

## **PACE UNIVERSITY'S ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW TO TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS**

August 23, 2016 – The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, which is held once every four years, will take place in Honolulu, Hawai'i September 1-10 (IUCN Congress). A delegation from Pace University's Elisabeth Haub School of Law (Pace Law), including faculty, alumni, staff and students, will join thousands of other world leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous groups, business, and academia to influence the global conservation agenda and guide IUCN's work plan for the four years to follow. Planners are hoping President Barack Obama will address the September 1 opening session, although his attendance is not yet confirmed.

The Environmental Programs at Pace Law and the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i (Hawai'i) have joined forces to hold an international environmental law moot court focused on inter-generational climate justice and the international law response to the global climate crisis—the ICJ4ICJ Moot Court. Teams from Pace Law, Hawai'i, and four other law schools in the Philippines, Brazil, South Korea and France will argue on behalf of regional intergovernmental organizations before a mock panel of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hawai'i Supreme Court on September 1. The teams' oralists will debate on the responsibility of states to address the global climate crisis for the benefit of present and future generations and use international law to argue for positive binding actions by governments to address climate change. Joseph Moravec will represent the Pace Law team and present the brief prepared on behalf of the League of Arab States.

During a workshop at the full Congress on September 5, filmed segments of the mock hearing will be presented and students will engage in a panel discussion with judges and international environmental law experts. Student briefs will then be incorporated into ongoing legal work by international lawyers in support of a resolution that asks the UN General Assembly to refer the question formally to the ICJ and to consider obligating states to address the climate crisis. "While working on the brief for this problem, and hearing input from so many experts and scholars, I have learned so much about international law and how it works. This experience is different from simply sitting in a classroom and learning the material because I get the opportunity to actually go to this important event and make a lasting impact," said Pace Law student Jeshica Patel.

During the IUCN Congress, Pace Law faculty will lead several events as part of the Forum, which brings together people from all walks of life to discuss the world's most pressing conservation and sustainability challenges from September 1-5. These include a Knowledge Café on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and the Conservation of Nature lead by Dean Emeritus Richard Ottinger, and a workshop on the Role of Local Government in Bottom-Up Climate Change Action held by Pace Law professors Jessica Bacher and Tiffany Zezula of the Land Use Law Center, in collaboration with Yale Law School and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Legal Studies' Professor Josh Galperin. In addition, IUCN Congress participants from around the world will be visiting the Haub Environmental Law Program's exhibition booth promoting its programs, partnerships and faculty publications and research.

The Pace Law delegation will participate as a voting member in the **Members' Assembly**, which is IUCN's highest decision-making body that takes joint decisions on the world's most pressing and often controversial conservation and sustainable development challenges. Over the summer, the delegation participated in online discussions of motions for the Assembly, including those submitted by its delegates regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy, and the request for an ICJ Advisory Opinion relating to inter-generational climate justice, and global peatlands. Suzy Englot, a recent Pace Law graduate, will proudly serve as the Head of Delegation, working with current students to prepare positions on critical motions selected for debate at the IUCN Congress that will guide the delegation's discussions and votes. Expressing excitement to represent Pace Law, Sarah Cinquemani, a current student, says, "I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge on topics like ecotourism, peatlands, environmental crimes, and countless other topics while in the plenary, motion discussions and numerous workshops." The students will sit aside key environmental leaders during the motion debates, support the delegation's effort to include renewable energy in the upcoming IUCN Programme (led by Dean Emeritus Ottinger) and work to have the membership application for the Animal Legal Defense Fund be approved (led by Professor David Cassuto).

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#### ***About the Haub Environmental Law Program at Pace University***

For almost four decades, Pace Law's Environmental Law Program, which houses the Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies, has provided an internationally acclaimed environmental legal education. Its dedicated faculty have been pioneers in developing and implementing environmental law and continue to serve as national and world leaders in the field. Its alumni are at work in law firms, government agencies, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and universities across the country and around the world. Its students choose from more than forty environmental law courses, exciting opportunities to work in its innovative on-campus research centers and clinics, and unparalleled prospects to develop into highly qualified environmental lawyers. For more information on the Pace Law's Environmental Law Program, visit <http://law.pace.edu/environment> and on the Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies, visit <http://law.pace.edu/global-center-environmental-legal-studies>. For further information on the IUCN Congress, visit <http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/about-congress>.

#### ***About Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University***

Pace University's Elisabeth Haub School of Law offers J.D. and Masters of Law degrees in both Environmental and International Law, as well as a series of joint degree programs including a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) in Environmental Law. The school, housed on the University's campus in White Plains, NY, opened its doors in 1976 and has over 8,000 alumni around the world. The school maintains a unique philosophy and approach to legal education that strikes an important balance between practice and theory. For more information, visit <http://law.pace.edu>.