

Washington University Global Studies Law Review

VOLUME 21

NUMBER 1

2022

INTRODUCTION: PROFESSOR LEILA NADYA SADAT: BRINGING THE WORLD TO WASHULAW AND WASHULAW TO THE WORLD.

KIM THUY SEELINGER¹ AND KAREN TOKARZ²

We would like to compliment and congratulate our colleague, Professor Leila Nadya Sadat, widely considered one of the world's leading legal experts on crimes against humanity. She is an internationally renowned human rights expert specializing in international criminal law, public international law, and foreign affairs. Now, at the close of her tenure as Director of the Law School's Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, we have come together with others from around the world and the student editors of the *Global Studies Law Review* to pay tribute to our colleague.

Over the past decade and a half, Professor Sadat contributed all-star service as the Director of the "Harris Institute." While the challenge of directing a program, in addition to one's teaching, research, and scholarship, is no easy task, Professor Sadat took the reins of the Institute with robust leadership, vision, and initiative. With her at the helm, the Institute provided extraordinary educational and professional opportunities for our students, for the academy, and for the world.

For our students, Professor Sadat has regularly taught international law, international criminal law, international human rights, and her beloved

¹ Research Associate Professor, Brown School of Social Work, Public Health, and Social Policy; Visiting Professor, School of Law; Director, Center for Human Rights, Gender and Migration (Institute for Public Health), Washington University in St. Louis.

² Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law & Policy, Director, Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program, and Coordinator, Global Public Interest Law Fellowship Program, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

seminar on crimes against humanity. Ever a team player, she has even taught international business transactions when needed,

For our students, Professor Sadat initiated and serves as faculty advisor for the WashULaw Jessup International Moot Court Competition, the most prestigious of the international law student competitions. In no small part due to Professor Sadat's efforts, WashULaw has made it to the height of the international stage, competing against several hundred law schools from 100 countries and jurisdictions to reach the Jessup finals 12 times.

For our students, Professor Sadat has provided research opportunities at international criminal tribunals focused on atrocities committed in Cambodia, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, and Sierra Leone. Thanks to her deep and enduring relationships in the Hague, Professor Sadat has opened up research and internship opportunities for our students at the international courts based there, as well. Some of these research opportunities evolved into semester and summer public interest law internships, and some evolved into post-graduate positions. She also has facilitated summer internships for students to study at The Hague and Xiamen academies of international law, in conjunction with the Dagen-Legomsky Fellowship Program.

For the academy, Professor Sadat has published over 160 books, articles, and films. She has facilitated a broad range of speakers and programs every year at the law school, frequently in conjunction with the Public Interest Law & Policy Speaker Series, including the annual Bill Jones commemorative speaker, and the International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Symposium, in conjunction with the Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Program. She has regularly facilitated programs at the Chautauqua International Human Rights Law Roundtables.

For the academy, Professor Sadat has taught and lectured widely at numerous universities across the country and overseas, and received countless honors, including a recent honorary degree from Northwestern University.

For the academy, Professor Sadat has served on a number of committees, including the WashU Faculty Senate Council, which she chaired in 2020, a particularly difficult year in which she played a key role in the development of the university's initial COVID pandemic response.

For the world, Professor Sadat is the consummate leader among international law practitioners. Among other positions, she has served as President of the American Branch of the International Law Association, Counselor of the American Society of International Law, Chair of the American Association of Law Schools section on International Law, and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Council of Foreign Relations.

For the world, Professor Sadat is director of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative, spearheading an international effort to establish a new global convention that will bring clarity and consistency to a critical area of international justice. Further, in directing the Gun Violence and Human Rights Project, Professor Sadat strengthens the connection between international human rights and a crisis right here at home.

For the world, Professor Sadat is a Special Advisor on Crimes Against Humanity to the International Criminal Court Prosecutor, a position in which she has served since 2012.

In sum, Professor Sadat brings the world to WashULaw and brings WashULaw to the world. We owe Professor Sadat many, many thanks for all she has done for students, the academy, and the world, and for all she will inevitably do in the future.

We are not alone in our admiration for Professor Leila Nadya Sadat. The collection of essays in this volume, from some of the world's leading experts in international law, is a tribute to her massive and enduring contribution to international justice, as well as the respect and affection she commands among her peers across the globe. We thank all those who took the time to share their reflections about our extraordinary colleague.