



*Office of the Dean*



**EMPOWERING AND PROTECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DURING  
AND AFTER COVID-19”  
A CONVERSATION WITH THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
SECRETARY GENERAL ON DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY**

**October 30, 2020  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (ET)**

**Organizers**

American University Washington College of Law, Office of the Dean  
American University Washington College of Law, International and Comparative Legal  
Studies  
Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and  
Accessibility

**Objectives**

- To present the mandate of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility and its recommendations to empower and protect persons with disabilities during and after COVID-19;
- To present an overview of the World Health Organization’s “Quality Rights Materials for Training, Guidance and Transformation on Mental Health, Disability and Human Rights”; and
- To explore and discuss areas of technical collaboration to promote and protect more effectively health and other related human rights of persons with disabilities during and after COVID-19.

**Participants**

The invitation to this conversation will be widely disseminated among academic institutions, faculty and law students, international organizations, health agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities, NGOs dedicated to human rights and health law, international and regional human rights organs and treaty bodies and United Nations Special Procedures, among others.

## PROGRAM

*11:00 a.m. – 11:02 a.m.*

Opening remarks and objectives of the session

Moderator of the session: Prof. Javier Vásquez,  
Senior Advisor to the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on  
Disability and Accessibility  
Adjunct Associate Faculty on Global Health Law, American University Washington  
College of Law

*11:02 a.m.-11:12 a.m.*

American University Washington College of Law and the promotion of the human rights  
of persons with disabilities: A message from the Dean's Office

Prof. Robert Dinerstein  
Acting Dean and Director of the Disability Rights Law Clinic, American University  
Washington College of Law

*11:12 a.m.-11:28 a.m.*

Mandate of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and  
Accessibility and its recommendations to empower and protect persons with disabilities  
during and after COVID-19

Prof. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes  
Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility  
Comments by Prof. Javier Vásquez

*11:28 a.m.-11:40 a.m.*

Mental Health, Disability and Human Rights: World Health Organization Quality Rights  
Core Training and Guidance for all Services and all People

Dr. Michelle Funk  
Unit Head, Policy, Law and Human Rights Unit  
Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, World Health Organization

*11:40 a.m.-11:50 a.m.*

Questions and Answers (dialogue with participants)

*11:50 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

Dialogue on the way forward: potential areas for technical cooperation

Prof. Robert Dinerstein  
Prof. María Soledad Cisternas  
Dr. Michelle Funk

*12:00 p.m.*

End of Session