

LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER

Report for 2011-12 Academic Year

Founded in 1997 along with Law Department, the Legal Resource Center (LRC) aims to address the needs of a developing legal environment, emphasizing outreach, access to up-to-date information, community service, and economic development as the cornerstone of its scholarly/research mission. Being a clearinghouse for international best practices is one of the center's primary goals, consistent with the needs of the community, interests of the faculty, and mission of the university.

Being a source of solid legal information, making legal materials available online and in our library, and providing knowledgeable interpretation of international best practices is the kind of applied research that translates into impactful scholarship and service.

Highlights of 2011-12 Academic Year

- Establishment of the Center for Excellence in Negotiation (October) (See separate report), with funding from Bridgeway Group (Carnegie Corporation), and Carolyn C. Mugar for 2011-12
- International Conference on Crossroads of Law & Psychology (November) & Publication of Proceedings
- Seminar Series: Rethinking Values, Norms, and Institutions in Armenia (Fall 2011), hosted by Armen Mazmanyán
- Armenian Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition
- Guest Lectures and Colloquia for Administrative Law Judges by Fulbright Scholar Judge Nicholas Ohanesian
- Summer Lectures in Public International Law by Prof. William Slomanson, Human Rights Watch Director Sarah Leah Whitson
- Planning and Design of the Legal Clinical Program (launch in Sept. 2012)

Introduction

The Legal Resource Center (LRC) is an integral part of the Department of Law (AUA Law). The two entities work hand-in-hand to promote international standards in legal education and research with a focus on law reform, legal-education reform, and legal information access through library and online sources. The LRC is the first legal research institution in Armenia to serve a broad spectrum of patrons and make available a varied collection of international, comparative, US, European, and western legal materials. The LRC maintains an extensive collection of printed and electronic reference materials covering all major fields of law, concentrating on comparative and international law. An important public service component to the LRC includes organizing seminars and conferences on important and current legal issues.

1. Research and Publications

a. **Peer Reviewed and Other Publications**

- Manukyan, Mushegh. Правовое Регулирование Применения Вспомогательных Репродуктивных Технологий С Участием Иностранных Лиц В Республике Армения (Legal Regulation of Artificial Reproduction Technologies involving Foreign Persons in Armenia). Международное публичное и частное право №3 – 2012.
- Mazmanyán, Armen. *Constitutional Courts in the Context of Multilevel Governance in Europe*, with Patricia Popelier and Werner Wandenbruwaene, forthcoming (Intersentia, 2012)
- Mazmanyán, Armen. “Majoritarianism, Accountability and Deliberation as Institutional Instincts of Constitutional Courts”, in (eds. A. Mazmanyán and P. Popelier) *Constitutional Courts in the Context of Multilevel Governance in Europe*, forthcoming (Intersentia 2012)
- Mazmanyán, Armen. “Failing Constitutionalism: From Political Legalism to Defective Empowerment”, *Global Constitutionalism*, No. 2 (Cambridge University Press, 2012)
- Samuelian, Thomas. Preface to Ara Papian, *Collected Works*.
- Samuelian, Thomas. Preface and Opening Address for Proceedings of Law & Psychology Conference (2012)

b. **Conferences, Lectures and Seminars** – During the 2011-12 academic year, the LRC hosted or participated in a number of public events that gave AUA positive nationwide and diasporan press coverage:

- 2011-Oct-Nov. Rethinking Values, Norms, and Institutions in Armenia Seminar Series for Faculty, Students and Alumni (Mazmanyán)
- 2011 Nov 4-5. International Conference on Crossroads of Law & Psychology (Samuelian, Mazmanyán)
- 2012- April. Moderator, Thinking about Thinking, Robertson Panel Discussion (Samuelian)
- 2012-June. Participant in OSI Conference in Budapest (Bournazian)
- Institutional Arbitration Courts in Armenia (Manukyan)
- 2012 Feb 17-18. Intellectual Property Rights Moot Court Competition (Knyazyan, Samuelian)
- 2012 August 6 – Unilateral Declarations of Independence in the Caucasus – Prof. William Slomanson, Thomas Jefferson School of Law
- 2012 August 23 – Careers in Human Rights –Human Rights Watch Director Sarah Leah Whitson

c. Scholarship through Public Service

One of the primary ways that the Law Department contributes to the advancement of legal thought in Armenia and dissemination of new ideas is through applied research and direct involvement in public discourse as well as hands-on legal advice. Each of our faculty are sought-after specialists in their fields, who contribute to the development of the Armenian legal environment not only through teaching and writing, but also through public speaking and legal practice. Below are some examples of the kinds of innovative and creative work that the AUA Legal Resource Center has provided in 2011-12:

- 2012 May 2 – Litigating Disability and Social Security Issues, Colloquium for Judges and Practitioners (Senior Fulbright Scholar Judge Nicholas Ohanesian and Arman Zrvanyan)
- 2012 April 27 – Careers in Administrative Law (Arman Zrvandyan & Senior Fulbright Scholar Judge Ohanesian)
- Arbitration Proposal for American Chamber of Commerce (Samuelian, Khzrtyan)

New initiatives in this area that connect research with teaching and service include the clinical programs in Mediation, Repatriate Law, and Administrative/E-Government that are under development for 2012-13, and the development of a commentary/casebook of Armenian Administrative Law Practice.

d. Web Resources:

- **Armenian Law Review** – The Armenian Law Review is a web site that serves as a forum for law student and faculty publications on legal topics related to Armenia. These papers are of both practical and theoretical value. This web page also includes important links for conducting legal research in Armenia, including Armenian legal landmarks.
- **Citizens' Guide to Legal Transactions** – The largest body of systematic research in English in the area of procedural auditing of the legal system of Armenia, the Citizens' Guide for Legal Transactions are of both practical and theoretical significance. The Guides offer practical advice and legal knowledge to the average Armenian citizen. They also provide a baseline for legal reform efforts and harmonization with European legal standards. The Guides is to empower average citizens and foreign investors with the knowledge and skills to conduct simple transactions for themselves. Armed with a summary of the rules, citizens are able to respond knowledgeably to bureaucrats who might otherwise complicate the transaction and frustrate the citizen creating a moral hazard. In this way, the Citizens' Guide for Legal Transactions arms citizens through education to defend their rights and fight against corruption.
- **Arbitration Guide** – Arbitration continues to be a high priority as an alternative to the RA courts system, since the Republic of Armenia adopted a new Arbitration Law

in 2006. The LRC has made available in English and Armenian, the text of the law and a guide to arbitration and mediation, to assist practitioners, judges and investors.

2. Grants:

The LRC received 2 grants this year for its new initiative, the Center for Excellence in Negotiation. CEN-Yerevan is part of a network of such centers in Moscow, Kiev, Almaty, and Boston. CEN received over \$50,000 in grant funding this year. CEN-Yerevan's Director is Stepan Khzrtyan, graduate and instructor of AUA's LL.M. program who recently returned from his master's study at Cambridge University. CEN-Yerevan's report can be found at <http://law.aua.am/pdf/CEN-Yerevan%202011-12%20Progress%20Report.pdf>.