

Gonzaga Journal of International Law 2018 Symposium: American Leadership in International Economic Law in the 21st Century

Reflection written by former GJIL editors Courtney Hall and Derek Butz

The Gonzaga Journal of International Law's annual symposium was held on April 13, 2018 at Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Washington. This year's theme was "American Leadership in International Economic Law in the 21st Century." The Gonzaga Journal of International Law was honored to welcome highly respected scholars and legal practitioners from around the world to present at the symposium, who each drew from their experience and expertise in the academic, legal, and business worlds to contribute to the symposium's discussion of its overall theme and related panel topics.

The symposium consisted of three panels. The first panel featured Professor Wang Jiangyu, Professor Upendra Acharya, Professor David Stewart, and Professor Ved Nanda. The panel's topic was "Current U.S. Leadership in International Law: Impacts on the Global Economy" and the panelists' remarks were tailored to this topic. The panel was moderated by Brooks Holland, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Gonzaga University School of Law. Professor Wang Jiangyu, an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore, delivered his remarks first and spoke on the power transition in rulemaking and norm-creation in international law. He was followed by Professor Acharya, an Associate Professor of Law at Gonzaga University School of Law, who spoke on the current American administration's impact on the global economy. Professor Ved Nanda, Professor of Law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, then spoke generally about American leadership in international law in this century. Professor Nanda was followed by Professor David Stewart, Professor from Practice at Georgetown University Law Center, who also spoke about American leadership in this century.

The second panel's topic was "The United States' Role in the Global Economy from the Transnational Business Point of View," and featured Ms. Bea Koempel-Thomas, Dr. Mehmet Komurcu, and Mr. Victor Vera, and was moderated by Professor Upendra Acharya. Ms. Koempel-Thomas, a Patent Attorney and Partner at Lee & Hayes PLLC in Spokane, WA, who leads her firm's international practice group, spoke about the activities undertaken by practitioners in the United States to shape the international patent landscape. Dr. Komurcu, Counsel at Gowling WLG in Toronto, Canada, then addressed the symposium and spoke about the impact of the current U.S. administration's policies in international business law. Dr. Komurcu was followed by Mr.

Victor Vera, a business consultant and former Area Manager for Latin America, West Africa, and the western United States for Wagstaff, Inc., an American engineering and manufacturing leader in the global aluminum industry. Mr. Vera spoke to the symposium on the importance of knowing about different cultures in dealing with international businesses.

The third panel, "The Nexus Between Global Economics and Human Rights Today," rounded out the symposium. The panel featured Professor V.G. Hegde, Professor David Stewart, and Professor Ved Nanda. Mary Pat Treuthart, Professor of Law at Gonzaga University School of Law, moderated the panel. Professor V.G. Hegde, Dean at the Faculty of Legal Studies at South Asian University in Delhi, India, spoke first on global trading rules and their impact on South Asia. He was followed by Professor David Stewart who spoke on the relevance of private international law to economic development and human rights. Professor Nanda then spoke on the global economic trend on human rights.