

International Legal Research Interest Group

Letter from the Editor

Hello ILRIG Members,

In the northern hemisphere we recently had the longest day and shortest night whereas in the southern hemisphere we had the shortest day and longest night. In light of reaching the halfway point in the year, I hope we can take this time to reflect on the first half of the year and plan to accomplish our remaining goals during the last half of the year. I am thrilled to present to you the Spring 2023 issue of the *Informer* Newsletter, a newsletter dedicated to international researchers from around the globe! As 2023 continues to race by, I encourage ILRIG members to focus on the developments in the continuously changing international legal research field and how we can continue improving international legal research into the future.

In this issue you will find a research tip from ILRIG Co-chair Jenny Gesley of the Library of Congress. Additionally, you'll be able to review the pro bono/volunteer opportunity with the Yezidi Genocide Justice Campaign. You will be able to view previous webinars including the Global Animal Law Research and recent developments in U.S. Foreign Relations Law. A big thank you to Samantha Rodríguez Santillán for the new developments in international law piece, *Case of García Rodríguez et al v. México*. Finally, congratulations to Ryan Scoville and Mitchell Knief on their upcoming publication, *U.S. State Commitments with Foreign Governments*.

As you peruse this newsletter, please remember that we are always looking for content including member updates, research tips, articles, and essays. The newsletter would not exist without interesting submissions from readers like you. We want to hear from you! If you have any questions, suggestions, ideas or articles you would like to submit, please contact me, the Editor, at ilrignewsletter@gmail.com.

We hope that you enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,

Brittany L. Menton
Newsletter Editor, *Informer*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Newsletter Editor

1

Research Tip of the Season

2

Events of Interest

2

Recent Developments

3

New Developments

3

Career Opportunities

4

Member Publication

4

Call for Submissions

4

International Legal Research Interest Group

ILRIG OFFICERS

Co-Chairs

Alex Zhang
Jenny Gesley

Secretary

Lucie Olejnikova

Chair, Awards Committee

Michael McArthur

Chair, Education Committee

Marcelo Rodriguez

Editor

Brittany L. Menton

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.



Research Tip of the Season

Have you ever had to research a constitutional law case, but the decision was only available in a language you do not speak? Or did you want to get a global perspective on a certain constitutional law topic, such as the right to private life, and compare how different national constitutional courts and/or international courts have addressed it? The “Digest of Constitutional Cases (CODICES)” database (<http://www.codices.coe.int/>) hosted by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe might be able to help. The CODICES database contains around 9,000 summaries (précis) and full texts of decisions from around 100 courts, mostly in English or French, but also in more than 40 other languages.

Summaries of the decisions are provided in English and French. In addition, the CODICES database contains information on the national constitutions and constitutional courts. The database is updated on a regular basis.

As an example, a simple **search** for “right to private life” cases yields 535 results.

Provided by:

Jenny Gesley, ILRIG Co-Chair
Foreign Law Specialist
Law Library of Congress

Events of Interest

ILRIG Session at ASIL Conference 2023

The Frederick K. Cox International Law Center, Case Western University School of Law sponsored the ILRIG organized “Researching Religion and Human Rights Practices: Old Ideas Applied to Modern Issues” session at the ASIL Conference. The session was held on March 29, 2023.

Synopsis: Religion is as old as mankind and religious rules have guided peoples’ behavior for equally as long. Some rules have never changed and are applied as-is to modern day issues. Others have been amended to bring them in line with new ways of thinking or to deal with novel issues. In some jurisdictions, there is a strict separation between church and state, whereas in others, it is intertwined with the state and national identity. This panel will provide attendees with substantial information and ways to research religious law and its interpretations, including but not limited to Sharia and canon law, but will also point out challenges to conducting research. Panelists will give an overview of religious law in various jurisdictions and explain how the respective jurisdictions and religions deal with modern day challenges.

Global Animal Law Research Webinar

The suffering of and the protection of animals is not limited to the nation state. It is a global issue that is addressed on a local, national, and international level. Efforts to recognize animals as legal persons in court have emerged as a novel approach to protect animal rights. The webinar will provide attendees with substantial information and ways to research animal law in a global context, but will also point out challenges to conducting research in such an emerging area of law. In particular, the webinar will focus on the legal framework for companion animals in a global context, the protection of animals in areas of armed conflict, marine mammal protection in the United States, and legal rights for animals in India. Several of the panelists authored a chapter for a book on global animal research strategies and resources that was released in 2022 and covers the webinar topics in addition to a number of other significant issues related to the protection of animals in different jurisdictions around the world.

Webinar recording can be found here: <https://www.asil.org/events/global-animal-law-research>



Recent Developments in U.S. Foreign Relations Law Presentation

On March 23, 2023, the Law Library of Congress Public Services Division librarians Louis Myers and Olivia Kane-Cruz presented on recent developments in U.S. Foreign Relations Law. Of note were highlights from case law, treaties, and international agreements from the United States. Research strategies for this area of law were also described in detail with demonstrations of various resources, including on resources available from the Law Library's website, and other US govern-

ment sources. The webinar also briefly provided an overview of general international law concepts while also explaining the United States' integration of these aspects into both its foreign relations practice and into its domestic laws.

Webinar recording can be found here: <https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-10778/>

New Developments in International Law

Case of *García Rodríguez et al v. México*

Author: Samantha Rodríguez Santillán¹

In 2001, Daniel García Rodríguez and Reyes Alpízar Ortiz were detained without knowing the accusation or possible crime they committed. Consequently, they were isolated for more than thirty days while the Mexican authorities searched for elements to hold their imputation. Shortly after a Judge ruled that both must stay in pre-trial detention. They remain locked without conviction for more than seventeen years. Today, their case continues unresolved.

On April 12th, 2023, the Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACHR) notified Mexico State of its international responsibility. The resolution essentially concluded that the criminal regulation is against the right to personal liberty, the right to a fair trial, right to humane treatment, and the obligation to adopt provisions of domestic law pursuant to the American Convention on Human Rights.

This is the second case that refers to the pre-trial detention in Mexico. Nonetheless, this ruling sparked a series of comments, both positive and negative. On the one hand, it was highlighted that -despite the change to an adversarial criminal justice system- this "precautionary measure" has been increasing its popularity. So, it seems that state efforts have not worked because of the amount of people who are still in prison for years without a resolution.

On the other one, the IACHR declared an existing constitutional article unconventional. They indicated that it has a catalog of offenses that does not meet human rights standards. This case has led to questions as to the extent to which a decision of an international tribunal may -or may not- interfere with a Political Constitution.

Although the judgments of the IACHR are revolutionary, this case attempts to go further and point out the current omissions that persist in the State for the fulfillment of human rights. Thus, it is expected to see a new chapter for the Mexican law.²

¹ Lawyer, National Autonomous University of Mexico. Mentee in the Women in the International Law (WIL) Mentoring Program 2022.

² This case is only available in Spanish: https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_482_esp.pdf



Career Opportunities

PRO BONO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YEZIDI GENOCIDE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN (Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and New York, New York)

Additionally, I would like to share the Yazidi Genocide Justice Campaign that was begun in January 2022 and advocates for the legal prosecutions of corporate actors that aided and abetted ISIS. Here is the link to that campaign: <https://yezidigenocidejusticecampaign.org/>

Legal volunteers are welcome to submit letters of interest to volunteer to: catherinevankampen@gmail.com.

Member Publications

Authors: Ryan Scoville (Marquette University Law School) & Mitchell Knief (Independent)

Title: U.S. State Commitments with Foreign Governments (W.S. Hein & Co.)

Publication Date: 2023

Summary: Later this year, Ryan Scoville and Mitchell Knief will publish *U.S. State Commitments with Foreign Governments* with W.S. Hein & Co. This volume will feature an edited compilation of the full text of 150 binding and nonbinding agreements between U.S. states and foreign governments. A digital library of more than 600 such agreements will be published simultaneously under the same title with HeinOnline. These collections will serve as a reference for legal practitioners and scholars and constitute a subnational analogue to official compilations of international agreements to which the United States is a party—namely, *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements* (UST) and the *Treaties and Other International Acts Series* (TIAS). The editors will periodically update the digital library with new agreements in order to maintain a thorough record of modern practice.

Call for Submissions for the ILRIG Newsletter

ILRIG endeavors to provide accessible opportunities for new professionals to feature their work in a space that is reserved specifically for them, as well as a platform to highlight their achievements and accomplishments. As such, we are pleased to announce the following options for our members to feature their work in future editions of the ILRIG newsletter:

i. *New Developments in International Law*

Members are invited to submit short pieces (up to 300 words) that provide a descriptive update of a recent development or news item from any area of public or private international law, such as but not limited to new activities at international organizations, a decision of an international court or tribunal, and/or treaty negotiations.

ii. *Short Essays: The Future of International Legal Research*

Members are invited to submit an original essay (up to 900 words) focusing on the benefits of international legal research to the global transfer of information. The possibilities are wide ranging and could include how professionals from across the globe are able to work together without ever meeting in person, varying platforms or tools that aid in the sharing of research, the impact of war on transfer and dissemination of research to other parts of the world, the changes information professionals and international legal research should prepare for, competitive intelligence and international legal research, etc.

iii. *Member Spotlight*

Members are invited to submit an announcement highlighting an achievement or professional update, whether it be a new position, a publication, an award, or anything else that we can celebrate (up to 150 words).

—continued on page 5



Call for Submissions for the ILRIG Newsletter —continued from page 4

iv. Member Updates

Members are invited to submit an announcement (up to 150 words) highlighting an achievement or professional update, whether it be a new position, a publication, an award, or anything else that we can celebrate.

v. Opportunities Available

Members are asked to submit open positions (both paid and volunteer) for legal research positions available. Please include the association name, position title, position summary, and contact information.

vi. Upcoming/Recent Publications/Books

Members are invited to submit information regarding a recently published or upcoming book or publication they assist with. Please include your name, the authors, the title, publication date, and a brief summary (up to 200 words).

vii. Upcoming Events of Interest

Members are invited to submit information regarding upcoming events of interest to the ILRIG community including meetings (in-person and virtual), webinars, classes, conferences, roundtables, panels, etc. Please provide the date, time, location (virtual or in-person), host, and summary (up to 200 words).

Please send your submission to ilrignewsletter@gmail.com and put "ILRIG NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION" in the subject line. Be sure to provide your full name, title, and organization or affiliation. If your submission is for the Member Spotlight, please include a high-resolution photo of yourself. We accept submissions on a rolling basis and encourage members to submit early. The deadline for submission is **September 8, 2023.** ■

Disclaimer: 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. If you would like to provide information on specific events/opportunities for the newsletter, please send to ilrignewsletter@gmail.com.