

Within the framework of the 2016 Pictet Competition, this panel takes stock of the current state of the reflection on effective military training in IHL and the ICRC's efforts in the field of dissemination. An insight into current efforts in academia will also be given as an example of one of the most practical and developed strategies adopted to generate respect for the law. The panelists will eventually address topical challenges in the field of dissemination and integration of IHL with the aim of further improving current efforts.



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INNOVATION IN IHL DISSEMINATION

24 March 2016, 16:30 - 18:00
Humanitarium, 17 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva



ICRC

Introduction



Etienne Kuster

Advisor for Academic Relations, ICRC

Holder of a law degree from the University of Geneva and a M.A.S. in IHL from the University Centre for IHL (Geneva Academy), Etienne Kuster has worked for the ICRC since 2006 in various capacities at headquarters and in the field. After two field missions (Pakistan and South Thailand), he has taken over the position of Adviser for relations with academic circles at ICRC headquarters in 2011. In this capacity, he oversees and supports the ICRC's worldwide interactions with academic institutions for the promotion of law and humanitarian action, develops and promotes various IHL tools and events for academics and represents the ICRC towards academic partners.

Moderator



Christopher M. Rassi

Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Christopher M. Rassi is Senior Executive Officer in the Office of the Secretary General at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He previously served as a Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Advisory Team with the Office of the Prosecutor at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and as an Associate Legal Officer in Chambers and in the Office of the President at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He also worked in private practice, as a foreign law clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa, and as an adjunct professor of law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Chris is a member of the Committee for the Jean-Pictet Competition.

Panelists



Vincent Bernard

Editor in Chief of the IRLC and Head of the ICRC Law and Policy Forum

Vincent Bernard became Editor-in-Chief of the International Review of the Red Cross in October 2010. A graduate of Strasburg's Political Sciences Institute, he holds a Masters degree in political sciences, an LL.M in international law (Law faculty in Strasburg and King's College London) and a D.E.S. in international relations from the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies. Vincent Bernard won the IHL Jean Pictet competition as part of the Graduate Institute's team in 1995. After lecturing on international law and IHL at the University of Marmara in Istanbul, he joined the ICRC in 1998. He has worked for the institution for 17 years both in the field (Regional Delegation for West Africa in Dakar, Regional Delegation for East Africa in Nairobi, and Israel and Occupied territories) and at headquarters, and in various areas and capacities (integration and promotion of IHL, communication coordinator, head of sector for Africa and head of operational communication). In 2013, Vincent Bernard was appointed as Head of the ICRC Law and Policy Forum, which runs ICRC's engagement with academia, legal and policy training and the Humanitarium, the ICRC's Conference and Visitors center.



Chad Austin

Professor of Law at the United States Air Force Academy

Chad Austin has been involved with the Pictet Competition since 2003 and is a member of the CCJP since 2012. He is currently a Professor for the Department of Law at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado, where he teaches, among other things, IHL. He previously served as the Co-Director for the Law of Armed Conflict Competition for Military Academies at the San Remo International Humanitarian Law Institute. He was appointed in 2006 as a Major in the Air Force Reserve and now holds the rank of Colonel. He deployed to the Forward Operational Base Shield, in Baghdad, Iraq where he worked with Iraqis on restoring judicial capacity and the prosecution of suspected terrorists.



Julia Grignon

Professor of International Law, Laval University

Julia Grignon is a professor of the Faculty of Law of Université Laval, where she is also a co-director of the Clinic of international criminal and humanitarian law and a co-director of the Interdisciplinary Center of Research on Africa and Middle East. She is interested in all areas of international law related to the protection of human beings: IHRL, international refugee law and international criminal law, but her specialization is in IHL, which has been her field of research for over the past 10 years. She is a member of the Committee for the International Humanitarian Law Jean-Pictet Competition since 2008. She is also a member of the board of Amnesty International Canada francophone.