

## Ambassador delivers keynote at international trade conference

The onset of the global financial crisis, impediments to international trade negotiations and the increasing interdependence of national economies made the future of international trade from the American perspective an ideal topic for the Dean Rusk Center's Fifth Annual Business Law Symposium.

The conference included a keynote speech by Ambassador Demetrios Marantis, deputy U.S. Trade Representative, as well as three panel sessions featuring some of the country's top experts in the international trade arena.

During his address, Marantis declared that "the future is now" for international trade and "we must act to embrace it." He also highlighted the biggest challenges facing the U.S. moving forward: the current U.S. approach to trade policy, engagement with Asia, rebuilding domestic consensus on trade and, finally, putting trade at the center of the national economic plan.

Making the case for trade and exports to play a larger role in the U.S. economy, Marantis said, "Trade will become part of a long-term, job-creating, sustainable growth agenda that relies less on domestic consumption and borrowing, and relies more on the 95 percent of consumers outside the United States."



Other topics explored throughout the day included the pros and cons of increased and open international trade, the challenges for the future of international trade and the structure of future multilateral trade negotiations and dispute settlement.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Business Law Society, the Terry College of Business and the Graduate Business Association.

—Fourth-year J.D./M.B.A. student Anne Marie Pippin

## The TRIPS agreement – then and now

In the mid-1990s, the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement introduced intellectual property law into the international trading system for the first time. Fifteen-plus years later, TRIPS remains the most comprehensive international agreement on intellectual property protection.

To mark this anniversary, the Dean Rusk Center partnered with the *Journal of Intellectual Property Law* to host "15 Years of TRIPS Implementation: International Intellectual Property Protection from a Global Perspective," where leading authorities in the area took a "then and now" look at the agreement and its effectiveness.

Panel discussions ranged from compulsory licensing and TRIPS compliance to TRIPS and TRIPS-plus enforcement. Free trade agreements and their effectiveness were also examined.

Adding to the discussion was Ruth Okediji, Prosser Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota, who presented "If WIPO Leads, Should the World Follow?"

In her speech, Okediji addressed the role of TRIPS in a post-TRIPS world, looking at who, or what, will lead the way. As an answer she posited five effects of TRIPS on international intellectual property protection – it strengthens the normative premise and principles of the Berne and Paris Conventions, it

strengthens the need for the World Intellectual Property Organization, it reintroduces power imbalances in global intellectual property relations, it drives institutional innovation in WIPO, and it reintroduces the primacy of the state in international law.

Overall, the consensus seemed to be that TRIPS was an important first step in intellectual property protection, but that a drastic overhaul, particularly in the enforcement mechanism provisions, may be necessary in order to ensure its ultimate effectiveness.

—Third-year student and *Journal of Intellectual Property Law* Editor-in-Chief Jennifer L. Pridgeon



## Conference focuses on nuclear security and non-proliferation



Advancing discussions regarding the future of nuclear security and non-proliferation, the Dean Rusk Center, in cooperation with the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*, hosted the conference “Fallout: The Future of Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation.”

The objective of the conference was to provide a timely and in-depth examination of recent developments in nuclear security and non-proliferation, explore prospects for change to the international legal framework governing nuclear non-proliferation and provide practical solutions for stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

As the conference keynote speaker, Larry D. Johnson, former United Nations assistant secretary-general for legal affairs and International Atomic Energy Agency general counsel, discussed the “remarkable recent developments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation.”

He specifically mentioned the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the New START treaty between the United States and Russia. While Johnson cited these developments as reasons to be optimistic about the future of nuclear security and non-proliferation, he also cautioned that serious challenges remain.

He quoted former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia as saying that “reaching a world without nuclear weapons is like climbing a mountain, and right now we are slipping further down the mountain’s slopes.”

Johnson also declared it was time for the United States “to put on its hiking boots, climb the mountain and get others to climb the mountain.”

—*Third-year student and Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law Conference Editor David S. Ballard*

## Notable speakers visit Rusk Center

Among the wide range of leading academics, practitioners and distinguished guests hosted by the Dean Rusk Center this past academic year were former U.S. Ambassador to Romania **James C. Rosapepe** and his wife, award-winning journalist **Sheilah Kast**. The duo explored what it takes for a country to successfully transition from communism to democracy and shared Romania’s evolution in their talk titled “Think Italy, Not Russia: Romania 20 Years After the Revolution.”

Financial crimes expert **Andrea Venegoni** presented “Tackling the Crisis: An EU Perspective on Financial Investigations and the Fight Against Fraud.” Venegoni, who is currently a national detached expert at the European Anti-Fraud Office in Brussels, Belgium, discussed how the European Union has been affected by the global financial crisis as well as policy changes the body is making to help prevent fraud and the misuse of EU funds.

Additionally, international business law expert **Christof Siefarth** (LL.M.’86) addressed best practices in this quickly evolving field. His lecture, titled “The 10 Essential Tools to Become an International Business Lawyer,” was held in memory of longtime Georgia Law faculty member Gabriel M. Wilner, who passed away last May. Siefarth is a partner at the law firm GÖRG in Germany.

## International Judicial Training Program continues to expand

The International Judicial Training Program hosted its largest and most distinguished group this past fall with more than 70 members from the Brazilian judiciary in attendance. Also taking part was Giuseppina Maddaluno, head of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute’s Training and Advanced Education Unit. Maddaluno was present to learn more about the program and to explore the possibility of future collaboration between the U.N. and Georgia Law in the area of judicial training.

Co-sponsored by the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia, the IJTP is designed to introduce foreign judges and court personnel to the U.S. judicial system allowing them to gain insights and ideas on potential ways to strengthen their own judicial systems.



This past fall, the IJTP welcomed Giusi Maddaluno (right) from the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. While in Athens, she met with longtime IJTP participant and Brazilian coordinator Fernando Cerqueira (left) as well as with members of the Rusk Center to learn more about the program and to discuss future collaboration.