr. Albarazi has published work in various journals and books such as *Challenging the Disunity of Statelessness in the Middle East and North Africa*, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. She has also led, researched and authored various reports on human rights issues in the region including *Understanding Statelessness in the Syrian Refugee Context* and *Challenges of Statelessness in Exile*. Moreover, she has worked closely with media outlets to raise awareness on human rights challenges including Aljazeera English, BBC and Syria Direct.

Since 2010, Zahra has been involved in conducting research studies and providing training for various organisations such as UNHCR, WRC, IRC, Boston University, NRC the Open Society Justice Initiative, and Amel House of Human Rights. She is also a fellow at the Social Change Initiative, a program that selects individuals to aid them challenge inequality through their work.

Zahra is fluent in Arabic, French and English.

Yohei Suda

Mr. Yohei Suda is a graduate of the University of Tokyo Faculty of Law (LL.B.), has an American law degree from the University of Washington (J.D.), and a *Maîtrise* in International and European law from the University of Nantes (LL.M.). Trained in both the Anglo-American common law system and the European/Japanese civil law system, Mr. Suda can offer optimal solutions to problems facing international clients. His proficiency in English and French has helped him excel in intercultural mediation.

Mr. Suda is well-versed in the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (also known as the Hague Convention) and has become well-known in the field of international divorce and parental child abduction. He serves on the board of directors and is an auditor for non-profit organizations related to the protection of personal rights and freedoms. Mr. Suda is regularly invited to teach in universities, acts as a judge in moot court competitions, and regularly gives lectures in Japan and abroad.

In 2003, after completing his legal studies in the United States, Mr. Suda passed the bar exam in Washington State. After one year as a law clerk at the Washington State Supreme Court, he served as an intern at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia where he developed an advanced knowledge of the social, political, and legal issues related to war crimes.

Armed with these international experiences, Mr. Suda returned to Japan, where he was admitted to the Bar in Tokyo in 2006. He opened his own law firm in Bunkyo-ku in Tokyo in 2010. As a lawyer, his goals are promoting knowledge of the law, helping clients solve their problems and ensuring that his clients' voices are heard in the courts.

Dr. Mark Ellis (invited)

Dr Mark Ellis (PhD Law, 2010) is an international criminal law expert, author, keynote speaker, and Executive Director of the International Bar Association (IBA). Originally from Washington D.C, Mark's career and passion for academia have taken him all over the world. Dr Ellis began his studies in the USA with a BS (Bachelor of Science) in Economics and a J.D (Juris Doctor) from Florida State University, before

travelling to Brussels to complete his first research grant - exploring the law and institutions of the European Union. His second research grant took him to Dubrovnik where he focused on Yugoslav-American studies. Upon his return, Mark was awarded the first of two Fulbright scholarships to the former Yugoslavia. This is an area of interest Ellis would continue to develop throughout his career and he was recently appointed Chair of the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative Institute Management Board.

Dr Mark Ellis currently works as an adjunct professor at Florida State University of Law. He has been recognised by numerous associations for his exceptional work and was named one of the UK's top human rights lawyers by 'Lawyer Magazine.' His remarkable contribution to social justice, and extraordinary service to society are values he shares with alumni and members of our King's community across the world.

Admitted to practice law in: Florida

Ambassador Beth Van Schaack (invited)

Beth Van Schaack is an American attorney and academic who served in the Biden administration as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice. Van Schaack obtained a bachelor of arts from Stanford University, a juris doctor from Yale Law School, and a PhD from Leiden Law School at the University of Leiden. Van Schaack was a visiting professor in human rights at Stanford Law School, teaching in areas relating to international law and human rights. She has been the acting director of the human rights and conflict resolution clinic. She is a fellow with Stanford's Center for Human Rights and International Justice. She was also a visiting professor at Santa Clara University School of Law focusing on laws of war.[1] As an attorney, she was an associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP, as well as working with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Admitted to practice law in: California

Dapo Akende (invited)

Dapo Akande is the Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict (ELAC) and is also Yamani Fellow at St. Peter's College and Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC) and the Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations. He has held visiting professorships at Yale Law School (where he was also Robinna Foundation International Fellow), the University of Miami School of Law and the Catolica Global Law School, Lisbon. Before taking up his position in Oxford in 2004, he was Lecturer in Law at the University of Nottingham School of Law (1998-2000) and at the University of Durham (2000-2004). From 1994 to 1998, he taught international law (part-time) at the London School of Economics and at Christ's College and Wolfson College, University of Cambridge. He has varied research interests within the field of general international law and has published articles on aspects of the law of international organizations, international dispute settlement, international criminal law and the law of armed conflict. His articles have been published in leading international law journals such as the American Journal of International Law, the British Yearbook of International Law and the European Journal of International Law. His article in the Journal of International Criminal Justice on the "Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over Nationals of Non-Parties: Legal Basis and Limits" was

awarded the 2003 Giorgio La Pira Prize. Dapo has advised States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations on matters of international law. He has worked with the United Nations on issues relating to international humanitarian law and human rights law; acted as consultant for the African Union on the international criminal court and on the law relating to terrorism; and also as a consultant for the Commonwealth Secretariat on the law of armed conflict and international criminal law. He has also provided training on international law to diplomats, military officers and other government officials. He has advised and assisted counsel, or provided expert opinions, in cases before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the European Court of Human Rights, international arbitral tribunals, WTO and NAFTA Dispute Settlement Panels as well as cases in England and the United States of America. In addition to being founding editor of EJIL:Talk! (the widely read blog of the European Journal of International Law), he is a member of the boards of a number of journals, academic and professional organizations. These include membership of: the Editorial Boards of the American Journal of International Law & the European Journal of International Law; the Advisory Council of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law; the Executive Council of the British Branch of the International Law Association; the Advisory Board of the International Centre for Transitional Justice; the Advisory Committee of International Lawyers for Africa; and the Advisory Board of International Law Studies (published by the United States Naval War College). He is also a member of the International Advisory Panel for the American Law Institute's project on the Restatement Fourth, The Foreign Relations Law of the United States and is a member of the 'International Group of Experts' convened by the NATO Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence for the development of the Tallinn Manual 2.0 The International Law of Cyber Conflict.

Admitted to practice law in: England and Wales

Aymenn Al-Tamimi (invited)

Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi is an independent analyst and a doctoral candidate at Swansea University, where he focuses on the role of historical narratives in Islamic State propaganda. His public media work focuses primarily on the Islamic State, Iraq, and Syria. He previously served as an international consultant and expert for the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD). He has been cited in numerous outlets for his insights, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Agence France-Presse, and the Associated Press. His website is www.aymennjawad.org.