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## Introduction

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# INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## INTRODUCTION

CLAUDIA MARTIN & DIEGO RODRÍGUEZ-PINZÓN\*

We are delighted to present this year's publication of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, which includes the best essays in English and in Spanish submitted for the 2008 Human Rights Award on the topic "International Human Rights Law and the Protection of the Environment."

The quality of the essays was outstanding making the final decision difficult. We would like to recognize everyone that participated in the competition and mainly the two winners Carly Marcs from Australia and Rodrigo Durango Cordero from Ecuador. In addition, a final decision would not be possible without the exceptional work from the members of the Honor Jury who read and evaluated the articles.

The goal of this publication and of the competition is to provide an academic venue for scholarly legal writing by human rights experts and activists. By publishing their work, we seek to contribute quality legal writings on particular topics of relevance to the development of this dynamic area of the law. The book also reflects the diversity of cultures and languages that characterizes our interconnected world. By publishing articles in English and Spanish, we enhance and broaden the voices that shape international human rights and humanitarian law in the future.

We want to thank David Curtiss, Editor-in-Chief, and Kelly Robreno, Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Book Editor of the *American University International Law Review*, for their dedication and hard work. Publishing in two languages is

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especially demanding and we would like to recognize the law review's effort in this project. It is imperative to acknowledge the vision of its editors to foresee that the future of the international community rests on our ability to enrich our views with other people's ideas and cultures.

Finally, we want to thank the staff of the *American University International Law Review* who worked on this volume including Ricardo Ampudia, Elvira Cortez, Guillermo Eschoyez, Mara Giorgio, Rahel Kifle, Rachel Kirby, Chris Klein, Zaher Lopez, Maheta Molango, Desiree Moreno Gutierrez, Howard Schneider, Natasha Trifun, and Daniel Watson.