

SHAPIRO SYMPOSIUM

Environmental Impact of Foreign Investment



Giovanna Gismondi (left) moderated the dispute resolution panel featuring expert panelists (l to r) Dawn Yamane Hewett, David Attanasio, and Ian Laird.

LEGAL EXPERTS FROM ACROSS THE globe took part in GW Law's annual J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Environmental Law Symposium, which focused on foreign investment's impact on the environment.

The March 20 symposium, titled "Foreign Investment and the Environment: Local Communities, Human Rights, and Dispute Resolution," featured a keynote lecture by S. James Anaya, the University Distinguished Professor and Nicholas Doman Professor of International Law at the University of Colorado Law School.

Four panels explored a range of investment-related issues, including indigenous rights, cultural heritage, corporate social responsibility, international investment law, access to environmental information, and international projects with multiple stakeholders.

Also discussed were emerging trends that seek to integrate environmental values into arbitration between states and foreign investors and the complex relationship

between environmental regulation and international investment arbitration.

"This year's Shapiro Symposium featured leading experts from around the nation and the world to address the intersection of foreign investment, human rights, and environmental protection in the context of arbitration between foreign investors and host states," said Assistant Dean for Environmental Law Studies Randall Abate. "The event was a tremendous success."



Keynote speaker S. James Anaya

GW JOURNAL LAUNCHES ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON AI AND SURVEILLANCE

AN IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP OF scholars from across the country came together with GW Law professors Daniel Solove, Kate Weisburd, Spencer Overton, Alicia Solow-Niederman, and Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew at a symposium to examine the future of AI and surveillance. The event was organized by the *George Washington Journal of Law & Technology* (GW JOLT), the flagship student-run technology journal at GW Law.

"This year's symposium ... could not be timelier," said Dean Matthew. "Surveillance is occurring in our society on an unprecedented scale. Data about our activities are collected when we use social media, interact with chatbots, visit websites, or even walk in public spaces. Governments and private organizations are leveraging advances in AI technologies to use this data to make predictions and decisions that can affect our privacy, livelihood, and even our freedom."

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—Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew

The Feb. 21 gathering, the inaugural symposium in what is planned to be an annual event, looked into critical issues shaping the current and future landscape of AI law, legal scholarship, and public policy. Attendees joined three panel sessions: The Challenges of AI, Mass Surveillance, and Searches and Other Criminal Law Impacts.

GW JOLT is an independent, online publication of legal scholarship. It is affiliated with the GW Center for Law and Technology, a center of excellence in education and thought leadership focused on intellectual property, privacy, AI, and technology law.

Cybersecurity Law Program Ranked Best in Country



Associate Dean Lisa Schenck directs GW Law's cutting-edge National Security and Cybersecurity LLM program.

GW LAW'S NATIONAL SECURITY and Cybersecurity Law LLM Program was ranked the number one cybersecurity law program in the country for 2025 by *Cybersecurity Guide*. The program, directed by Associate Dean Lisa Schenck, addresses critical issues in the rapidly expanding field and is taught by scholars and practitioners at the vanguard of national security and cybersecurity law.

“ IN AN ERA MARKED BY UNPRECEDENTED CYBER THREATS AND EVOLVING NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS, THE LEGAL EXPERTISE STUDENTS DEVELOP THROUGH THIS PROGRAM IS INDISPENSABLE. ”

—Lisa Schenck

“We are very pleased by our ranking in the influential *Cybersecurity Guide*,” said Schenck. “In an era marked by unprecedented cyber threats and evolving national security risks, the legal expertise students develop through this program is indispensable. Combining cutting-edge course offerings, highly qualified students, superb teaching, and pathbreaking academic research and scholarship truly makes our National Security and Cybersecurity LLM degree an exceptional program.”

GW Law is one of 25 law schools that offer the National Security and Cybersecurity Law LLM Program, according to *Cybersecurity Guide*. The program offers more than 20 courses, including courses on artificial intelligence law and policy, information privacy law, internet law, telecommunications, foreign access to U.S. technology, counterintelligence, intelligence, disinformation, blockchain, and consumer privacy and

data protection, among others. Students learn from a distinguished faculty who have made significant contributions to research in the areas of cybersecurity, national security, intelligence law, and technology law.

“The program is especially beneficial for LLM students who are already working as attorneys,” said Liz Boggs, LLM ’24, and an alumna of the program. Boggs is approaching 15 years of active-duty service in the Army Jag Corps in which she currently serves in a national security legal advisory position. She attended the cybersecurity program part time, allowing her to report to work during the day and take classes at night.

“As a career military attorney, I can emphatically say that GW Law’s National Security Law and Cybersecurity program provided me with a solid education basis to understand the ever-evolving nature of

MARY ANNE FRANKS INSTALLED AS ENDOWED PROFESSOR

MARY ANNE FRANKS WAS FORMALLY installed as the inaugural Eugene L. and Barbara A. Bernard Professor of Intellectual Property, Technology and Civil Rights Law on April 24. An internationally recognized expert at the intersection of free speech, civil rights, and technology, Franks joined the GW Law faculty in 2023.

“Dr. Franks says that she was drawn to GW because it ‘sees itself as a place where people can learn and do good in the world and try to revolutionize the law to make it fairer and more just,’ said Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew, who served as the emcee at the investiture ceremony. “Her scholarship and expertise are central to the public discourse and represent the very best of what independent higher education contributes to society.”

Franks is the president and legislative and tech policy director of the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI), a nonprofit formed to combat online abuse and

cybersecurity and the need for continuous legal and regulatory adaptation to keep pace,” Boggs said.

The LLM degree is one of several cybersecurity law degree programs offered at GW Law. The law school also has a National Security and Cybersecurity Law Master of Studies in Law (MSL)—a law degree for non-JD degree holders who have practical experience in the fields of national security, law enforcement, defense, cybersecurity, or intelligence. GW Law also offers an MSL in Government Procurement and Cybersecurity Law. LLM and MSL students may complete their degree programs online, on campus, or a combination of both while taking courses as full-time or part-time students. GW Law also offers a concentration in National Security and Cybersecurity Law for JD students.



GW LAW IN SAN DIEGO

Ninety graduates of GW Law and the Munich Intellectual Property Center (MIPLC) gathered for an alumni reception at the International Trademark Association (INTA) Annual Meeting in San Diego in May. The memorable event was hosted by Professor Robert Brauneis, Assistant Dean Shehernaz Joshi, and Advancement's Toby Davidow, and co-sponsored by Zhongyi (Jonnie) Huang, JD '19, Francisco Valverde, MIPLC '16, and Tianqin (Sean) Zhao, JD '23.



Celebrating Professor Mary Anne Franks (center) at her installation ceremony are (l to r) Associate Dean Alan B. Morrison, Provost Christopher A. Bracey, President Ellen M. Granberg, and Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew.

discrimination. In 2013, Matthew noted, Franks drafted the first model criminal statute on the nonconsensual distribution of intimate imagery, sometimes called revenge porn. Her model has served as a template for multiple state and federal laws.

An award-winning author, Franks' first book, *Cult of the Constitution: Our Deadly Devotion to Guns and Free Speech* (Stanford University Press, 2019), received

several honors. Her second book, *Fearless Speech* (Bold Type Books, 2024), published late last year, has also received praise and was even recommended by Prince Harry in an interview with *New York Times* columnist Andrew Ross Sorkin.

In addition to her books, Franks is the author of more than 50 highly cited law review articles, as well as many book chapters and essays. She has testified before Congress six times and was a

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—Ellen M. Granberg

lead author on 12 amicus briefs in the past decade, four of them to the U.S. Supreme Court.

GW President Ellen M. Granberg said the ceremony was “a reminder of the power of higher education to honor the past, to elevate the present, and to shape a better future.”

“Today’s installation comes at a moment when the world is acutely aware of the importance of legal education and the rule of law, of having trusted experts, rigorous research and institutions that respond to the challenges of our time with integrity and insight,” Granberg said. “The focus of this endowed professorship reflects that urgency.”

The endowed professorship was made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Eugene L. Bernard, a 1951 graduate of GW Law, and his wife, Barbara.

Murphy Addresses United Nations on Genocide Prevention



Professor Sean Murphy (far right), with (r to l) Jürg Lauber, Savita Pawnday, Juan Méndez, and Nada Al-Nashif, after addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on genocide prevention

SPEAKING BEFORE THE UNITED Nations Human Rights Council, GW Law Professor Sean D. Murphy detailed steps governments should take to adopt national laws and policies that establish domestic awareness of genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities.

In the March 5 presentation in Geneva, Switzerland, Murphy discussed ways to educate government officials on their obligation to prevent and punish these

“IT WAS HEARTENING TO SEE THE TREMENDOUS INTEREST BY STATES IN FINDING WAYS TO PREVENT GENOCIDE. AND IT WAS AN HONOR TO BE ASKED TO PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL ON THIS TOPIC.”

—Sean D. Murphy

international crimes. The strategies include training programs for police, military, militia, and other personnel. In response to questions from the floor, Murphy also suggested that governments should consider appropriate regulations for monitoring social media, hate speech, and even corporate activity that could lead to the commission of atrocities.

“It was heartening to see the tremendous interest by states in finding ways to prevent genocide,” said Murphy, the Manatt/Ahn Professor of International Law. “And it was an honor to be asked to present to the council on this topic, which I studied when drafting articles for a new convention on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.”

The U.N. General Assembly decided in December to move forward with diplomatic negotiations on such a convention, which will be based on Murphy’s work as special rapporteur for the U.N. International Law Commission.

GW LAW STUDENT-ATTORNEYS TRY FEDERAL CASE

GW LAW’S ACCESS TO JUSTICE CLINIC (Prisoner Civil Rights Division), directed by Professor Stephen A. Saltzburg with the support of Professorial Lecturer in Law Jonathan Gitlen, had the unique experience of going to trial in a prisoner rights case last semester.

In the Spring 2025 semester case, a team of student-attorneys, led by Saltzburg and Gitlen, represented a former prisoner in Abingdon, Va., who filed a lawsuit in federal court in the Western District of Virginia claiming that his constitutional rights were violated by the use of excessive force and deliberate indifference to his medical needs. The

“NOT MANY STUDENTS TRY A FEDERAL CASE IN LAW SCHOOL, AND ALMOST NO STUDENTS TRY A CASE TO A FEDERAL JURY. BUT THESE STUDENTS DID...”

—Stephen A. Saltzburg

court appointed Saltzburg as pro bono counsel to represent the plaintiff, admitted Gitlen pro hac vice, and admitted three third-year law students under the court’s third-year practice rule.

While all 20 GW Law clinics provide students with experiential learning opportunities in which they do real work representing real clients, it is rare for those opportunities to lead to trial within the semester-long clinic. The students in the prisoner rights clinic were especially lucky to receive real trial experience before an outstanding jurist, Senior Federal District Judge Michael F. Urbanski.

Eight student-attorneys and their professors traveled to Virginia for the trial after rigorously researching the case, preparing evidence and argument, and liaising with the client. They took on the case from beginning to end, from jury selection to closing. After two days of deliberations, the jury returned the verdict in favor of the defense.

“The judge, after the trial, was incredibly impressed,” said student-attorney

Nina A. Bundy, JD '25. "He came up to us afterward, shook our hands, and expressed how taken he was with our performances and how he felt like we did much better as law school students than he would have done, which was a huge compliment."

Both Professors Saltzburg and Gitlen were incredibly proud of the students.

"They performed better than most lawyers, were better prepared, and impressed both the judge and opposing counsel," said Saltzburg. "Not many students try a federal case in law school, and almost no students try a case to a federal jury. But these students did and in the process established for all to see that GW law students are remarkably well prepared to take their place in the legal community and make a contribution to justice wherever it is needed – in Abingdon, in D.C., in the U.S., and beyond."

The student-attorneys said the trial experience was invaluable for their growth both as lawyers and as people.

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– Sam Girioni

them, to witness Professor Saltzburg, who is truly a master of his craft, was invaluable," said student-attorney Sam Girioni (Class of '26).

GW's clinical law program, which celebrated its 54th anniversary this year, has rapidly expanded since Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew arrived in 2020, launching 12 clinics in the past four years alone. The clinics serve more than 400 clients and litigants each year and provide hands-on education for 264 students each year who cumulatively provide approximately 50,000 hours of free legal assistance to the community.

SOLOVE EXCEEDS HALF A MILLION DOWNLOADS ON SSRN



Dan Solove

PROFESSOR DANIEL SOLOVE—ONE of the world's leading experts on privacy law—holds the No. 1 spot on the top law authors page for the Social Science Research Network (SSRN). He is also among the top 10 researchers in more than 65 disciplines whose work is downloaded from the repository for academic papers in law, economics, humanities, life sciences, health sciences, and other social sciences.

In February, Solove was listed among the *Top 100 Legal Scholars of 2024* in an annual ranking of legal scholarship by Rob Wiley and Melanie Knapp at the George Mason University Law Library.

Solove has chalked up more than a half million downloads on SSRN this year. Only one other law professor in the country, Cass Sunstein of Harvard Law School, has reached that download milestone on SSRN.

"It's just really exciting and gratifying to hit this mark because it means people are interested in my work," said Solove, the Eugene L. and Barbara A. Bernard Professor of Intellectual Property and Technology Law and faculty co-director of the GW Center for Law and Technology, a hub for thought leadership, interdisciplinary scholarship, and international discourse. The center offers one of the world's most extensive curricula in IP, privacy, AI, and technology law.

At the start of the year, GW Law was ranked No. 5 in the SSRN rankings of 750 law schools worldwide for downloads in the previous 12 months, behind Harvard, Stanford, New York University, and Yale. SSRN hosts papers from more than 2 million researchers.



Professor Stephen A. Saltzburg (center), Adjunct Professor Jonathan Gitlen, and their team of eight GW Law student-attorney clinicians represented a client at a federal trial in Virginia.