

INTRODUCTION: RULE OF LAW AND THE 2015 UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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The American Bar Association's Section of International Law, a founding partner of the World Bank's Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, invited a slate of renowned lawyers to "make the case" for the inclusion of the Rule of Law within the post-2015 development agenda. With persuasive arguments in the style of an opening statement before a court, they advanced the Rule of Law as a goal in itself, as a vital principle in the achievement of other development objectives, and as an over-arching theme in the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development. This Special Symposium Section of the *Southwestern Journal of International Law* features a timely series of articles based on this event, which took place during Law, Justice and Development Week 2014 in Washington, D.C.

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On behalf of the A.B.A. Section of International Law and the contributors to this symposium, I would like to express our appreciation to the World Bank Group and the leaders involved with the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, notably Senior Vice-President and General Counsel Anne-Marie Leroy, Anna Chytla, Marco Nicoli and Matthew Glasser. We are grateful to Christina Heid and Jacqueline Gichinga, of A.B.A. Section of International Law staff, for their support of Rule of Law activities and the partnership with the World Bank. We also wish to acknowledge: Lynn Reynolds, of LexisNexis Legal & Professional, for her presentation during this session; Renee Dopplick, of the A.B.A. Task Force on Sustainable Development, for her planning assistance; the sponsors of the A.B.A. Welcoming Reception at LJD Week—Arent Fox LLP, BakerHostetler LLP, Paul Hastings LLP, The Mullikin Law Firm, and the American University's Washington College of Law. A further note of thanks to the editorial team at the *Southwestern Journal of International Law*, especially Ken Korosi and Sophia Segura, and also to their advisor, Professor Robert Lutz, for facilitating this publishing opportunity.

THE EMERGING DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In September 2015, the United Nations will commit to a new set of development goals anchored in a vision for “The World We Want.”¹ Building on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000 and applicable through 2015, the deliberations involve dozens of UN agencies and extensive multi-stakeholder engagements.² The new objectives, currently referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will influence international, national, and local policies for decades to come.³ This emerging agenda is destined to reshape the economic, environmental, and social dimensions of development.

Several streams of UN activity have contributed to this process, generating a substantial collection of resources that provide a foundation for understanding the SDGs. The following initiatives are particularly relevant.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.⁴ Among its key outcomes was the agreement by UN member states to launch a process to develop a set

1. For the global platform established by the UN to engage a wide range of stakeholders on sustainable development issues, see *THE WORLD WE WANT*, <http://www.worldwewant2015.org> (last visited Apr. 4, 2015). This site aims to assimilate and analyze various perspectives, and provides a timeline of key events related to the post-2015 development goals.

2. For the initial commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, see G.A. Res. 55/2, U.N. Doc. A/RES/55/2 (Sept. 18, 2000). For background information and reports on the extensive implementation process over the course of fifteen years, see *We Can End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015*, UNITED NATIONS, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals> (last visited Apr. 4, 2015). In 2011, a UN System Task Team was established to support preparations for the post-2015 UN development agenda. Co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it brought together experts from over fifty UN entities and international organizations to provide analysis and stakeholder consultations. In June of 2012, this Task Team issued a report entitled *Realizing the Future We Want for All*. It recommended that new goals should build on the strengths of the Millennium Development Goals, apply to all countries, and be based on the fundamental principles of human rights, equality, and sustainability. See U.N. SYS. TASK TEAM ON THE POST-2015 DEV. AGENDA, *REALIZING THE FUTURE WE WANT FOR ALL: REPORT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL* (2012).

3. The UN's Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform tracks key issues related to the SDGs as well as the status of intergovernmental negotiations. See *2015 Time for Global Action*, SUSTAINABLE DEV. KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015> (last visited Apr. 4, 2015).

4. G.A. Res. 66/288, ¶ 1, U.N. Doc. A/RES/66/288 (Sept. 11, 2012). In the context of this symposium, it is important to underscore that the Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development affirmed the essential role of the Rule of Law in development by stating “that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger.” *Id.* ¶ 10.

of sustainable development goals. These goals, to be elaborated upon by an Open Working Group, are intended to be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

In July 2012, the UN Secretary-General appointed a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, drawing on representatives from government, civil society, and business.⁵ In 2013, this panel issued a report entitled, *A New Global Partnership*.⁶

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was tasked with establishing an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process of consultation open to all stakeholders. Its final report—which included a proposed set of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals—was welcomed by the UN General Assembly in August 2014.⁷

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing issued a report in August 2014. This offers a further source of guidance for the SDG process, especially given the importance of financial resources.⁸

Finally, in December 2014, the UN Secretary-General issued an important Synthesis Report on the post-2015 sustainable development

5. U.N. Press Release, UN Secretary-General Appoints High-Level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda (July 31, 2012), <http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/PRpost2015.pdf>.

6. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS ON THE POST-2015 DEV. AGENDA, *A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: ERADICATE POVERTY AND TRANSFORM ECONOMIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT* (2013). The Panel, mandated by the 2010 MDG Summit, was to coordinate with the Open Working Group and provide a separate report for UN deliberations. Notably, the Executive Summary observes that the MDGs did not go far enough as the “importance to development of good governance and institutions that guarantee the rule of law, free speech and open and accountable government was not included. . . .” *Id.*

7. Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, in letter dated Aug. 1, 2014 from the Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, 10-24, U.N. Doc. A/68/970 (Aug. 12, 2014) [hereinafter Open Working Group Report]. Note that although the General Assembly decided that the Open Working Group’s proposal would be the basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, it did so “while recognizing fully that other inputs may also be considered in this intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.” G.A. Res. 69/142, ¶ 4, U.N. Doc. A/RES/69/142 (Jan. 22, 2015).

8. Report of the Intergovernmental Comm. of Experts on Sustainable Dev. Financing, U.N. Doc. A/69/315 (Aug. 15, 2014). Also of relevance will be the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. G.A. Res. 68/279, ¶ 1, U.N. Doc. A/RES/68/279 (July 10, 2014). For further information on topics such as development cooperation, debt, and innovative finance, see *Overview*, DEP’T OF ECON. & SOC. AFF., FIN. FOR DEV., <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/overview/third-conference-ffd/preparatory-process.html> (last visited Apr. 6, 2015).

agenda with an overall theme of “the road to dignity.”⁹ Significantly, it identifies six essential elements for the delivery of the SDGs: Dignity, People, Prosperity, Planet, Justice, and Partnership.¹⁰ This framework will help shape the negotiations toward the final set of SDGs.

As shown in the table below, the current list of seventeen proposed goals encompasses topics, such as poverty reduction, food security, education, gender equality, productive employment, access to water and energy, climate change, and protection of ecosystems.¹¹ Notably in the context of this discussion, proposed Goal 16 identifies the need to “[p]romote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”¹² The final item—Goal 17—is seen as key to effective implementation of the overall package, particularly through revitalizing global partnerships and securing adequate financial resources.¹³

Proposed UN Sustainable Development Goals¹⁴

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

9. U.N. Secretary General, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet: Synthesis Rep. of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda*, 1, U.N. Doc. A/69/700 (Dec. 4, 2014).

10. The six essential elements for the delivery of the SDGs are outlined in Section III, Framing the New Agenda, *id.* at 1. Also note: “The rule of law must be strengthened at the national and international level to secure justice for all.” *Id.* ¶ 78.

11. Open Working Group Report, *supra* note 7, at 10-12.

12. *Id.* at 22.

13. *Id.* at 22.

14. *Id.* at 10.

- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- * Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW

Not surprisingly, the legal profession takes particular interest in questions related to the Rule of Law. The A.B.A., for example, has affirmed the Rule of Law as one of its fundamental goals for more than thirty years. Within this goal, the A.B.A.'s objectives are to (1) increase public understanding of and respect for the Rule of Law, the legal process, and the role of the legal profession in the United States and throughout the world; (2) encourage governments to be accountable under law; (3) work for just laws, including human rights, and a fair and transparent legal process; (4) assure meaningful access to justice for all persons; and (5) preserve the independence of the legal profession and the judiciary.¹⁵ The current policy debate about the

15. AM. BAR ASS'N, POLICY AND PROCEDURE HANDBOOK 1-2 (2014) (within the A.B.A.'s mission statement, Goal IV relates to the Rule of Law). For information about the A.B.A. Section of International Law—including Rule of Law-related activities, see *Section of International Law*, A.B.A., http://www.americanbar.org/groups/international_law.html (last visited Apr.

SDGs encourages greater understanding of this concept in the context of development, from both a theoretical and practical perspective.

This commitment also reinforces the broader goals of the United Nations in the promotion of the Rule of Law at the national and international levels. The Rule of Law is being invoked in an ever-growing number of challenges—from combating corruption to building peace. It is worth recalling the UN's definition of this complex concept:

The rule of law refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency.¹⁶

Moreover, the UN has squarely linked the Rule of Law to development. The 2012 *Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels* provides:

[T]he advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law, and for this reason we are convinced that this interrelationship should be considered in the post-2015 international development agenda.¹⁷

Within the UN, the Deputy Secretary-General chairs a Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. This is supported by a Rule of Law Unit, established in 2006, which has three broad areas of activity: ensuring coordination and coherence among the many UN entities engaged in Rule of Law activities; developing system-wide strategies, policy direction, and guidance for the organization's activities in promoting the Rule of Law; and enhancing partnerships between the UN

6, 2015). For more information about the A.B.A. Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI), including technical assistance projects, see *A.B.A. Rule of Law Initiative*, A.B.A., http://www.americanbar.org/advocacy/rule_of_law.html (last visited Apr. 6, 2015).

16. U.N. Secretary-General, *The Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: Rep. of the Secretary-General*, ¶ 6, U.N. Doc. S/2004/616 (Aug. 23, 2004).

17. G.A. Res. 67/1, ¶ 7, U.N. Doc. A/RES/67/1 (Nov. 30, 2012).

and other Rule of Law actors.¹⁸ The Rule of Law Unit has significant involvement in SDG deliberations. Moreover, through its Rule of Law Website and Document Repository,¹⁹ it is a leading resource for Rule of Law materials and best practices.

The SDG process has generated interesting analytical work on the connections between development and the Rule of Law, deepening the understanding of both fields. Of course, this builds on earlier efforts, including those of the High Level Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor. The Commission's groundbreaking report, issued in 2008 by the UNDP, explored the links between exclusion, poverty, and the law, with a focus on four pillars: access to justice, property rights, labor rights, and business rights.²⁰ The UN-related streams described above have also drawn on the Rule of Law perspective.²¹ Additional policy and field-based research has been provided by civil society organizations such as the International Development Law Organization, the Africa Justice Foundation, and Namati.²² This has been augmented by grass-roots awareness and advocacy cam-

18. The Rule of Law Unit was established on the basis of a Report by the Secretary-General. See U.N. Secretary-General, *Uniting Our Strengths: Enhancing United Nations Support for the Rule of Law: Rep. of the Secretary-General*, ¶ 49, U.N. Doc. A/61/636-S/2006/980 (Dec. 14, 2006).

19. UNITED NATIONS RULE L., <http://www.unrol.org> (last visited Apr. 6, 2015); *United Nations Rule of Law Document Repository*, UNITED NATIONS RULE L., <http://unroll.org/dr.aspx> (last visited Apr. 6, 2015).

20. 2 COMM'N ON LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR & UNITED NATIONS DEV. PROGRAMME, *MAKING THE LAW WORK FOR EVERYONE* 131, 138 (2008).

21. See, e.g., THE WORLD WE WANT, *GLOBAL THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON GOVERNANCE AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK* (2013). The consultation process, which took place from September 2012 to March 2013, was co-led by UNDP and OHCHR in collaboration with representatives from civil society organizations. *Id.* at 3. It consisted of a series of regional dialogues, an expert meeting, moderated online e-discussions and a multi-stakeholder meeting. See *id.* at 57-62.

22. The International Development Law Organization (IDLO), headquartered in Rome, is an intergovernmental institution exclusively devoted to promoting the Rule of Law around the world. IDLO emphasizes the importance of the Rule of Law in realizing equitable growth, inclusive social development, and environmental sustainability. One notable report explores linkages and examples relevant to the post-2015 agenda. See THE INT'L DEV. LAW ORG., *DOING JUSTICE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTEGRATING THE RULE OF LAW INTO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA* (2014).

The London-based Africa Justice Foundation (AJF), founded by Cherie Blair, undertakes research and advocacy that draws on the fields of law, international development, and politics. See AFRICA JUSTICE FOUND., *THE RULE OF LAW WITHIN THE POST-2015 AGENDA* (2014).

Namati is dedicated to building a global movement of grassroots legal advocates who work with communities to advance justice, including in matters such as protection of land, access to essential services, and participation in decision-making. See NAMATI, *JUSTICE 2015: MEASURING JUSTICE IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK* (2013).

paigns for the inclusion of Rule of Law in the SDG agenda.²³ Finally—especially in view of the platform for this A.B.A. panel—the extensive contributions of the World Bank Group must be acknowledged, notably through its Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.²⁴

Exactly how (and indeed whether) the Rule of Law will appear within the new Sustainable Development Goals is still an open question. Such a determination is not without controversy, given potential political and financial implications, as well as ideological differences among UN member-states. With reference to the chart of Proposed UN Sustainable Development Goals presented above, proponents of the Rule of Law are especially focused on Goal 16.²⁵ What will this mean in concrete terms? Drawing on the experience of the MDGs, the power of the SDGs will be tied to measurability. Although the exact targets and indicators are still under discussion, it is instructive to review the preliminary points elaborated under this goal.

Proposed UN Sustainable Development Goal Number 16 with Targets²⁶

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.4 By 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms

23. See, for example, Namati's campaign on behalf of the billions of people around the world living without the full protection of the law. A global petition urges the UN to declare that justice, the Rule of Law, and legal empowerment are essential principles in the new global development framework. NAMATI ET. AL, JUSTICE 2015: APPEAL TO THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS: JUSTICE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT GOALS (2013).

24. See, e.g., Law Res. Ctr, World Bank Grp., Law, Justice & Development Week 2014: Selected Readings on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2014).

25. See Open Working Group Report, *supra* note 7, at 10.

26. The targets for Goal 16 are listed. *Id.* at 22.

- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAW, JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2014

The World Bank's Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, founded in 2012, aims to facilitate the identification, discussion, production, and sharing of innovative and customized legal and institutional tools to address global, regional, and national development challenges.²⁷ It works with an interdisciplinary network of partners around the world, including the A.B.A. Section of International Law. A.B.A. members are engaged in activities that call for specialized legal expertise, especially through thematic working groups and communities of practice. Each year, the World Bank organizes a signature event—Law, Justice and Development Week (LJD Week)—at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. This brings together hundreds of participants from government agencies, intergovernmental organizations, financial institutions, civil society groups, universities, and re-

27. See *The Vision of the Global Forum, L., Just. & Dev.*, <http://globalforumljd.org/about/index.htm> (last visited Apr. 6, 2015) (The Vision seeks to provide an innovative and dynamic permanent forum of knowledge exchange; connect countries, judiciaries, think-tanks, regional and international organizations, development agencies, and civil society organizations; and make available relevant research and practices to improve development outcomes in the field of law and justice).

search institutes. In 2014, the overall theme for LJD Week was “Financing and Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda.”²⁸

Within this singular setting, the A.B.A. was pleased to be invited to host a special session entitled “Making the Case: Rule of Law in the Emerging Development Agenda.”²⁹ Reflecting diverse professional backgrounds, our panelists highlighted the complexities of assessing risks and upholding the Rule of Law in various contexts. Shared themes included transparency, accountability, good governance, respect for human rights, access to justice, and judicial integrity. Their insights helped to reinforce the link between the legal empowerment of people who are poor or marginalized and the enhancement of their economic opportunities. The need to protect the planet was also reiterated. The overall message underscored the importance of the Rule of Law in creating an enabling environment for sustainable development.

As the Rule of Law Officer for the A.B.A. Section of International Law, I had the privilege of chairing this impressive panel. Here is a brief introduction to the presenters who subsequently developed their remarks into the articles that comprise this Symposium.

Ms. Elizabeth Andersen

Betsy Andersen sets the stage by drawing our imaginations into scenarios where Rule of Law is at risk. As Director of the A.B.A. Rule of Law Initiative, her perspective is grounded in the management of a diverse range of technical assistance and legal reform programs in over fifty countries. Together with co-author Gowri Janakiramanan, Ms. Andersen presents *The Case for Rule of Law and Development: Issues of Definition, Methodology, and Measurement*. She is the former Executive Director of the American Society of International Law (ASIL).

Professor Daniel Barstow Magraw

Dan Magraw, the founder of the Center for International Environmental Law and a professional lecturer at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, is recognized

28. *Law, Justice and Development Week 2014: Financing and Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, WORLD BANK, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2014/10/20/law-justice-and-development-week-2014#1> (last visited Apr. 6, 2015).

29. *Program Agenda: Law, Justice and Development Week 2014: Financing and Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, CONF. MGMT. TOOL, https://www.conftool.pro/ljdweek2014/index.php?page=browseSessions&form_session=57&presentations=hide (last visited Apr. 6, 2015).

around the world for his pioneering work in this field. Here he draws the link between *Rule of Law, Environment and Sustainable Development*. He also reminds us of an important milestone for the Rule of Law: June 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. Mr. Magraw is a former Chair of the A.B.A. Section of International Law.

Ms. Alexandra Dapolito Dunn

Alex Dunn is the Executive Director and General Counsel of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). She brings her expertise in environmental, natural resources, and energy law to an analysis of the growing scope of responsibilities and the need for improved metrics. *Advancing the Environmental Rule of Law: A Call for Measurement* also benefited from Sarah Stillman's work as co-author. Ms. Dunn is a member of the A.B.A. Task Force on Sustainable Development, and a former Chair of the A.B.A. Section of Environment, Energy and Resources.

Mr. Timothy J. Feighery

Timothy Feighery is a partner at Arent Fox LLP, where he heads the firm's international arbitration and dispute resolution practice group. His work takes him into challenging jurisdictions, where the Rule of Law is often fragile or under threat. Within the discussion on law and development, he is well placed to reflect *On Finding the Optimal Role for Investment Treaties*. His career in public and international service includes an appointment as Chair of United States Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

Ms. Aileen A. Pisciotta

Aileen Pisciotta is a partner with Executive Counsel PLC, advising on a range of corporate and commercial matters. She has been a leader with the A.B.A. Section of International Law, notably as the founder of the International Models Project for Women's Rights (IMPWR). Once fully operational, this comprehensive online resource will offer a comparative database on the legal rights of women, promoting gender equality and access to justice. Ms. Pisciotta brings this compelling perspective to *Post-2015 Development Goals for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women*, arguing that such rights are intrinsic to all the development goals.

Mr. Jonathan G. Granoff

Jonathan Granoff is the President of the Global Security Institute, a prolific author, and an acclaimed advocate for nuclear non-proliferation. Indeed, at the time of this special session at the World Bank, we were pleased to announce his nomination for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Granoff reminds us of one of the most fundamental legal principles—that agreements must be kept. He builds on this in *Pacta Sunt Servanda—Nuclear Weapons and Global Secure Sustainable Development*, drawing connections between Rule of Law, the integrity of the international order, and the existential threats that put the world at risk. Mr. Granoff also serves as Chair of the A.B.A. Section of International Law Task Force on Nuclear Non-Proliferation.

Mr. Christopher A. Marshall

Chris Marshall holds a new post at the British Council as the Global Lead on Access to Justice and the Rule of Law. As the founder of the London-based Advocates for International Development (A4ID), he is known for mobilizing pro bono legal services for poor communities. It is no surprise that *A Call to Action for Rule of Law and Development* includes a plea for the four billion people globally living outside the protection of the law. He wants to see the Rule of Law at the heart of the SDGs, pointing to the significant benefits that could result. Chris is also the Chair of the A.B.A. Section of International Law's Task Force on Legal Empowerment and Development (LEAD).

Mr. Don Scott De Amicis

Don De Amicis now teaches and consults in the field of international financial law, after a distinguished career in private practice and as General Counsel of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Although he did not make a presentation during this Rule of Law session, Don offered the welcoming remarks during the reception the A.B.A. hosted for all delegates at the opening of LJD Week. His epilogue includes reflections on the distinctive contributions of these seven presenters, as well as some common themes and challenges. Mr. De Amicis is a former Chair of the A.B.A. Section of International Law.

THE TASK AHEAD FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Further negotiations and advocacy efforts continue in the run-up to the UN summit that will adopt the final version of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is slated for late September 2015.³⁰ The elaboration of targets, indicators, and measurement criteria will be crucial to the implementation process. Interest among international and regional agencies, financial institutions, governments, and civil society groups is intense. This new agenda will mobilize policies, programs, and funding around the world for years to come.

This Symposium in the *Southwestern Journal of International Law* not only underscores the importance of the Rule of Law in the post-2015 development goals, but also points to the vital role of the legal profession in addressing a range of conceptual and practical challenges. The SDGs can serve as a platform for advancing legal principles such as equality and human rights, and for instituting legal reforms in the interest of human dignity and well-being. How might improvements in the justice sector promote equity, inclusion, and economic opportunities? How might lawyers around the world use their expertise—including in areas such as finance, trade, technology, and public-private partnerships—to help implement an ambitious set of targets? As previously mentioned, this emerging development agenda is inspired by a far-reaching vision for “The World We Want.” In communities near and far, we are called upon to contribute to its realization.

30. G.A. Res. 69/244, ¶ 1, U.N. Doc. A/RES/69/244 (Jan. 8, 2015). The post-2015 development agenda will be adopted during a high-level plenary session of the UN General Assembly, scheduled for September 25-27, 2015. *Id.*