Dear colleagues,

The 2018-2019 academic year has finished on a high note. We have seen the completion of the first session of the new Advanced Masters in International Dispute Settlement and Arbitration, which went very well. We also had a stellar year in mooting, which you can read about on page 4, winning two international competitions and numerous prizes! Congratulations to all involved. I look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn for the start of Semester 1, but until then, enjoy the summer!

Professor Eric de Brabandere  
*Director, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies*

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Dear all,

This semester has seen the publication of several exciting and important research. Congratulations to Cecily Rose for her ground-breaking Commentary on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, and Daniel Peat on the release of his monograph on comparative reasoning in international courts and tribunals. Special congratulations must also go to all the students who made this year a real mooting and advocacy success! Well done to everyone!

Professor Carsten Stahn  
*Coordinator, Exploring the Frontiers of International Law Research Programme, Programme Director (The Hague)*
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The Grotius Centre has established itself as a powerful force in the mooting world. Teams won both the ICC Moot Court Competition and the Kalshoven Competition; came first runners up in Telders; and were octofinalists in Jessup... as well as winning numerous awards!

The International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition

“If not us, who? If not now, when?” A stunning end to an extraordinary experience, these words closed the ICC Moot Court Competition 2019 and delivered the Leiden team to victory. After almost nine months of preparation, the competition culminated in an intense week of mooting held in The Hague, and an even more exciting final round at the ICC itself. The polish and performance of all the participants in the international rounds is only a testament to the countless hours of preparation which has been ongoing for the last nine months.

For the Leiden team, consisting of Anna Rubbi, Olivia Waddell, Elizabeth Hartley, Pauline Martini and Tess van Gall, and our coaches Cale Davis and Keat Teoh, the process began back in October 2018 when we met for the first time and started working on the written memorials. This year we were charged with a fictional case concerning whether a lawyer could be held liable for her involvement in a crime of aggression, where the charges were based on unlawfully obtained evidence. Facing legal issues which were relatively untouched by the ICC (including the yet-untried crime of aggression) this case was a ripe opportunity to get creative with our research and argumentation.

Once over the hurdle of submitting our written work (not without a few late nights!), we began preparing for the oral rounds. Safely through the national rounds, the game was really afoot as an entire week of mooting grew near. We were incredibly fortunate and grateful for the help of so many guest judges throughout our oral preparations. Their grilling questions, discerning comments and fresh minds definitely stood us in good stead for what was to come.

The sun shone prophetically bright as the competition was formally opened on an uncharacteristically hot day at the start of June. We were then launched into the preliminary rounds, mooting six times over three days against teams from all over the world. It was a hugely enriching part of the competition to
meet so many likeminded students from such an impressive range of places, and we couldn’t help but remark on the vibrant, welcoming and collegiate atmosphere which developed throughout the week.

Progressing from one round to the next with increasing incredulity, credit must go to Olivia, who couldn’t have portrayed a more impressive display of grace and determination as she rocketed us to the finals with three outstanding performances in a row. The final day was something of a blur – gone was the jovial, relaxed atmosphere of Wijnhaven, to be replaced by the unnerving silence and neutrality of the ICC courtroom. Following highly commendable presentations from The Honourable Society of Kings Inn (Ireland) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong, it was ultimately the charm, humanity and legal prowess of our own Anna Rubbi that won the day and the trophy. It would be an injustice not to mention the countless hours of research and rehearsal put in by every member of the team, and the unwavering support from our coach Cale, whose straight-talking attitude and self-sacrificing commitment saw us through to the end.

It’s safe to say that participating in this competition was the highlight of an excellent year at Leiden and certainly not one we’ll forget soon.

Lizzy Hartley

Kalshoven International Humanitarian Law Competition

The Kalshoven Competition was probably the most intense experience I have had during my academic year at Leiden University. The Kalshoven Competition is a moot court competition in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) organised by the Flemish and Netherlands Red Cross National Societies featuring participating teams from universities and military academies of both the Netherlands and Belgium. The specificities of this competition are twofold. First, the competition consists of different role-play simulations, lectures and a formal moot court. Second, the participants receive the fictitious case of the moot court 24 hours before they have to argue their case in front of a jury.

For this demanding IHL competition, I had the chance to be part of a wonderful team consisting of three members: Eva Houtave, Sai Venkatesh and myself, Philippe Jacques. Strong IHL knowledge, excellent argumentation skills, previous mooting experience and skills in diplomacy were present among the members in addition to a wonderful team spirit. The preparation, from the assembly of the team in October 2018 to the actual competition in February 2019, involved the in-depth study of various IHL thematic areas and concepts and several pleading sessions. This was an intense preparatory period, under the excellent supervision of our coach (Ms Sofia Poulopoulou), in which we had the chance to plead before numerous guest judges and receive feedback on our performance. At the end of the last practice session we felt more than ready for the Competition, which took place in The Hague and Antwerp.

During the first day of the Competition, we had the chance to meet the organisers and other participating teams before attending an IHL conference in the afternoon of that same day. The next day, the role-play sessions took place. According to the different scenarios assigned to us, we had to act as delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visiting a POW camp; deputies from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs interviewed in a TV show as well as legal advisors to the armed forces providing advice on different air/ naval/land strikes. Although the role-plays were demanding and put a lot of pressure on our capacity to deal with unexpected situations, it was an
experience that we highly enjoyed.

The last two days of the Competition were dedicated to the actual moot court, which took place in the Justice Palace of Antwerp. After several hours of gruelling preparation, our team faced the University of Gent and the Catholic University of Leuven in the preliminary rounds. Once these rounds were concluded, we were delighted to hear that we advanced to the finals and that one of our members won the best oralist award! After another night of intense preparation, we competed against the University of Gent in front of an expert jury featuring a member of the ICRC, a member of the Belgian armed forces and two judges from International Tribunals. After a short deliberation, we were delighted and excited to hear that our team was declared the winner of both the moot court and the role play simulations! I am extremely proud to have been part of this wonderful experience together with my team, which made my year in Leiden University a true legal and human adventure.

**Philippe Jacques**

**The Phillip C Jessup International Law Moot**

This year, Leiden University took part in the 60th edition of the Phillip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition. The Jessup is the world’s largest mooting competition, in which over 680 law schools from over 100 jurisdictions compete on issues of international law. In this edition, issues revolved around the attribution of responsibility of states for the environmental damage and human rights violations by private entities, as well as the appropriation of Indigenous people’s traditional knowledge.

The 2019 Leiden team was exceptionally international, consisting of Bosnian-Croatian-American Soraya Ridanovic, Andreea Chilan of Romania, Anglo-French Oliver Chapman, Huang Doudou of China and last (but by no means least) Ioannis Millionis of Greece. The team was coached by Filipe Costa, a renown Brazilian Jessup veteran and the ever-supportive Belgian Charlotte Vercraye and Manon Beury of France.

After months of preparation, memorial writing and practice rounds (kindly judged by staff and alumni alike), it was time to put our work into effect. Overcoming trials, tribulations and strong adversaries, the Leiden team powered through the Dutch national round, eliminating the likes of the Universities of Amsterdam, Maastricht after the Respondent team defeated Utrecht in the final. After two months of refining our arguments, drilling our oral pleadings, laughter and tears, the magnificent
seven marched on Washington, with our eyes set on victory.

There, we had the great privilege of attending the annual meeting of the American Society of International Law, where we met and made excellent connections and were able to grow in our capacity as academics.

After nerve-wracking group stages, late nights and early mornings, the team qualified for the advanced round of 32 of 147 teams competing in the International Round. Eliminating first-time competitor Zimbabwe, the Applicant team pushed Leiden through to the octo-final. There, alas and alack, we were defeated in our match against the Philippines, leaving Leiden in the 11th place overall, the best result ever achieved by the University.

We were thrilled with the result and the experience overall. Of course, we are grateful for the educational experience and the personal growth that the Jessup provides, but the most important part of the competition was the friends and connections we made along the way. The Jessup provides an opportunity for students to bond, sharing together the highest of the high moments and the lowest of the low. It provides a means of meeting like-minded members of the legal community, both students and professionals, from all fields and from all over the world and to build ourselves as individuals. Many years from now, we will surely look back on these moments with the greatest of fondness.

We would all like to thank the University for providing us with the opportunity to make these memories together and encourage any readers to take part in any way they can in this excellent competition.

Oliver Chapman, Soraya Ridanovic, Andreea Chilan, Huang Doudou, and Ioannis Millionis
2019 saw the publication of Cecily Rose’s new book, *The United Nations Convention Against Corruption*. This text will no doubt become an integral part of any anti-corruption practitioner’s library!

**Entering into force** in 2005, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption was a landmark development in international efforts to stem corrupt practices. With 186 parties, the Convention has rapidly obtained near-universal membership… but until now, it lacked a commentary to guide practitioners and scholars on its application.

The Grotius Centre’s Assistant Professor Cecily Rose teamed up with Michael Kubiciel and Oliver Landwehr to produce the historic *The United Nations Convention Against Corruption: A Commentary*: a critical development in international anti-corruption scholarship. Proclaimed by Rick Messick as filling a “gaping hole every anticorruption practitioner’s library”, the Commentary will no-doubt quickly become an essential and authoritative resource.

Historically, anti-corruption agreements were negotiated under the auspices of regional organisations. Efforts in the mid-1990s by the Organisation of American States, the Council of Europe, the European Union, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development saw the development of a fragmented legal regime. “The UN was a little bit late to the game”, says Cecily. “But the Convention that was adopted is significantly more comprehensive than the ones that came before it”.

Several years ago, Cecily became concerned that the Convention lacked a useful commentary. “I noticed that there wasn’t a lot of proper legal scholarship on the treaty”, she tells me. “In particular, scholarship from an international legal perspective”. After publishing her monograph on corruption with Oxford University Press in 2015, she set about filling this void.

Joining forces with Michael Kubiciel (a professor of criminal law at Augsburg University) and Oliver Landwehr (a Senior Legal and Policy Officer at the European Anti-Fraud Office who had previously worked at the UNODC), the team set out to find authors to comment on the Convention’s 71 articles.

“We wanted a mix of people who were academics: not only academics in public interna-

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Photo by Flickr user Pete Toscano, used under the Creative Commons licence.
to draw on the data produced by the Review Mechanism”, she says. Having produced “quite a significant amount of information about how the treaty is being implemented and enforced in practice”, “the contributors were able to draw on that information in writing their entries”.

Yet despite the inclusion of the Review Mechanism, Cecily explains, “the treaty itself is far from perfect. A lot of the provisions are weakly-formulated or vague or even semi-mandatory, in that they indicate that states only have to consider implementing them. And this is even true for some of the criminalisation provisions”.

This is, perhaps, the reason why the Convention has rapidly obtained near-universal ratification. “In some ways the treaty doesn't force states to do that much”, explains Cecily. As many of the criminalisation provisions are only semi-mandatory, “it may not actually require law reform efforts in order for ratification to be on the table”, she tells me.

The Convention also includes an innovative Review Mechanism that “is actually quite unusual in the field of transnational criminal law”. Having recently concluded its first round of reviews on certain chapters of the Convention, Cecily notes that there is now a growing corpus of data on implementation and enforcement.

“The period in which we wrote it was a good one, because the contributors were able to draw on the data produced by the Review Mechanism”, she says. Having produced “quite a significant amount of information about how the treaty is being implemented and enforced in practice”, “the contributors were able to draw on that information in writing their entries”.

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The Commentary was launched on 13 June at the Grotius Centre’s Wijnhaven campus. Speakers included Hans Abma (Senior Policy Adviser, Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security), Cedric Ryngaert (Professor of Public International Law, Utrecht University), and Judith Levine (Senior Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration). Co-editor Oliver Landwehr joined as a discussant.

Now that the project is complete, Cecily is turning her mind to what comes next. “I plan to do future research in the field of transnational criminal law more broadly”, she tells me. “I’d like that research to be historical, legal, and also empirical”. Research on the history of transnational criminal law and the structure of the field are in her sights.

So too is the controversial topic of state organised crime. States, she notes, “are outside the scope of these anti-corruption treaties”, even though some “are essentially acting like organised criminal groups”. “I'd like to do more work on the history of that and why this has been left out of the treaties, and what are the implications for state responsibility”.

Finally, she adds, “I think there’s a lot of research to be done about what the Review Mechanism data shows about implementation and the state of the Convention in practice”.

The Mechanism, she notes, “has produced a lot of information that I think hasn’t really been used by researchers yet”.

There’s no doubt that when academics do start picking through the Mechanism’s data, the Commentary will be by their side!
Assistant Professor Daniel Peat’s book, *Comparative Reasoning in International Courts and Tribunals*, has been published through Cambridge University Press. Described by Judge Joan Donoghue as promising to be “valuable to scholars, practitioners and jurists alike” and by Hélène Ruiz Fabri as a “masterful dissertation”, Daniel’s book offers a fresh and insightful take on the process of interpretation.

“The project came about through happenstance”, says Daniel. “I started off my PhD looking into general principles as a source of law, and in particular whether there were general principles of strict liability for ultra-hazardous activities. I spent a year looking into general principles, and the more I looked into them, the more I realised they were vague and nebulous as a source of law - not the ideal basis upon which to build a normative project”.

“But what I found, and what I thought was quite interesting, was that courts and tribunals referred to domestic law frequently outside the context of general principles. This is something I didn’t think had been looked into at all in international law literature”. Perhaps because it doesn’t fit well with the canonical sources of international law or the rules of interpretation in article 31 of the VCLT, Daniel considers that the reliance on domestic law by courts raised interesting and unaddressed issues about their use.

“I think that the practice gets us to challenge some preconceptions that I think we have about how domestic law influences international law, as well as assumptions about sources and rules of interpretation”, he tells me. Moreover, “it makes us reflect on the interaction between these two spheres of law”.

“As we know”, Daniel explains, “judges often come to The Hague with domestic backgrounds. Especially for those of us who have been trained in public international law, we think of international law as being hermetically sealed. For various reasons, including professional experience, education, and the such, domestic law finds its way into international lawyers’ reasoning”.

“The project”, he tells me, “is aimed at map-
Karen Alter gives the 2019 LJIL Lecture

On 23 May, the Leiden Journal of International Law has held an LJIL Lecture with Professor Karen J. Alter. As part of its long-standing commitment to foster and disseminate high-quality research in international law, the Leiden Journal of International Law has, since 2015, organized events on recent developments and research in international law. The LJIL Lecture is a biannual event that brings scholars who are conducting innovative research in international law to give a talk about a topic of their choice.

Karen J. Alter is Professor of Political Science and Law at Northwestern University (Chicago), where she also co-directs the Research Group on Global Capitalism and Law, and permanent visiting professor at the iCourts Centre for Excellence. Prof. Alter is an authority in global and regional judicialization of international relations, with emphasis on international adjudication. Her interdisciplinary work has earned her several awards, including a Honorable Mention Chadwick F. Alger Prize for best book published on the subject of international organization and multilateralism in 2014.

Professor Alter spoke on ‘Visions of International Law’. She gave an insightful lecture on how scholars and lawyers can think about international law and what can they expect from it. She reflected on how her own understandings about law changed over time. She presented herself as a young and naïve political scientist with high hopes and expectations about international law; as a legal formalist and structuralist who believes that legal rules, pro-

From a methodological perspective, he hopes that the book will encourage deeper critical thinking about how interpretations of law come into being and how they are evaluated. “What I’ve realised”, he explains, “is that you can only really assess whether an interpretation is good or bad or not if you go to it with certain views, certain principles, or certain values. So the idea of objectively assessing an interpretation I don’t think exists”.

He has tried to bring this lesson into the classroom. “I think it gives us cause to think about things we unreflectively recount to students”, he says. “It’s something that has influenced my supervision of theses. I’ve tried to excavate some of my students’ underlying viewpoints when they’ve been making arguments based on correct or incorrect interpretations”.

With the book now published, Daniel is setting out to present his findings across Europe at the Lauterpacht Centre and Lund, among others. He is also working on a new project that builds upon his findings.

“The article that I’m writing now will use qualitative empirical methods and integrate insights from behavioural psychology”, he tells me. No doubt the results will cause us to further reflect not only on the nature of international law, but also the value of supplementing legal scholarship with ideas from other fields!
teracting with different ideas and to changing their minds are therefore able to benefit from a broader perspective of international law and events. With this, they are able to bring more innovation and creativity to their work.

The Leiden Journal of International Law thanks Professor Alter for the inspiring and enlightening talk, and looks forward to seeing more of her work.

The 2019 LJIL Lecture will be published as a paper in a future issue of the Leiden Journal of International Law.

Paula Baldini Miranda da Cruz
Dov Jacobs
Dov was appointed as a Door Tenant at 9 Bedford Row, in London, a Chambers specialised in International Criminal Law cases, where he joins Bill. On 6 June 2019, Dov was the keynote speaker in a symposium on the ICC Judgment on immunities organised at 9 Bedford Row. In addition, in the context of his activities at the ICC, Trial Chamber I acquitted Laurent Gbagbo of all charges on 15 January 2019. Moreover, Dov was elected on two ICCBA (International Criminal Court Bar Association) committees. In March, Dov also presented at a training for Defence Counsel at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Larissa van den Herik
Larissa’s PhD candidate Marieke Wierda successfully defended her thesis on The Local Impact of a Global Court: Assessing the Impact of the International Criminal Court in Situation Countries on 9 January.

In addition, she has been a member of the PhD committee for Peter Kempees (Leiden University, 18 June 2018: Hard Power and the European Convention on Human Rights); Annika van Baar (VU University Amsterdam, 24 May 2019: Corporate involvement in international crimes In Nazi Germany, Apartheid South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo); Di Li (Middlesex University London, 12 April 2019: Restorative justice and the ICC); Yudan Tan (Leiden University, 9 April 2019: The Rome Statute as Evidence of customary international law); and Antonio Coco (Geneva University, 29 March 2019: Mistake of law and the foundations of international criminal law).

Larissa has presented on Silencing Diaspora Dissent: Mapping Responses to Clandestine – or not so Clandestine – Extraterritorial Murders at the ICC Scholars’ Forum (Leiden University / Washington University St Louis, The Hague, 21 June 2019); The ILC as a way forward on universal criminal jurisdiction: an informal dialogue with states, academia and civil society at an ILC side event (Geneva, 17 May 2019); at the Second Preparatory Conference on the MLA Initiative hosted by The Netherlands (Noordwijk, 12 March 2019); and presented a book project on Diasporas and International Law at the International Law Colloquium, Graduate Institute (Geneva, 15 February 2019).


Carsten Stahn and Cale Davis
Carsten and Cale travelled to Delhi in February to participate in CILRAP’s Quality Control in Criminal Investigation conference. The conference was held at the Indian Law Institute and brought together speakers from across the world. Carsten presented on From Preliminary Examination to Criminal Investigation, and Cale presented a segment of his PhD research on Cumulative Charging and Challenges in Charge Selection.

A book, the third in CILRAP’s project on quality control in international criminal law, will be published open-access in the near future containing chapters stemming from the conference.
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Conference Papers

Reports