

PROFESSOR EDWARDS HOSTS NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN LEGAL EXPERTS

"Nations have obligations to their citizens, and obligations to the international community," remarked Professor George E. Edwards during a panel discussion with North African and Middle Eastern legal luminaries, who visited Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis last March 25, 2011.

Professor Edwards hosted the panel discussion of judges, parliamentarians and legal officers from Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and the West Bank. Participants discussed a wide range of issues involving the rule of law in the U.S. and in other countries from different regions of the world. The visiting dignitaries also spoke about their observations over the previous two weeks as they toured the U.S., meeting with government officials, academicians, and private citizens.

Professor Edwards shared about numerous projects sponsored by the school's Program in International Human Rights Law (PIHRL), which Professor Edwards directs. He mentioned that the Program has sponsored over 100 internship placements in over 50 countries on six continents since 1997. Interns receive scholarship funding for air fare, housing, food, and other expenses associated with working for 10 – 12 weeks at host organizations. Interns have worked at non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental bodies (such as the United Nations), and governmental bodies. Former interns spoke at the panel discussion, as did students who had prepared shadow reports that they submitted to the United Nations to report on human rights violations in different countries. Students spoke about how they had made oral presentations on their shadow reports on the floor of UN proceedings in Geneva and New York.

The delegates were in the U.S. through the U.S. Department of State's International Leadership Visitor Program, and were sponsored by the International Center of Indianapolis. They included **Ms. Nafaal Nn Danon Al-Taee**, president, Mosul Bar Association (Iraq); **Ms. Amal Yousef Al Rfooh**, member of parliament (Jordan); **Ms. Awour Moyak Deng Koul**, judge, Southern Sudan Judiciary (Sudan); and **Mr. Raed Theeb Naji Asaf**, judge (West Bank).

The event was titled **"Rule of International Human Rights Law: North African & Middle Eastern Issues, Advocacies & Perspectives"**. It was co-sponsored by several law student organizations, including the Black Law Students' Association, International Human Rights Law Society, International Law Society, Human Rights Students' Association, and the Master of Laws Association. Also co-sponsoring the event were two Indianapolis not-for-profit organizations that were founded by law school graduates, the Center for Victim and Human Rights and Human Rights Works. Mr. Perfecto Boyet Caparas, PIHRL program manager, was the primary organizer. Ms. Maryvonne Kerzabi, director of the International Visitor Programs of the International Center of Indianapolis, coordinated the visit.

** Professor Edwards is the Carl M. Gray Professor of Law and the Director (Founding) of the school's Program in International Human Rights Law. His recent research projects include "LL.M. Roadmap to U.S. Law Schools: An International Student's Guide to U.S. Master of Laws Degree Programs" (Aspen / Wolters Kluwer Law and Business Publishing, 380 pages, spring 2011 expected release date). Professor Edwards recently resigned from his role as Director (Founding) of the*

school's LL.M. Track in International Human Rights Law. He continues his non-LL.M. human rights responsibilities.