

Government Attorneys Interest Group

I. Introduction (me)

Colleagues,

Welcome to the (with apologies, somewhat belated) Fall/Winter 2025 edition of the Government Attorneys Interest Group's semiannual newsletter. Below you'll find an update from GAIG's Co-Chairs, a contribution to our Meet-a-Member section from Janet Park, and updates and photos from recent events.

On behalf of the entire board, we welcome your feedback on events, on this newsletter, and on anything in between. Please be in touch!

Simon G. Jerome
Vice-Chair for Publications

II. Notes from Co-Chairs Seraphina Fong and Sebastian Green Martinez

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on a year of profound developments in international law that continue to shape the work of government legal professionals across agencies and jurisdictions.

We note with interest the European Union's AI Act, which stands as the world's first comprehensive regulatory framework for artificial intelligence, adopting a risk-based approach with prohibitions on certain uses, requirements for high-risk systems, and transparency obligations. Meanwhile, in the United States, cross-sector regulation remains under congressional consideration. This divergence underscores the evolving global conversation on how best to govern emerging technologies.

In October 2025, the International Court of Justice rendered an advisory opinion — Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory— involving United Nations operations and Member State obligations, clarifying duties to cooperate in good faith with the Organisation and to respect UN privileges and immunities. The Court's engagement with questions of international governance continues, with potential implications for government attorneys navigating multilateral frameworks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Introduction
1

Notes From Co-Chairs
1

Meet A Member!
2

Author! Author!
3

GAIG Events Recap
3

Upcoming Events
3

.....

Government Attorneys Interest Group

GAIG Officers

Co-Chairs

Seraphina M. Fong
Daniel Mandell

Programs Vice-Chair

Andres Villegas

Publications Vice-Chair

Simon G. Jerome

Views contained in this publication are those of the authors in their personal capacity. The American Society of International Law and this Interest Group do not generally take positions on substantive issues, including those addressed in this periodical.



Notes From Co-Chairs —continued from page 1

Closer to home, we are pleased to share that in Fall 2025, we once again had the privilege and honour to organize the GAIG/International Legal Attachés of Washington (Int-LAW) mixer at Tillar House, bringing together colleagues practising across a range of international law disciplines. It was energising to see this community grow and to connect with practitioners navigating these complex legal landscapes.

As always, we welcome your participation and feedback. Whether you are new to the practice of interna-

tional law or bring decades of experience, we would love to hear your ideas and insights on how we can better serve this community in the year ahead.

On behalf of the GAIG Executive Committee, we wish you a peaceful holiday season and look forward to reconnecting in the new year.

Seraphina Fong – Sebastián Green Martínez

III. Meet a Member: Janet Park

1. Describe your current position.

I began my legal career as an Associate at Arnold & Porter's DC office in October 2024. As I am in the general litigation practice group, my practice currently spans across multiple areas of law, but all of them have an international angle. For example, I have assisted with reviewing edits of The Restatement of the Law, Fourth: The Foreign Relations Law of the United States for John Bellinger, Partner at Arnold & Porter and former Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State, I have completed a U.S. anti-boycott internal investigation, and I am currently working on an ICC commercial arbitration case and a criminal sanctions investigation.

2. Why did you choose to go into the line of work you did?

As a first-generation immigrant born and raised in South Korea until the age of ten, I believe that my personal and professional experiences are best served in international law and diplomacy. My long-standing interest in diplomacy and in East Asia helped retain my native-level fluency in Korean through reading and watching the news in Korean and, eventually, to major in East Asian Studies at Columbia University, where I also took Japanese and Mandarin classes and completed my honors thesis on the "comfort women" issue. Upon graduation, I researched the history of

territorial/maritime disputes between Japan and Korea as an intern with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN, and I witnessed a historical moment, when the North and South Korean Olympic athletes entered the stage together under the same flag during the Opening and Closing Ceremonies at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, as a volunteer. At Harvard Law, I served as a research assistant for the Program on International Law and Armed Conflict (HLS PILAC) and completed legal internships with the U.S. Department of State and with the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), which helped further solidify my interests. As an international lawyer, I hope to focus my efforts on bridging the gaps between nations with starkly contrasting ideologies and helping to reach an understanding that even with differences, they can work toward common goals.

3. What is your most significant professional accomplishment?

My most significant accomplishment to date goes back to my years at Harvard Law School, when I led the student community in its advocacy effort as a grassroots leader. On February 26, 2021, I was quoted in a New York Times article covering activism by "comfort women" survivors, scholars, and students

—continued on page 3

Meet a Member —continued from page 4

against Harvard Law Professor Mark Ramseyer’s journal article, which sparked international controversy: “We’re the next generation that’s responsible for making sure that [the ‘comfort women’ survivors’ accounts of wartime sexual slavery remain] a part of history.” I still stand firmly by my quote, which encapsulates my ethos and mission as a grassroots leader. While on personal leave from Harvard Law to care for my now-deceased father who was battling stage 4 cancer at the time, I organized an event at Harvard Law with more than 500 attendees, providing a platform for “comfort women” survivors to combat denialists and revisionists seeking to silence their voices.

Although many question the importance of the “comfort women” issue, I am passionate about bringing the U.S., Korea, and Japan together to resolve the issue. This international human rights issue truly lies at the forefront of the strained diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan, and yet, numerous half-baked attempts to resolve the issue, without focusing on restoring dignity and justice for the “comfort women” survivors, have only deepened the decades-old distrust between these two key allies of the U.S. in Asia. Only when the issue is fully resolved in a victim-centered manner will the trilateral relations between the U.S., Japan, and Korea move forward, and I will continue to advocate for its resolution as an international lawyer.

4. Why did you join ASIL and the GAIG?

I joined ASIL and the GAIG to stay connected with a community of like-minded attorneys with an interest in public service. As a former legal intern at a number of U.S. government agencies and intergovernmental organizations, I have a longstanding commitment to public service, and I believe that civic participation, as well as an interest in staying informed about the U.S. government is more important now than ever. To this end, my membership with ASIL and the GAIG allows me to do just that, and it also helps that Arnold & Porter is a proud sponsor of ASIL. ■

IV. Author! Author!

Unfortunately, we didn’t receive any publications to feature in this newsletter. Please keep an eye out for solicitations in the future, and don’t be shy about sending anything you’ve written recently!

V. Events Recap

On Tuesday, October 14, the Government Attorneys Interest Group together with the International Law Interest Group held a joint happy hour at Tillar House. The event drew over 25 attorneys from a wide variety of international law disciplines and featured remarks from Simon Kürsener and Sam Moss.



VI. Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for news about upcoming events!