

Center for Human Rights and Global Justice

New York University School of Law has long been at the forefront of scholarly work on civil liberties and human rights. In 2002, the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice was established to bring together and expand the rich array of teaching, research, clinical, internship, and publishing activities undertaken within the Law School on issues of international human rights law.

International Center for Transitional Justice

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) assists countries pursuing accountability for past mass atrocity or human rights abuse. The Center works in societies emerging from repressive rule or armed conflict, as well as in established democracies where historical injustices or systemic abuse remain unresolved.



**Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Argentina,
Dr. Ricardo Luis Lorenzetti:**

***“Human Rights Lessons from the Argentine
Experience of Seeking Accountability for Past Crimes”***



November 13, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Greenberg Lounge
Vanderbilt Hall

Honorable Chief Justice Ricardo Luis Lorenzetti

November 13, 2008

Introductions Dean Revesz Juan Méndez	6.00 – 6.15
Lecture Chief Justice Lorenzetti	6.15 – 7.00
Questions and Answer Session Paul van Zyl	7.00 – 7.45

(Please line up at the standing microphone once invited)

Dr. Ricardo Luis Lorenzetti

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Argentina

Dr. Lorenzetti is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Argentina (appointed for the period 2007-2009) and has been an Associate Justice since December 2004. He read law at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral in Santa Fe, Argentina, where he also obtained his Doctorate in Juridical and Social Sciences. His doctoral thesis dealt with the Civil Liability of Medical Doctors and was published in 1986. He is a tenured Professor of Contract Law at the University of Buenos Aires, he holds several *Doctor Honoris Causa* awards from Argentine and Latin American universities and he has developed an intense academic activity in post-graduate courses.

He is the author of more than 35 books and more than 150 articles in specialized law reviews in the areas of Contracts, Torts, Consumer's Law, Environmental Law, Rule of Law and Human Rights, published in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Uruguay. He has been a speaker at more than 700 conferences and symposia in Argentina and around the world and he has chaired, organized and moderated numerous congresses and symposia in the same areas.

Amongst other distinctions, he has recently been appointed Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, with a seat in The Hague.

Dean Richard L. Revesz

New York University School of Law

Richard L. Revesz is Dean and Lawrence King Professor of Law at New York University School of Law. His work on issues of federalism and environmental regulation, the valuation of human life and the use of cost-benefit analysis, and the design of liability rules for environmental protection has set the agenda for environmental law scholars for the past decade. His most recent book, co-authored

with Michael Livermore, is *Retaking Rationality: How Cost-Benefit Analysis Can Better Protect the Environment and Our Health* (Oxford University Press, 2008). Revesz graduated summa cum laude in Civil Engineering and Public Affairs from Princeton University, received an M.S. in Civil Engineering from MIT, and was awarded his J.D. by Yale Law School, where he was the Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Law Journal. Following judicial clerkships with Chief Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Justice Thurgood Marshall of the United States Supreme Court, Revesz joined the NYU Law faculty in 1985, received tenure in 1990, and was appointed dean in 2002. He was recently appointed to the National Research Council (NRC)'s Committee on Health, Environmental, and Other External Costs and Benefits of Energy Production and Consumption. Revesz is a Trustee of the American Museum of Natural History, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Juan Méndez

President, International Center for Transitional Justice

A native of Argentina, Juan Méndez has dedicated his legal career to the defense of human rights. For 15 years, he worked with Human Rights Watch, concentrating his efforts on human rights issues in the western hemisphere. In 1994, he became general counsel of Human Rights Watch, with worldwide duties in support of the organization's mission, including responsibility for the organization's litigation and standard-setting activities. From 1996 to 1999, Mr. Méndez was the executive director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in Costa Rica, and between 1999 and 2004 he was professor of Law and director of the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame. He has served as a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and was its president in 2002. In July 2004, Mr. Méndez was appointed the United Nations special adviser on the prevention of genocide, a post that was complementary to his full-time position as the president of the ICTJ. Mr. Méndez served as special adviser until March 31, 2007.

Paul Van Zyl

Executive Vice-President, International Center for Transitional Justice

Paul van Zyl has acted as an adviser and consultant to human rights organizations, governments, international organizations, and foundations on transitional justice issues in numerous countries. From 1995 to 1998, he served as Executive Secretary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. He has also worked as a researcher for the Goldstone Commission, as a department head at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in Johannesburg, and as an associate at Davis Polk and Wardwell in New York. In tandem with his work at the ICTJ, Mr. van Zyl serves as director of the Transitional Justice program at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law.