



The Honorable G. William and Ariadna Miller INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND THE LAW

Report on the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting April 2015



The American Society of International Law Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity to engage with current issues in international law and network with leading professionals. The Annual Meeting attracts practitioners and researchers from a very diverse array of fields, ranging from international criminal justice and international human rights, energy and environmental law, and international finance and investment. The Meeting further hosts a number of the Society's Interest Groups, organized around a theme such as the Disaster Law Interest Group, or around its members such as the Young Professionals Interest Group.

Focusing on international human rights law and refugee law, I attended a number of panels dedicated to exploring the challenges facing governments in navigating an ever-changing security landscape, and implications for those seeking safety from violence. This year, the Meeting addressed the question of how private and public international law was adapting to a rapidly changing world. Panelists often had differing views, leading to always thought-provoking and often spirited exchanges! Most panels were composed of both academic and practitioners, thus allowing for contrasting perspectives and approaches on the questions debated.

Aside from the thematic panels, a number of events this year were organized specifically with students and young practitioners in mind. The panel on "The Future of International Law: A Roadmap for New Professionals" included professionals practicing international space law, forest law, and in other lesser known but booming areas of international law practice. Similarly, the Women's Mentoring Program Reception offered young women to network with leading professionals and receive the exceptional benefit of their advice on navigating a career in international law as a woman, including advice on addressing different cultural expectations.

The best aspect of the Meeting was without doubt the unique opportunity to network with professionals with very different career paths, including academics, government attorneys, legal advisors from major international organizations, and UN field officers. This wealth of experience highlighted the many capacities in which young professionals such as myself can engage with the issues they are most passionate about and transform that passion into a meaningful and rewarding career.

I am very grateful to the Miller Institute and the Advanced Degree Programs Office for this fantastic opportunity and their support throughout.

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