

# Women in International Law Interest Group

## Note from the Co-Chairs

Dear WILIG Members,

We hope you all had productive and enjoyable summers. We have a lot of exciting things on the agenda this year. Below, we provide information on how to submit nominations for the Prominent Woman in International Law Award, past and upcoming WILIG activities, applying to serve as a mentor or mentee for the Women in International Law mentoring Program, and notices of upcoming virtual events. We also request your thoughts and feedback for future activities.

## Call for Nominations for Prominent Woman in International Law Award!

WILIG invites you to nominate the next winner of its Prominent Woman in International Law award. 2023 marks the 30th year this award is being given. The Prominent Woman in International Law Award honors those who have advanced women and gender rights in International Law. Nominations will be considered for individuals who meet some or all of the following criteria:

- Employs international law to advance women and women's rights (awardees need not be attorneys, though most are);
- Breaks through glass ceilings for women in international law;
- Promotes women and women's voices in the field;
- Contributes substantively to advancing, researching, advocating for, or promoting women's rights and/or gender justice;
- Is considered prominent in the field of international law—or has accomplishments that merit further recognition through this prestigious award.

Letters of nomination should be addressed to WILIG's Prominent Woman in International Law (PWIL) Committee and submitted to Professor Cindy Buys at [cbuys@sis.edu](mailto:cbuys@sis.edu). Please submit nomination information in one PDF document titled with the nominee's name and "PWIL Award". Letters and supporting materials should not exceed 5 pages total per nominee. The deadline is **October 15, 2022**.

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



## Information on WILIG Mentoring Program

### 2021-2022 Mentoring Graduation

On July 8, 2022, the WILIG Mentoring Program held its graduation ceremony. At the ceremony, WILIG Co-chair Meg deGuzman gave introductory remarks, including thanking outgoing Mentoring Program Coordinator Lucila (Luli) Hemmingsen, and introducing new Coordinator, Lucía Solano. Luli then gave inspiring remarks about her career, obstacles she has overcome, and advice for women aspiring to join and thrive in international legal practice. We reiterate our congratulations to the many mentees who successfully completed the Mentoring Program last year and extend our gratitude to the mentors whose dedication and support enabled this mentoring year to be a success!

### Join the 2022-2023 WILIG Mentoring Program

2022 marks the tenth year of the WILIG Mentoring Program, the first of its kind designed to foster the next generation of female international lawyers.

The program connects experienced female international law professionals with female law students and new attorneys interested in professional development in the field of international law. We are proud to announce that the program has connected over 200 mentees to over 50 mentors since its inception.

The program will take place virtually this year, and participants will become part of a strong, interconnected, and global network that already spans more than 600 women in 15 countries and 38 cities. We have decided to continue with the virtual format this year to facilitate access to the program for mentees and mentors and enable more flexible scheduling.

Mentor and mentee applications are available on our website (<https://www.asil.org/asil-women-international-law-mentoring-program>). **The application deadline has been extended to September 16, 2022.**

For more information about the mentoring program please contact Mentoring Program Coordinator, Lucía Solano at [wiligmentorship@asil.org](mailto:wiligmentorship@asil.org).

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## Update on WILIG Activities

### WILIG Scholarship Prize

In 2021, WILIG created the biannual WILIG Scholarship Prize to highlight and promote excellence in international law scholarship involving women and girls, gender, and feminist approaches. The first scholarship was awarded to Irini Papanciopolulu for her work on gender and the law of the sea at the WILIG Luncheon at the 2021 ASIL Annual Meeting.

The Scholarship Prize Committee is currently reviewing scholarship nominated for the 2023 prize. Committee members are Professors Yvonne Dutton, MJ Durkee, Chiara Georgetti, Alex Huneus, and Laurence Boisson de Chazournes. A winner will be announced at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

### Harvard Collaboration: Distinguished Voices

In 2021, WILIG launched an exciting partnership with the Harvard International Law Journal (HILJ) to create a digital library highlighting the experiences and stories of a diverse group of distinguished women in international law and celebrating their achievements and contributions to the field. Interviewees include recent past winners of WILIG's Prominent Women in International Law Award, as well as women jointly selected by WILIG and HILJ. For more information or to nominate a woman for inclusion in the digital library please contact Cindy Buys ([cbuys@law.siu.edu](mailto:cbuys@law.siu.edu)) or Kathy Roberts ([lkathyroberts@gmail.com](mailto:lkathyroberts@gmail.com)).



## Mark your Calendar

### **WILIG Career Panel: Breaking Barriers to Success in International Law Careers**

WILIG will once again be holding a career panel, one of our signature events each year. This year's WILIG Career panel is titled "Breaking Barriers to Success in International Law Careers."

This year's event will be **on September 23, 2022, at 12 pm EST**. It will be a Zoom webinar co-sponsored by the Minorities in International Law Interest Group (MILIG), Africa Interest Group (AIG), and the New Professionals Interest Group (NPIG). Our speakers for this event are Dean Karen Bravo, Indiana University McKinney School of Law; Lucia Solano, Legal Adviser - Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in New York; Floriane Lavaud, Counsel, Debevoise & Plimpton, New York City; and Prof. E. Tendayi Achiume, Alicia Minana Professor of Law, UCLA Law School. Prof. Yvonne Dutton, IU McKinney School of Law and co-chair of WILIG, will moderate the panel presentation. Panelists will share information about their career trajectories and discuss the unique barriers women face in international legal careers and offer strategies for combating bias in the workplace.

This will be an excellent opportunity to hear the unique experiences of these extraordinary women professionals. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions through the Q and A function. Be on the lookout for flyers and emails detailing how to register for this event.

### **International Law and the Dobbs Decision**

We are planning a series of zoom events to discuss reproductive rights in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturning the constitutional right to abortion. The first of these will be at 12 pm EST, on September 12, 2022, and will be titled "Reproductive Rights in the Americas: Diverging Trajectories?" Our speakers for this event are Alicia Ely Yamin, Harvard University; María Belén Saavedra, Georgetown University; Patty Skuster, Temple University; and Rebecca Ramos, Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida. If you are interested in learning more about this series, please contact Margherita Melillo ([melillomargherita@gmail.com](mailto:melillomargherita@gmail.com)) or Patty Skuster ([patty.skuster@temple.edu](mailto:patty.skuster@temple.edu)). Stay tuned for details!

### **Requests for Thoughts and Feedback**

We would like to hear from you. What would you like to see WILIG do this year and beyond? Would you like to co-sponsor an event with WILIG involving women and international law at your law school, law firm, NGO, international organization or elsewhere? If so, please reach out to Meg or Yvonne (emails below).

If you are running an event that may be of interest to WILIG's membership, please contact Christiana Sagay at [christiana.sagay@uottawa.ca](mailto:christiana.sagay@uottawa.ca) and we will share information about it with our members and in our next newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

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