

with at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, with international NGOs and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

Michael Salas Ramirez, is International Law Secretary of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, an organization that specializes in defending international human rights. Since 2004, she has been a legal advisor to May Our Daughters Return Home (Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa), an organization of mothers and relatives of women murdered in Ciudad Juarez. She was the legal representative in the first femicide case brought before the Inter-American Human Rights Court, González et al. (Cotton Field) v. Mexico. Along with the members of May Our Daughters Return Home, she received the international award “Abogados de Atocha” established by the regional government of Castilla La Mancha, Spain for her representation in Ciudad Juarez. She also received the European Human Rights award in 2010 from the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE). Working for the Mexican Congress, she served as Coordinator of the Advisers for the Commission to investigate femicide in Mexico and participated in the development of the federal law, Access of Women to a Life Free of Violence.

David Peña is the Human Rights Secretary of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, an organization that specializes in defending international human rights and where he has been an attorney since 2003. He represents relatives of missing and murdered women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, including representing the victims in the case, González et al. (Cotton Field) v. Mexico before the Inter-American Human Rights Court. Along with the members of May Our Daughters Return Home, he received the international award “Abogados de Atocha” established

by the regional government of Castilla La Mancha, Spain for his representation in Ciudad Juarez. He also received the European Human Rights award in 2010 from the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE). In addition, David is part of the Community Radio Network in Southern Mexico.

Rebecca Richman Cohen is an Emmy Award nominated filmmaker and lecturer on law at Harvard Law School. She interned as an investigator at the Bronx Defenders and continued to do investigative work at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, working on a legal defense team for Alex Tamba Brima in the AFRC-accused case. Five months after leaving the Brima defense team, she returned to Sierra Leone to begin production on WAR DON DON, (<http://www.wardondonfilm.com/>), which profiles the trial of a leader of a separate warring faction. Between trips to Sierra Leone, she has been adjunct faculty at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and American University’s Human Rights Institute. Rebecca graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and with a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, where she now teaches. For her work on WAR DON DON she was awarded the the Cinereach Award for excellence in vital, artful storytelling and the Hugo Munsterberg Award for psychology of human nature in cinema. WAR DON DON also won the Special Jury Prize at the SXSW Film Festival and was nominated for two Emmy awards: Outstanding Continuing Coverage Of A News Story (Long Form) and Outstanding Editing. In 2010 Rebecca was profiled in Filmmaker Magazine’s 25 New Faces in Independent Film as an “up-and-comer poised to shape the next generation of independent film.”

Bringing International Human Rights Home



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International Human Rights CLE
February 16, 2012 • UM Law School, Room 201 • 1:30-5 pm

Dr. Mehrdad Kia is The University of Montana's Associate Provost for International Education. He is also the Director of the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center and Professor of Middle Eastern and North African history and politics. Dr. Kia has authored several books and numerous journal articles. He has won many teaching awards, including the 1997 Distinguished Teaching Award, the 1999 Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year Award, and the 1999 Tom Boone Town and Gown Award. In 2000, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching/Council for the Advancement and Support of Education named Dr. Kia the United States Professor of the Year. Dr. Kia has successfully managed and implemented many federal grants, including several from the US Department of Education, US Department of State, and USAID. Dr. Kia received his doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He taught there and at Cornell College before going to The University of Montana in 1989.

Andrea J. Olsen's 20-year law career has been predominately advocating for people's human rights. She teaches a course entitled "Equality, Development and Peace" at The University of Montana. Recently she is working on a Master of Philosophy in International Indigenous Studies with the University of Tromsø, Norway. Early in her career, Andrea worked at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, attending and providing interventions to the UN Human Rights bodies and has returned to the United Nations several times throughout the last 15 years. She was chair of the Women's Law Section of the Montana State Bar for 10 years. She was Legal Counsel for the Montana Office of Consumer Protection and represented students on behalf of ASUM Legal Services, filing an amicus brief on one of the first cases involving the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) before the Montana Supreme Court. Andrea J. Olsen started her legal career working in the Legal Department for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and later returned to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, working in their Tribal Legal Services Program representing Tribal members in civil litigation including cases before the Montana Supreme Court upholding Tribal jurisdiction. Andrea participated as part of a litigation team, with attorneys from the Mental Health Law Project, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Board of Visitors, and the Montana Advocacy Program, in the successful litigation of a constitutional rights case against Montana State Hospital.

Anna Conley is an associate at Datsopoulos, MacDonald and Lind, P.C. in Missoula. She received her J.D. from The George Washington Law School in Washington D.C. She received her LL.M. (Master of Law) and D.C.L.

(Doctor of Civil Laws) from McGill University's Faculty of Law in Montreal, Quebec in Comparative Law. She has practiced in San Francisco, Seattle and Missoula, and is a bar member of the California, Washington and Montana bars. She has published extensively the areas of private international law and comparative civil procedure. Anna Conley is currently an adjunct professor at the UM School of Law.

Sally Cummins recently retired after 25 years practicing international law in the Office of the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. She currently serves as a consulting expert with the Department on international law and U.S. practice in human rights treaty implementation in connection with U.S. reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Human Rights Council. Additional areas of practice during her tenure in the Office of the Legal Adviser included international arbitration, international criminal law, international legal issues in the legislative process, and management of U.S. posts abroad. For ten years she was also editor of the Digest of U.S. Practice in International Law, published annually by the Office. Before joining the Department of State, Ms. Cummins practiced antitrust and international trade law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson in Washington, D.C. She has taught international law as an adjunct at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. and at the University of Montana Law School, where she co-coaches the Jessup International Moot Court team. She received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1977.

Øyvind Ravna, PhD, is associate professor and head of a research group on Sámi and indigenous law at the University of Tromsø, Norway. His field of research is indigenous law specializing in the protection and recognition of culture, land rights and livelihood, including the adaption and impact of the recently adopted Finnmark Land Act, of which he has published many articles and monographs. He has also worked as a land judge in the Sámi areas of Norway and been engaged in research for the Sámi Law Committee and the Finnmark Commission. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at The University of Montana School of Law and the UM Native American Studies Program. For more information, see <http://www.ravna.no/english/> and http://www2.uit.no/ikbViewer/page/ansatte/organisasjon/ansatte/person?p_document_id=43502&p_dimension_id=88177.

Itzel M. Perez Zagal is a human rights lawyer specializing in the fields of gender, migration, and international law. She received her LLM in International Human Rights Law from The University of Notre Dame. Itzel has worked

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1:30	<i>Welcome</i>	Dr. Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs, and Professor Bari Burke, Associate Dean, UM School of Law
1:40	Dignity : <i>The Core of International Human Rights</i>	Andrea J. Olsen
2:00	<i>Foundations of International Law</i>	Anna Conley
2:20	<i>Implementation & Enforcement of Obligations Under International Law</i>	Sally Cummins
2:40	<i>The Influence of Human Rights Treaties on Norwegian Legislation Impacting Indigenous Sámi</i>	Øyvind Ravna, PhD
3:00	<i>Break</i>	
3:20	<i>The Inter-American Court of Human Rights</i>	Itzel M. Perez Zagal
3:40	<i>Women of Mexico Combat Femicide at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights - The "Cotton Fields" Case</i>	Micheel Salas Ramirez David Peña
4:30	<i>Outreach and Expectations at the Special Court for Sierra Leone</i>	Rebecca Richman Cohen