



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION of HUMAN RIGHTS

Celebrates

60 Years

The HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

Celebrates

20 Years

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Human Rights Center Celebrates Its 20th Year!

From the Co-Directors

It is fitting that the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is also the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center's twentieth. It offers us the opportunity to reflect on the core principles of human rights, as well as the activities that we have undertaken to promote and protect human rights. The Human Rights Center was launched on December 10, 1988, and its mission since its founding has been to provide training, educational materials, and assistance to professionals, students, and volunteers working to promote and protect human rights locally, nationally, and internationally. We have sought, and still seek, to maximize the effectiveness of human rights advocates and educators by giving them the knowledge and tools they need to advance an informed human rights agenda.

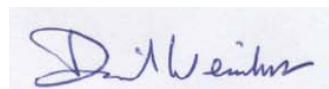
When we look back over the last two decades of Human Rights Center history, we realize that our activities and reach have expanded far beyond our original expectations. Our programs connect theory and practice, applying the philosophical and legal dimensions of human rights to real-world situations. In addition to supporting field opportunities and conducting research on human rights issues, the Human Rights Center has been at the forefront of bringing human rights into the digital age. Over the past 20 years, we have:

- assisted in the defense of detainees held in Guantánamo so they can receive a fair trial;
- built one of the largest and most accessible collections of online human rights research and education materials in the world;
- coordinated the Minnesota statewide Partners in Human Rights Education initiative;
- coordinated, planned, co-sponsored, or presented at hundreds of conferences, film screenings, lectures, panels, and performances relating to human rights;
- developed an education and community activist curriculum for a public television documentary;
- hosted international professionals and scholars;
- presented the mock trial of Christopher Columbus, an event that garnered international attention;
- produced Human Rights Education curricula and training resources;
- produced Human Rights Training Manuals for the United Nations;
- published and disseminated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Convention on the Rights of the Child passports;
- published books and training manuals on human rights;
- supported more than four hundred Human Rights Fellows to carry out meaningful human rights work in the U.S. and abroad;
- trained educators, community activists, and others in Human Rights Education.

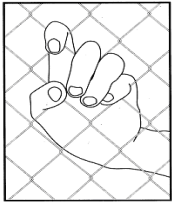
We hope that you will join us in celebrating the Universal Declaration's 60th anniversary and in renewing our common commitment to advance its principles to improve the human condition. We are proud of the work that the Human Rights Center has done, but we also recognize that our success would not be possible without the collaboration of so many dedicated partner organizations, donors, and volunteers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication to human rights and the work of the Center. We are deeply honored and humbled to be part of this greater human rights community and hope to continue our work.



Kristi Rudelius-Palmer
Co-Director



David Weissbrodt
Co-Director



Human Rights Library

www.humanrightslibrary.org

The online **University of Minnesota Human Rights Library** (www.umn.edu/humanrts or www.humanrightslibrary.org) is one of the world's largest collections of core human rights materials. Housing over 60,000 documents, the Human Rights Library provides unprecedented access to these resources for human rights advocates throughout the world. All of the resources on the Library are freely available and easily searchable. In addition to its main English collection, the Library features eight language alcoves to provide greater accessibility in Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

In the last year, the **Human Rights Library** has logged **over 3 million user sessions and well over 18 million hits from more than 150 countries**. Our Arabic and Russian Human Rights Libraries, two of our largest and most developed collections, have experienced substantial growth. Additionally, we have expanded and updated our Chinese and Japanese Human Rights Libraries, as well as strengthened our new Korean Human Rights Library.

Over the last year, the **Arabic Human Rights Library** has maintained its place as one of the premier sources of Arabic language human rights materials in the world, garnering **more than 440,000 user sessions and 1.6 million hits from countries in the Middle East and other regions**. The Arabic Library has seen the addition of over 200 new documents, including treaties, declarations, and country reports and conclusions. These new materials include human rights reports on over 60 different countries, including numerous materials on non-Arab countries. These resources allow Arabic-speaking lawyers, scholars, and others to do more globally-focused and comparative human rights research.

The **Chinese Human Rights Library** has grown appreciably both in size and usership. During the past year, the Chinese Library has seen **over 144,000 user sessions and 382,000 hits**. We have assembled many UN human rights instruments and committee reports for posting in both traditional and simplified characters, with a particular focus on the jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee. Additionally, we have

improved the China country profile in our Resources for Researching Country Conditions database, adding China's constitution, information on Chinese political and judicial institutions, research centers, and NGOs, as well as Chinese language materials on human rights in the United States. Additionally, we added links to Chinese language media outlets covering human rights issues.

In 2008, the **Japanese Human Rights Library** has received much needed updating and expansion work, starting with a review and correction of document citations. We have also been working to make sure that Japanese language documents are accessible through the Japanese web menus. Work is continuing on additional document acquisition and translation, focusing on the rights of children, disabled persons, minorities, non-citizens, seniors, and women.

The **Russian Human Rights Library** logged **over 245,000 user sessions and 1,000,000 hits in the last year**. Our work on the Russian Human Rights Library has resulted in the addition of over 90 new documents, including numerous translations of European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decisions concerning Russia. Decisions by the ECHR have become a major focus of our work on the Russian Library because over one quarter of the Court's pending cases involve Russia. We have also kept up our collection of UN human rights documents, focusing on country conclusions and reports by UN treaty bodies on Russia and other CIS nations, including Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.

Work continues on our **Resources for Researching Country Conditions tool**, located at <http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/research>.

This tool allows users to quickly and easily find human rights documentation on specific countries. We have updated our unique presentations of the ratification records of each country. As we continue to develop this resource, we are confident that it will eventually become one of our most practical reference tools.

In addition to expanding and updating our current collections, we have also added new sections and features to the Human Rights Library. (Continued on page 4)



Human Rights Library *(continued)*

www.humanrightslibrary.org

We established the **Korean Human Rights Library**, accessible at <http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/index-korean.html>. While still under development, the Korean Library offers users access to the full texts of major human rights treaties and declarations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (and its Optional Protocols), the Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment.

The Human Rights Library has also seen a major expansion of its collection of international jurisprudence,

owing in part to the research needs of the Guantánamo Defense Project (See page 5). One of our most practical accomplishments in this area has been the posting of the case law of the **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)** in a searchable archive, which can be found at http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/ICTR/ICTR_Cases_Index.html. The ability to search ICTR jurisprudence is unique to our website. We have also added jurisprudence from the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee Against Torture, and other international adjudicative bodies in a similarly searchable and accessible format.

Professor David Weissbrodt teaching
International Human Rights Law



In Memoriam *Stephen Feinstein*

The Human Rights Center was deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Stephen Feinstein, Director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and member of the Human Rights Center Advisory Board.

Stephen's passing is a tragic loss to the University of Minnesota community and he will be deeply missed as both a colleague and a friend. His leadership in the anti-genocide community was unparalleled. He was an accomplished scholar, an energetic human rights advocate, and a devoted family man. His insight, intelligence, wit, and sense of humor were always appreciated. We will remember Stephen with the greatest affection and respect and we pledge to work together as a community to carry out his legacy to promote human dignity and to work ceaselessly to root out the causes of genocide in our world.

Tributes to Stephen from friends and colleagues can be found on the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies website at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/chgs/feinstein/2008/03/post.html>.

Applied Human Rights Research

The Guantánamo Defense Project

Since November 2007, the Human Rights Center has been working with Defense Counsel in the Office of Military Commissions to defend detainees held at Guantánamo Bay. At stake are the human rights of “war on terror” detainees, chiefly those concerning the right to a fair trial and other rights implicated by the procedures established by the Military Commission Act. The military defense attorneys have been at a fundamental structural disadvantage relative to the prosecution, suffering from a lack of financial and staffing resources. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the CIA, and the FBI have retained many lawyers and investigators, with ample resources, to prepare prosecutions.

We have recruited law student research interns to generate research, motions, memoranda, and briefs. The largest component of our work has been drafting memoranda and motions at the request of Defense Counsel, enabling us to respond quickly and efficiently to their needs as they arise in the course of litigation. We have been most involved with the Khadr case, and we have also made significant contributions to the Hamdan case and the defense of five other “high-value” detainees.

In addition to the valuable work of Kyle Lewis, our Project Director, and law students, the Human Rights Center has benefitted immensely from the pro-bono work of several experienced Twin Cities attorneys, including Cheryl Heilman, Sam Heins, Tom Kayser, Jeff Keyes (until he was selected as a U.S. Magistrate), Bruce Manning, Tom Nelson, and Peter Thompson. These outstanding lawyers bring a wealth of litigation and legal research experience to the Guantánamo Defense Project and their assistance has been indispensable. They have been willing to review most of the student-produced briefs and memoranda and give the students extremely helpful comments, so that they can revise the documents and provide Defense Counsel with the best possible work in the specified time frame. Their work is especially important considering that we often operate on very tight deadlines.

The Project has created a set of case materials for Defense Counsel, collecting international jurisprudence on torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The materials organize the cases by type of ill-treatment (e.g., prolonged solitary confinement, forced standing in uncomfortable position – so-called “stress positions,” deprivation of food, confinement in a small space), so that Defense Counsel will be able to produce quickly at trial materials relevant to the experiences of Guantánamo detainees. Sources for these case materials include the jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee, the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Committee of the Red Cross summary of customary international law, and others. This resource has proven highly useful to Defense Counsel.

Over the course of the project, we have also developed an extensive brief bank, reusing some briefs and consolidating research to make future drafting faster. Topics in the brief bank to date include, among others:

- **Child soldiers**
- **Equal protection and equality of**
- **International fair trial rights**
- **Right to presence at trial**
- **Suppression of evidence adduced through torture or other ill-treatment**

Human Rights Research Collaboratives

In 2008, the Human Rights Center was a partner organization in two human rights-related Research Collaboratives through the University of Minnesota's Institute for Advanced Study.

Minnesota-Mexico Dialogue:

Past, Present, Future

<http://www.ias.umn.edu/collabs08-09/MexicoMinnesota.php>

For over a year, a group of faculty and graduate students from the University of Minnesota have been working on an international collaboration with colleagues in Mexico on a series of research, teaching, and outreach questions focusing on technology, education, history, immigration, human rights, and youth development. The particular goal of the Mexico-Minnesota Dialogue Collaborative is to enhance and broaden the participation of community organizers, faculty, and graduate students on the University of Minnesota campus in a dialogue about the interactions between Mexico and Minnesota. Activities in 2008 included group study sessions, public meetings, and site visits in which participants discussed the past, present, and future interaction between Mexico and Minnesota.

Participating units include the following schools, departments, and research centers:

- American Studies
- Chicano Studies
- Education Policy and Administration
- Extension Services
- History
- Human Rights Center
- Human Rights Program
- Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs
- Institute for Global Studies
- Social Work
- Spanish and Portuguese Studies

Transitional Justice and Collective Memory

<http://www.ias.umn.edu/collabs08-09/TransitionalJustice.php>

This research collaborative brings together faculty and graduate students to explore their mutual research interests in the area of transitional justice and collective memory. Since the 1980s, states and non-state actors are increasingly addressing past human rights violations using multiple mechanisms, including domestic and international human rights trials, truth commissions, reparations, vetting, museums and other memory sites, archives, and oral history projects, as well as many forms of artistic production, including testimonial literature, photography, and film. All these processes aim to shape collective memory: knowledge about that past that is shared and mutually reinforced by a collectivity.

This Collaborative focuses on three major types of events: 1) regular seminars 2) individual visits by a small number of scholars and practitioners and 3) a symposium on human rights trials, in conjunction with three book projects currently in progress by collaborative members.

Participating units include the following schools, departments, and research centers:

- Human Rights Center
- Human Rights Program
- Institute for Global Studies
- Law School
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Spanish and Portuguese Studies

The Collaborative's work is also linked to another project involving human rights faculty, called the Transitional Justice Partnership, which extends and deepens the relationship between the Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and the University of Minnesota.

University of Minnesota Delegation meets
with the Human Rights Commissioner of the
State of Morelos in Mexico



International Fellowship Programs



Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program www.umn.edu/humanrts/center/humphrey

The Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of professional development, related academic study, and cultural exchange in the United States for mid-career professionals from developing countries throughout the world. It is a Fulbright Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Executive Director Ed Roslof and the Institute of International Education. Fellows are placed nationally at one of fifteen U.S. universities chosen for excellence in relevant fields and for the resources and support they offer the Humphrey Fellows. Fellowships are granted competitively to professional candidates with a commitment to public service and Fellows are assigned to a host university based on their interests and needs. This year's program includes 163 Fellows from 90 countries, hosted by 15 universities throughout the United States.

The University of Minnesota has welcomed Humphrey Fellows since 1981, attracting 360 Fellows from 98 countries around the world and the program has undergone exciting changes in 2008. After successfully reapplying to the Institute for International Education, the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the Law School/Human Rights Center now each host a cohort of Fellows, focusing respectively on Public Administration and Law/Human Rights. It is the first time in the history of the Humphrey Fellowship Program that one university is hosting two groups of Humphrey Fellows.

This year's Humphrey Law Fellows bring with them a wealth of expertise and experience. They are experts on a variety of legal issues, such as alternative dispute resolution, children's rights, human rights promotion and protection, human trafficking, international migration, law enforcement, media law and regulation, transitional justice, and women's rights.

2008-2009 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows

Saad Abdulhameid Al-Shamary, Iraq
Amy A. Avellano, the Philippines
María del Rocío Bermeo Sevilla, Ecuador
Sultan Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistan
Juan Carlos Arjona Estévez, Mexico
James Chiku Kaphale, Malawi
Pedzisai Ruhanya, Zimbabwe
Firuz Maksudovich Sattorov, Tajikistan
Artur Shakirov, Russia
Elizabeth da Cunha Sussekind, Brazil



Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program www.humanrightsfellowship.org

The Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program marked its 20th year with a successful group of twenty-eight Fellows undertaking exciting projects all over the world. During the 20 years of the Fellowship Program, the Center has supported 387 Fellows who worked in 75 countries around the world. The 2008 Fellows come from many different backgrounds, including undergraduate and graduate students in the social sciences, law students, an engineering student, medical and public health students, a musician, a freelance writer, and a human rights educator.

Issues of Focus in 2008

- Alternative dispute resolution
- Child abduction
- Economic, Social and Cultural rights
- Education
- Effective practices in human rights
- Genocide
- Housing
- Indigenous rights and land claims
- Legal representation and judicial access
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender rights
- Micro-lending and development
- Migration
- Public health and Healthcare access
- Sustainable development
- Torture
- Transitional justice
- Women's rights

2008 Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellows



About the Upper Midwest Fellowship Program

The Human Rights Center encourages residents of the Upper Midwest – including students, teachers, lawyers, health professionals, community leaders and others – to undertake practical experiences and internships with local, national, and international human rights organizations. The fellowship placement provides both training for the individual and assistance to the host organization, as well as fosters links between communities in the Upper Midwest and human rights organizations around the world. Participants return with a stronger commitment to a lifetime of work in human rights and contribute to bringing human rights concerns home to their communities in the Upper Midwest.

Benjamin Alsdurf Community Aid Network - Uganda Tororo, Uganda	Elizabeth Hagmann International Leadership Institute and Uganda Women's Coalition for Peace Gulu, Uganda	Amanda Lyons International Center for Transitional Justice Bogotá, Colombia	Roseanne Pereira Center for Victims of Torture Minneapolis, Minnesota
Jonathan Brandis Housing Preservation Project St. Paul, Minnesota	Luke Haqq Center for Victims of Torture Minneapolis, Minnesota	Joe Mailander Pillsbury Communities-Waite House Minneapolis, Minnesota	Rachel Peterson United Nations Development Fund for Women Abuja, Nigeria
Melanie Clatanoff Center for Public Interest Law Accra, Ghana	David Hauth Green Empowerment/Asofenix Managua, Nicaragua	Giovanni Mantilla Human Rights Watch New York City, New York	Roger Renville Indian Law Resource Center Helena, Montana
Amelia Corl Center for Victims of Torture Minneapolis, Minnesota	Rebekah Heckmann Fundación Cimas del Ecuador Quito, Ecuador	Joao Medeiros International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia The Hague, Netherlands	Kristin Roehl Grameen Bank Dhaka, Bangladesh
Geoff Dancy International Center for Transitional Justice New York City, New York	Benita Kaneza Ligue ITEKA Bujumbura, Burundi	George Norris International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda Arusha, Tanzania	Robyn Skrebes Yar's Campaign to End Child Abduction Minneapolis, Minnesota
Swati Deo Egyptian Center for Women's Rights Cairo, Egypt	Ji Hyong Lee University of Minnesota Human Rights Center Minneapolis, Minnesota	Amanda Noska Hospital Bienfaisance Pignon Pignon, Haiti	Lindsay Smith Center for Minority Rights Development Nairobi, Kenya
Anna Donnelly Genocide Intervention Network Twin Cities, Minnesota	Caitlyn Lothian Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota St. Paul, Minnesota	Megan O'Rourke Balaod Mindanaw Cagayan de Oro, Philippines	Ann Theisen El Centro de Orientación del Migrante Oaxaca, Mexico

Close the Gap: <http://www.hrusa.org/closethegap/main.php>

The 5-part *Close the Gap* documentary series on race, class, and place disparities was created by Twin Cities Public Television (tpt) in close partnership with the Itasca Project, Twin Cities Compass, and Wilder Research. The Human Rights Center was enlisted by tpt to design a human rights-based companion curriculum to foster dialogue and action to recognize and eliminate these disparities in our schools and communities.



Our *Close the Gap* curriculum consists of two companion manuals that are freely available on the web at <http://www.hrusa.org/closethegap/main.php>.

The **Educator Guide** is designed for teachers and community organizers working with youth in grades 8-12.

The **Community Guide** offers key discussion activities for Human Rights Commissioners, community leaders, and other interested individuals.

The Human Rights Center and tpt have been actively promoting the curriculum to educators and Human Rights Commissioners throughout Minnesota. On October 16, 2008, Human Rights Center and tpt staff presented *Close the Gap* to over 100 teachers at the Education Minnesota Conference, which is the state's largest gathering of teachers, administrators, and other educators. Center staff has also presented on *Close the Gap* to Minnesota Human Rights Commissioners, including a full-day workshop on December 6, 2008, supported by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. Over the next year, we look forward to promoting *Close the Gap* as a learning tool that connects international human rights to our local context in the Twin Cities.

The *Close the Gap* documentary is a series of five 30 minute episodes plus a 60 minute retrospective and is available to community members on one DVD at no cost.

To order, send an email to mindthegap@unitedwaytwincities.org including quantity ordered and mailing address. You can also call the Human Rights Center at 612-626-0041

DVDs and shipping are free of charge.

This is My Home: A Minnesota Human Rights Education Experience



www.thisismyhome.org

- Over 3,100 online registrants since November 2005
- Registrants from 48 U.S. states and 136 countries and territories
- Over 2,000 *This is My Home* Toolkits distributed to MN educators
- Over 500,000 hits on the *This is My Home* website in the last year

This is My Home (<http://www.thisismyhome.org>) is the Human Rights Center's free and easily accessible pre-K-12 Human Rights Education (HRE) initiative. It offers numerous resources to educators and community activists, including curriculum units, lesson planning tools, training opportunities, an electronic newsletter, videos, a section on Effective Practices, the Taking the Human Rights Temperature of Your School questionnaire, a glossary of human rights terminology, downloadable posters, and links to additional resources.

Over the last two years, hundreds of educators throughout Minnesota have participated in our HRE workshops, with many collaborating in teams to develop their own lesson plans, ranging from classroom and school climate to human rights issues around the world. The curriculum units produced by workshop participants are available on the *This is My Home* website, at <http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/process-model2/samples.php>. Participant evaluation of our workshops and our HRE materials has played a key role in identifying effective HRE practices, which challenges us to develop our resources to better respond to the needs of educators in the future.

Training of Trainers

One of the cornerstones of our Human Rights Education programming is training. Whether we are reaching out to teachers, school administrators, local Human Rights Commissioners, or simply interested persons, the goals of our training programs are to expose participants to relevant knowledge, skills, and resources of effective human rights promotion.

Much of our work is based on a training of trainers model, with the aim of sending participants away with the tools and motivation to implement Human Rights Education in their schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and larger communities. Our training programs often focus on the use of our Human Rights Education resources, like *This is My Home* and *Close the Gap*, as well as on HRE capacity building. Training sessions and workshops in 2008 included:

January 10, 2008 – Human Rights Education Focus Group

- Follow-up to a *This is My Home* workshop from Summer 2007

February 26, 2008 – Human Rights Education in our Schools and Communities: Making it Real

- One-day *This is My Home* training for educators from the Northwest Suburban Integration School District.

May 1, 2008 – Human Rights Education in our Schools and Communities: Making it Real

- One-day *This is My Home* training for St. Paul and East Metro-area educators.

July 28-31, 2008 – Summer Human Rights Curriculum Writing Academy

- Intensive, four-day curriculum development workshop for Twin Cities teachers.

November 21-22, 2008 – Capacity-Building for Human Rights Commissioners

- Two-day training session for the Moorhead Human Rights Commission on organizational effectiveness and community outreach.

December 6, 2008 – *Close the Gap* Workshop for Human Rights Commissioners

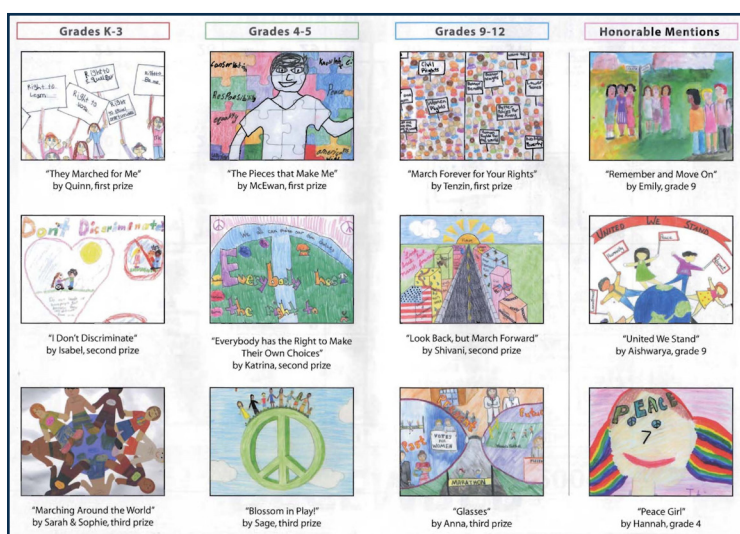
- One-day workshop on using the *Close the Gap* curriculum for Minnesota Human Rights Commissioners from across the state.

Online Human Rights Education Class

In Spring 2008, the Human Rights Center launched an online Human Rights Education pedagogy class through the University of Minnesota College of Education. The Human Rights Center partnered with Education Policy and Administration instructor Amy Garrett Dikkers to co-teach this 3-credit course for advanced undergraduate and graduate students, current school practitioners, and individuals interested in human rights and social justice.

This special topics course was conducted entirely online through Moodle, a free and open source online course management system. Students were encouraged to actively participate and engage in online discussions with classmates, instructors, and guests. The course included a weekly guest, who was an experienced global educator and/or human rights advocate.

One of the most worthwhile opportunities observed by the instructors was the ability to teach theory and new methodologies, which could be immediately used by the participants in their classrooms and other educational settings. Participants were able to share within a short period of time the ways they had integrated both the activities and methods. One example was participants' use of the Taking the Human Rights Temperature questionnaire in their schools. They discussed this survey first as students and then as practitioners who used this tool in their classrooms. Overall reaction to course was positive and it is scheduled to be taught again in Spring 2009.



**Congratulations to the
2008 Human Rights Day
K-12 Poster Contest
winners, and thanks to all
who participated in this
year's contest!**

Human Rights & Peace Store

www.humanrightsandpeacestore.org

The Human Rights and Peace Store is a joint venture of the Human Rights Resource Center and Growing Communities for Peace. The Store is an important tool for bringing Human Rights and Peace Education into schools, homes, workplaces, and communities.

This unique Store provides easy access to Human Rights and Peace Education books, booklets, curricula, posters, training guides, multi media materials, gifts, bookmarks, and other resources.

In 2008, the Human Rights and Peace Store offered over 1,600 different resources to activists, advocates, educators, lawyers, students, and others. The Store was present at 62 conferences throughout Minnesota, including the annual Education Minnesota teachers' conference in October, which draws hundreds of teachers and community educators from across the state. The Store was also present at Minnesota's annual Human Rights Day Conference on December 5th, which hosts a multitude of human rights advocates and organization representatives. Among the many popular items sold by the Human Rights and Peace Store is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) passport-style booklet. In 2008, the Store distributed over 21,000 UDHR booklets nationwide.

International Women's Rights Action Watch

www.iwraw.net

The International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) was organized in 1985 at the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya, to promote recognition of women's human rights under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention), an international human rights treaty. IWRAP was founded on the belief that the human rights of women and girls are essential to development and that equality between women and men will only be achieved through use of international human rights principles and processes. Since its inception, the IWRAP program has expanded to encompass advocacy for women's human rights under all the international human rights treaties.

IWRAP operates as an international resource and communications center that serves activists, scholars, and organizations throughout the world. IWRAP is directed by Dr. Marsha A. Freeman.

IWRAP produced several publications on women's human rights issues and participated in UN sessions that were critical to the advancement of women's human rights and advocacy, making 2008 a productive year. IWRAP is also in the process of redesigning its website, which will be integrated into the Human Rights Library. When completed, the new site will include three new IWRAP publications and a new section on U.S. ratification of the CEDAW Convention. Additional resources and publications will be added in 2009.

Highlights from IWRAP's 2008 activities:

- Dr. Freeman served as an expert resource for the Washington-based coalition that promotes U.S. ratification of the CEDAW Convention. In July 2008, she made a statement on ratification at the New York launch of *The Circle of Empowerment: 25 Years of the CEDAW Committee*.
- Dr. Freeman joined an international group of experts in Berlin in September, to begin work on the authoritative CEDAW Commentary, to be published by Oxford University Press. Dr. Freeman is writing chapters on CEDAW Article 16 (equality in the family) and on NGO participation in the work of the CEDAW Committee.
- Dr. Freeman and the IWRAP program provided expert support for gender-based asylum applications made in several jurisdictions across the country.
- IWRAP assisted CEDAW Committee member Ruth Halperin Kaddari in developing a position paper on preparation of a General Recommendation on the Economic Consequences of Marriage and Divorce. The paper was discussed at the 41st session of CEDAW, Geneva, October 2008, and the General Recommendation has been placed on the CEDAW agenda for 2009-10. IWRAP will assist in preparing a full background paper and the draft General Recommendation.
- IWRAP submitted a note on Gender and the Right to Take Part in Cultural Life (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights [CESCR] Article 15(1)(a)), for discussion at the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in May 2008.
- Dr. Freeman presented the Joint Submission of International Nongovernmental Organizations on the Role of NGOs with Respect to the Treaty Monitoring Bodies, at the Seventh Inter-Committee Meeting, held at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in June 2008.
- Dr. Freeman will introduce a new IWRAP manual, *New Guidelines for Human Rights Treaty Reporting: Opportunities for Women's Human Rights NGOs*, at the December 2008 Eighth Inter-Committee Meeting in Geneva.
- IWRAP also completed a comprehensive revision of *Producing Shadow Reports to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: A Procedural Guide*.

2008 Films and Events

Human Rights Center Film Series

Through screenings and panel discussions, the Human Rights Center brings experts and community members together to raise awareness, promote discussion, and take action on issues affecting communities in Minnesota, the U.S., and the world. The Human Rights Film Series consists of film screening and panel discussion events.

February 6, 2008 – *Ghosts of Rwanda*. Frontline's sobering documentary that probes into the 1994 Rwandan Genocide through interviews with key players and witnesses ten years later.

April 28, 2008 – *Darfur Now*. Film profiling the efforts of six people working to stop the genocide in Darfur.

June 25, 2008 – *Cambodia: Year Zero and Cambodia: Year One*. Films that explore, respectively, the devastating aftermath of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia and the subsequent recovery effort in the year after the regime's fall.

October 2, 2008 – *The Visitor*. Fictional film about an American college professor and a young immigrant couple who grapple with the treatment of immigrants in the U.S. and the post-9/11 legal process.

November 11, 2008 – *New Year Baby*. Documentary film by Cambodian-American filmmaker Socheata Poeuv, chronicling her first visit to Cambodia to learn more about her parents' stories as survivors of the Khmer Rouge genocide.

December 10, 2008 – *A Promise to the Dead: the Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*. Filmed in the U.S.A., Argentina, and Chile in late 2006, this poignant film follows playwright Ariel Dorfman as he retraces the events that led to his exile from his native Chile. The film screening was followed by a discussion with panelists Juan Carlos Arjona Estévez, Ahmed Sirleaf, and Elizabeth Sussekind.

Human Rights Center Speaker Series

As part of its efforts to bring global human rights concerns to the Upper Midwest community, the Human Rights Center organizes the Human Rights Speaker Series. The Speaker Series provides both Upper Midwest and Humphrey Fellows, as well as other human rights experts, with the opportunity to speak about their human rights work. Our 2008 Human Rights Speaker Series events included:

January 22, 2008 – *Special Court of Sierra Leone*. Featured Speaker: Amanda Grafstrom, 2007 Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellow. Amanda Grafstrom, a recent graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Law, spoke on her internship with the Office of the Prosecutor in the Special Court for Sierra Leone from July-December 2007.

March 10, 2008 – *Elections in Zimbabwe*. Featured Speaker: Otto Saki, attorney and National Program Coordinator at Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). Mr. Saki spoke on the Zimbabwean elections and the continuing political crisis. He manages ZLHR's International Litigation Project, which submitted 8 complaints before the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights on violations in Zimbabwe.

March 26, 2008 – *How to Lose the War on Terror*. Featured Speaker: Dean John Hutson, Franklin Pierce Law Center and a 1972 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School. An expert in military law and a noted commentator on matters of national interest relating to the military, human rights, and the rule of law, Dean Hutson discussed how giving up those ideas and ideals that make us strong, our greatest weapons, is how we can lose the "war on terror."

2008 Films and Events

April 18, 2008 – Roots, Realities, and Resistance: Human Rights Across Borders. Featured Speaker: Father Romualdo Francisco Wilfirdo Mayrén Peláez, more commonly known as Padre Uvi. Padre Uvi connected the dots between U.S. policy, migration, and resistance. Based on his experiences as a parish priest in Oaxaca City, Mexico, and as the Coordinator for the Peace and Justice commission of Oaxaca Diocese, he discussed the root causes of migration and peoples' movements working for justice and dignity.

September 10, 2008 – Bringing Justice to an Unjustified Past in Korea. Featured Speaker: Judge Park Won Soon of South Korea. This event focused on transitional justice in South Korea. Named by the Citizen Times as the "Most Distinguished and Respected Activist in Korea" for three years running, Judge Park is the executive director of the Hope Institute and of the Beautiful Foundation and Beautiful Store (a community foundation and fair-trade network). Organized by the Transitional Justice and Collective Memory Collaborative.

October 22, 2008 – Somali Refugees in Europe. Featured Speakers: Abdi Roble and Doug Rutledge, Somali Documentary Project. Mr. Roble and Mr. Rutledge, photographer and writer, respectively, for the Somali Documentary Project, spoke about their documentation of the Somali diaspora, including work in the U.S. and Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. They also highlighted the harsh treatment and conditions faced by Somali refugees in Europe. Organized by the Transitional Justice and Collective Memory Collaborative.

November 3, 2008 – Teaching Rebellion: Stories from the Grassroots Mobilization in Oaxaca, Mexico. Featured Speakers: Gustavo Vilchis and Melissa Mundt. Hosted by the Human Rights Center and the Minnesota-Mexico Collaborative in the Institute of Advanced Studies, this event was part of the "Teaching Rebellion" book tour. The tour aims to foster dialogue among activists from Oaxaca and the U.S. around organizing strategies and movement-building utilizing the experience of Oaxacan organizers.

The Human Right to Water Lecture Series

The Human Rights Center coordinated a 5-part lecture series on the human right to water during Spring 2008. The series featured University of Minnesota faculty from several disciplines who discussed different theoretical and practical aspects of the human right to water.

January 23, 2008 – The Human Right to Water: An Overview. Featured Speaker: David Weissbrodt, Professor of Law and Co-Director, Human Rights Center. Professor Weissbrodt outlined the basic framework of the Human Right to Water in international human rights law and its connection to other legal standards and principles.

February 13, 2008 – Water and the Human Right to Health. Featured Speaker: William Toscano, Professor and Division Head, Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health. Professor Toscano discussed the importance of access to clean water for public health, disease prevention, medical treatment, and development.

February 27, 2008 – Water Distribution: Public, Private, or Both? Featured Speaker: K. William Easter, Professor, Department of Applied Economics. Professor Easter explored what institutional measures make effective, functional water distribution mechanisms that are sustainable and can reach the millions of people who do not have a safe water supply.

March 12, 2008 – Making It Happen: Practical Strategies for Fulfilling the Human Right to Water. Featured Speaker: Paige Novak Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering. Professor Novak discussed options for meeting water needs as populations grow and how some existing methods can improve the lives of those living under water stress.

April 2, 2008 – Water and the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Featured Speaker: Roxanne T. Ornelas, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Program on Race, Gender, and Public Policy, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Dr. Ornelas explored the unique relationship between many indigenous cultures and water, as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Special Events

December 10, 2008 – Human Rights Day at the University of Minnesota. A day of three special events under the theme “Human Rights Heroism,” commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the work of human rights advocates the world over.

United Nations Hearing on the Desecration of Hmong Graves – convened by Professor James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Respect for Sacred Sites: Protecting Indigenous Burial Grounds Under International Law – Lecture featured Professor James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Film & Panel Discussion: A Promise to the Dead: the Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman – Filmed in the U.S.A., Argentina, and Chile in late 2006, this poignant film follows playwright Ariel Dorfman as he retraces the events that led to his exile from his native Chile. The film screening was followed by a discussion with panelists Juan Carlos Arjona Estévez, Ahmed Sirleaf, and Elizabeth Sussekund.

Sponsored by the Advocates for Human Rights, Amnesty International Legal Support Network (UMN Law School), the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Global Studies Student Association (UMN), the Human Rights Center (UMN Law School), the Human Rights Program (UMN CLA), the Institute for Global Studies, the Midwest Coalition for Human Rights, the Minnesota Justice Foundation (UMN Law Student Chapter), the National Lawyers Guild (UMN Law School), Students for a Free Tibet, and the Transitional Justice and Collective Memory research collaborative at the Institute for Advanced Study.

Other Events Co-Sponsored by the Human Rights Center in 2008

The Human Rights Center also hosted and co-sponsored many other events throughout 2008, including:

March 15, 2008 – Women Leading for Global Justice: the Thirteenth Annual International Women’s Day Celebration. Keynote Speaker: Robin Morgan. Inspired by the 1995 U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, this annual event is designed to celebrate the diversity of Minnesota women and increase understanding and tolerance in our community, to highlight advancements in women’s rights and equality, to encourage activism, and to educate participants about human rights issues that affect girls and women locally, nationally and internationally. This year’s keynote speaker, Robin Morgan, was one of the founders of contemporary U.S. feminism and is a longtime leader in the international women’s movement. She spoke on “Global Feminisms – The Politics of the 21st Century.”

April 19, 2008 – Interdisciplinary Panel on Kenya and U of M – East Africa Relations. Featuring a number of speakers from different universities, colleges and communities in Minnesota, the two panel sessions explored the dynamics of the Kenyan election crisis, the outlook for Kenya’s future, and how Minnesota-based scholars can connect with East African colleagues. Participants and panelists included scholars, practitioners, students, and other interested persons.

Other Events Co-Sponsored by the Human Rights Center in 2008

April 23-24, 2008 – Symposium on Human Rights in Latin American and Iberian Cultures. Symposium that addressed the complexity of literature, culture, and international law as a result of the turn to authoritarianism in the 1970s, and the issues encountered in the transition to democracy since the late 1980s. The event also focused on the danger of human rights abuses committed by the State, and the annihilation of privacy and liberty that comes with the notion of a controlled society or a democracy under surveillance.

April 27, 2008 – Darfur Now (alternate screening). Featured Speaker: Adam Sterling, Director, Sudan Divestment Task Force. Film profiling the efforts of six different people (including Mr. Sterling) working to stop the genocide in Darfur.

April 28, 2008 – It's Not Over: Innovative Approaches to the Global AIDS Epidemic. Townhall-style meeting event with U.S. Representative Betty McCollum of Minnesota's Fourth District, exploring the continuing AIDS epidemic and global efforts to combat it.

April 30, 2008 – Film Screening: The Devil Came on Horseback. Documentary film depicting the Darfur genocide through the eyes of military observer and former U.S. Marine Capt. Brian Steidle.

June 30, 2008 – Sixth Annual Law and Policy Conference – Human Rights and the U.S.: the Past, Present, and Future of Dignity and Justice for All. Keynote Speaker: William Schulz, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress and Former Executive Director, Amnesty International USA. Plenary Speaker: Peggy Hicks, International Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch. The conference took a retrospective look at the human rights movement that has brought us into the 21st century and what the future holds for human rights in the United States and around the world. Organized by the Advocates for Human Rights.

July 31, 2008 – Oromo-American Citizens Council Annual Human Rights Conference: Can a Democracy Work in a Multicultural Society? Conference exploring the prospects of a genuine democracy and respect for human rights in a multicultural national context, with

a focus on Ethiopia as a case study. The Oromo-American Citizens Council also presented a Human Rights Award to Mr. Bulcha Demekssa, Member of Ethiopian Parliament and Chairman of Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM), for his human rights advocacy work.

September 4, 2008 – Genocide and Human Trafficking. Featured Panelists: Minnesota State Senator Sandra Pappas and Joy Friedman of Breaking Free, an organization that works to help women escape prostitution. Panel and discussion event focusing in the global problem of human trafficking, its links to the aftermath of genocide situations, and its ramifications in Minnesota. Organized by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

October 19, 2008 – The Gifts and Challenges of Controversy in Interfaith Work. Keynote Speaker: Kenneth Fox, Director of the Conflict Studies Program at Hamline University. This conference, which featured workshops and performances, was organized by the Interfaith Bridging Initiative and focused on non-violent methods for resolving religious-based disagreements.

October 23, 2008 – Discounting Worker's Rights in the U.S.: the Wal-Mart Effect. Featured Speaker: Carol Pier, Senior Labor Rights and Trade Researcher, Human Rights Watch. Ms. Pier spoke on her investigative report that illuminated the anti-union tactics of Wal-Mart and the weaknesses of U.S. labor law. Organized by the Human Rights Program.

November 19, 2008 – Genocide, Ethnic Cleansing & Cloaks of Invisibility. Featured Speaker: Gregory Stanton, Executive Director of Genocide Watch and James Farr Professor of Human Rights at the University of Mary Washington. Dr. Stanton discussed the distinct epidemiological markers associated with mass killings and genocide, as well as why some humanitarian disasters attract more international attention than others. Organized by the Program in Human Rights and Health.

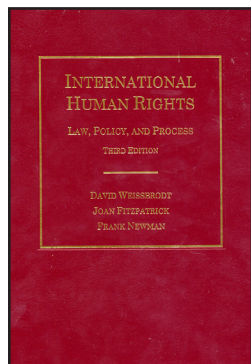
Human Rights Center and Colleague Publications in 2008

BOOKS

International Human Rights: Law, Policy, and Process (Fourth Edition)

by David Weissbrodt and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin

LexisNexis
www.lexisnexis.com/bookstore



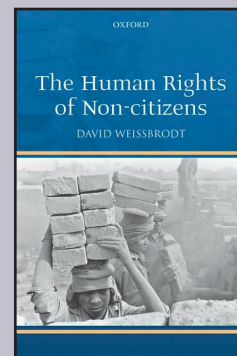
Knowledge of human rights principles, norms and institutions is an indispensable aspect of understanding the inter-relationship between states, as well as between states and those persons within their territory and under their control. This book provides an introduction to international human rights law, policy, and process, including the philosophical and legal origins of modern human rights, treaties, declarations, UN and regional human rights enforcement mechanisms, remedies, and many additional subjects.

The Fourth Edition is framed particularly in the context of the “war on terror” and the questions for international human rights raised by state responses to terrorism, which have included arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, criminal prosecutions, military action, and invasions of privacy in the realm of electronic communications. The book also robustly defends the capacity of international human rights to respond to the challenges posed by terrorism and emphasizes the comparative and historical resources available to states in the contemporary moment.

The Human Rights of Non-Citizens

By David Weissbrodt

Oxford University Press
www.oup.com/us



Non-citizens include asylum seekers, rejected asylum seekers, immigrants, non-immigrants, migrant workers, refugees, stateless persons, and trafficked persons. This book argues that regardless of their citizenship status, non-citizens should, by virtue of their essential humanity, enjoy all human rights unless exceptional distinctions serve a legitimate State objective and are proportional to the achievement of that objective.

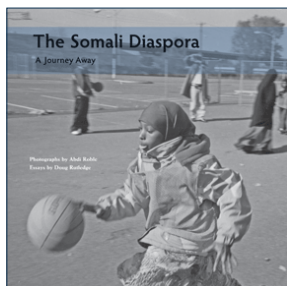
There is a large gap, however, between the rights that international human rights law guarantee to non-citizens and the realities they face. In many countries, non-citizens are confronted with institutional and endemic discrimination and suffering. The situation has worsened since September 11, 2001, as several governments have detained or otherwise violated the rights of non-citizens in response to fears of terrorism. This book attempts to understand and respond to the challenges of international human rights law guarantees for non-citizens’ human rights.

Human Rights Center and Colleague Publications in 2008

The Somali Diaspora: A Journey Away

By Abdi Roble and Doug Rutledge
University of Minnesota Press

<http://www.upress.umn.edu>



The heartbreaking and hopeful story of Somali immigrants in America.

Since 2003, photographer Abdi Roble and writer Doug Rutledge have been documenting the lives of Somali immigrants in the United States and of the people forced into the vast refugee camps that were set up in Kenya in the wake of the 1991 civil war in Somalia. In *The Somali Diaspora*, Roble, who immigrated to the United States from Somalia in 1989, and Rutledge trace the journey of a family from the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, home to more than 150,000 Somalis, to new lives in the United States.

The Somali Diaspora follows the family of Abdisalem, his wife Ijabo, and their three daughters as they struggle to survive in Dadaab before being relocated first to Anaheim, California, where they barely make ends meet, and then to Portland, Maine. In addition, the book portrays life in two of the largest Somali communities in the United States. Minneapolis is home to more than 80,000 Somalis, who have created an established community in which many of its members are educated professionals. The Somali community in Columbus, Ohio, while thriving, has not yet enjoyed as warm a reception from the larger community.

The story of the Somali diaspora as told through Roble's intimate photographs and Rutledge's insightful essays is extraordinary and inspiring. Together they take readers from civil war in Africa to the culture shock of arriving in the United States, growing roots in the Somali community, learning English, finding work, and – in a remarkably short time – participating fully in American life while sustaining a faith in Islam and a distinct cultural identity.

ARTICLES

Weissbrodt and Templeton, Fair Trials? The Manual for Military Commissions in Light of Common Article 3 and Other International Law, 26 J. Law & Inequality 353 (2008).

Weissbrodt, Remedies for Undocumented Noncitizens in the Workplace: Using International Law to Narrow the Holding of Hoffman Plastic Compounds, Inc. v. NLRB, 92 Minn. L. Rev. 1424 (2008).

Weissbrodt, Keynote Address: International Standard-Setting on the Human Rights Responsibilities of Businesses, 26 Berkeley J. Int'l L. 373 (2008).



Eissa Villaseñor, Jared Shepherd, and Sonia Gill are recipients of the University of Minnesota Law School's 2008 Human Rights Law Awards

Human Rights Center Contributors

NEW FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENTS

In 2008, the Human Rights Center was extremely fortunate to work closely with Law School Development and Alumni Relations to endow two new Human Rights Fellowships.

The **George Ludcke/University of Minnesota Law School Class of '78 Human Rights Fellowship Fund** was endowed with a multitude of generous contributions from former classmates, colleagues, family, and friends of George Ludcke. The Fellowship Fund will help support at least one law student each year in pursuing a summer internship on issues that were important to Mr. Ludcke, such as disability rights, environmental rights, children's rights, and similar social concerns. We are extremely grateful to all who have given to this fund, which currently amounts to over \$82,000 in gifts and pledges.

Contributors to this Fellowship Fund include the following institutions and individuals:

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The **Dobiáš Human Rights Fellowship** was established with an endowment of \$100,000 from William E. Drake (University of Minnesota Law School (Class of 1966) in honor of Přemysl Josef Dobiáš and his wife Hana. In 1938, as a young lawyer and graduate of Charles University in Prague, Přemysl joined a resistance group smuggling Jews to the relative safety of Italy. He was arrested for these activities, tortured by the Gestapo, and eventually sent to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Přemysl, now age 95, and his wife, live in London and were Drake's landlords in 1994 when he worked on a graduate degree in economics at the London School of Economics. They became friends, and Drake's generous gift is given in celebration of the Dobiáš' courage. The Dobiáš Human Rights Fellowship will be used to support a practical human rights experience for a law student or lawyer each year who will be placed with a human rights organization.

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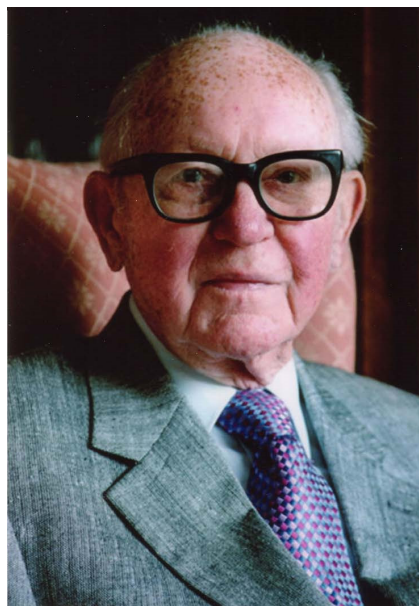
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Professor David Weissbrodt, Carolyn Dobiáš, William Drake, and Law School Dean David Wippman at the Dobiáš Human Rights Fellowship Dinner on October 6, 2008



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