

## Sara L. Ochs

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**School:** Elon University School of Law

**Email Address:** sochs@elon.edu

### General Background:

I am an Associate Professor of Law at Elon University School of Law, where I teach Legal Method & Communication, Elon's year-long legal writing course, along with international law courses. Prior to joining academia, I clerked for the Honorable Judge Carl J. Barbier on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and practiced for several years for a general civil defense firm in New Orleans. My research lies predominantly in international criminal law and transitional justice, with a focus on the international prosecution of mass atrocities before international courts and the use of transitional justice mechanisms in post-conflict and settler colonial societies. I am a former Fulbright Scholar, having spent the 2022-2023 academic year on a Fulbright research grant in Gothenburg, Sweden. I am also a published novelist; my debut thriller THE RESORT was recently published by Sourcebooks and an imprint of Penguin Random House.

### Areas of scholarly interest consistent with the purpose of the grant program:<sup>1</sup>

I have a broad array of interests and would be happy to present on international legal writing and research; fiction writing and how it can benefit your legal or academic writing; and imposter syndrome in law school and legal academia. Please find a more comprehensive list of proposed topics below.

### A representative list of scholarship:

*Confronting Legacies of Indigenous Injustice: A Scandinavian Approach to a Global Problem*, 54 SETON HALL LAW REVIEW 641 (2024).

*Imposter Syndrome & The Law School Caste System*, 42 PACE LAW REVIEW 373 (2022).

*The Role of Truth-Telling in Indigenous Justice*, 11 JOURNAL OF RACE, GENDER, AND ETHNICITY (Published by Touro Law Center) 117 (2022).

*Propaganda Warfare on The International Criminal Court*, 42 MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 581 (2021).

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<sup>1</sup> The Legal Communication & Rhetoric Visiting Scholars Grants are intended to further support, strengthen, and encourage scholarship focusing on the study and practice of professional legal writing.

*A Framework for Synergy: Synthesizing the Relationship Between the International Criminal Court and Hybrid Tribunals*, 42 BERKELEY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW \_\_ (forthcoming 2024).

**Ideas for programming Distinguished Speaker might offer a host school, including potential topics and target audiences:**

I would be happy to present on a broad range of topics for both faculty and students. These include, but are not limited to:

- International Legal Research & Writing
- Using Fiction Writing to Improve your Legal/Academic Writing (and vice versa)
- Imposter Syndrome in Legal Academia + Law School
- Partnering with International Authors (for Faculty only)
- International Opportunities for Collaboration, Research + Teaching (for Faculty)

**In no more than 300 words, describe why a host school should consider you as a Distinguished Speaker:**

Having taught legal writing along with a host of international law courses for the last six years, I can provide a unique perspective when it comes to the overlap of legal writing and international law and practice. Also, as a former Fulbright Scholar and an academic who has presented my scholarly works in various countries, I would be honored to talk with faculty and students regarding ways to expand their international opportunities and offerings. I am extremely passionate about spreading U.S. legal knowledge and skills throughout the world and establishing cooperative and productive international relationships between individuals and organizations.

Moreover, as a published fiction author, I am happy to discuss ways in which my fiction writing benefits my legal writing, and vice versa. I would also be pleased to share my writing process and journey to publication.

# Sara L. Ochs

Associate Professor of Law

Elon University School of Law

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Elon University School of Law**, Greensboro, NC

*Associate Professor of Law* (June 2023 - present)

- **Courses Taught:** Legal Method & Communication I, II, & III; International Criminal Law

**University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law**, Louisville, KY

*Assistant Professor of Law* (2020 – present)

- **Courses Taught:** Lawyering Skills I & II; International Criminal Law; International Service-Learning Program Course: Ghana; Belize
- **Service:** Louisville Law Review Mentoring Advisor; Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team Coach & Creator; International Opportunities Committee Member; Curriculum Committee Member; Strategic Planning Committee Member; Faculty Advisor to the Disability & Allied Law Students Association

**University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies**, Göteborg, Sweden

*Fulbright U.S. Scholar & Visiting Researcher* (2022-2023)

**Elon University School of Law**, Greensboro, NC

*Legal Method & Communication Teaching Fellow* (2018 – 2020)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Scholarly Publications

**Confronting Legacies of Indigenous Injustice: A Scandinavian Approach to a Global Problem**, 54 SETON HALL LAW REVIEW \_\_ (forthcoming 2024).

**A Framework for Synergy: Synthesizing the Relationship Between the International Criminal Court and Hybrid Tribunals**, 42 BERKELEY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW \_\_ (forthcoming 2024).

**Forced Justice: The Kosovo Specialist Chambers** (with Kirbi Walters), 32 DUKE JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL LAW 239 (2022).

**The Role of Truth-Telling in Indigenous Justice**, 11 JOURNAL OF RACE, GENDER, AND ETHNICITY (Published by Touro Law Center) 117 (2022).

**Book Review:** *Invisible Atrocities: The Aesthetic Biases of International Criminal Justice*, Randle C. DeFalco (Cambridge Univ. Press 2022), INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW (2022).

**Imposter Syndrome & The Law School Caste System**, 42 PACE LAW REVIEW 373 (2022).

**Fake News & International Criminal Law**, 66 ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY LAW JOURNAL 99 (2022).

**A National Truth Commission for Native Americans**, 36 WISCONSIN JOURNAL OF LAW, GENDER & SOCIETY 1 (2021).

**Propaganda Warfare on The International Criminal Court**, 42 MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 581 (2021).

**Imposter Syndrome: Lessons for Millennial Legal Academics & Law Schools**, in MILLENNIAL LEADERSHIP IN LAW SCHOOLS: ESSAYS ON DISRUPTION, INNOVATION, AND THE FUTURE (Hein 2021).

**A Renewed Call for Hybrid Tribunals**, 52 N.Y.U. JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLITICS 351 (2020).

**The United States, the International Criminal Court, and the Situation in Afghanistan**, 95 NOTRE DAME LAW REVIEW REFLECTION 89 (2020).

**In Need of Prosecution: The Role of Personal Jurisdiction in the Khmer Rouge Tribunal**, 55 STANFORD JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 117 (2019).

**What Hun Sen's Re-Election Means for the Fate of Cambodian Justice**, 59 VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW DIGEST 1 (2018).

## **Shorter Academic Pieces**

[Russia has Committed Atrocities. But is Genocide One of Them?](#) NBC THINK (Apr. 2022).

- Interviewed on [NBC News Now](#) (Apr. 2022).

[The International Criminal Court Matters. Can Ukraine Make Us See That?](#) THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE (March 2022).

[Embracing Confident Writing](#), KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION BENCH & BAR MAGAZINE (July 2021).

[The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: A Court Divided & Stalled](#), GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BLOG (Apr. 2020).

[A Perilous Showdown between the U.S. and the ICC](#), GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD (Apr. 2020).

[Leveling the Playing Field or Razing It?: The ICC's Investigation into Afghanistan](#), JURIST (March 2020).

[The Failure to Protect International Law & Human Rights in the U.S.-China Trade Talks](#), INTLAWGRRLS (June 2019).

## **Fiction Writing**

**THE DIVE/THE RESORT**, a debut thriller novel.

- Published as **The Dive** in the U.K. and British Commonwealth in July 2023 by Bantam Books, a division of Penguin Random House.
- Scheduled publication as **The Resort** in the U.S. and Canada in February 2024 by Sourcebooks Landmark.
- Publication also forthcoming in Germany (Blanvalet); the Netherlands (De Fontein); Finland (Bazar); and Russia (Everbook) in 2024 and 2025.

## **AWARDS, GRANTS & HONORS**

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**2022 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award - Sweden**, to fund six months of research at the University of Gothenburg School of Global Studies during the 2022-2023 academic year

**University of Louisville Research & Scholarship Award**

**University of Louisville Student Champion Award (Selected by Students)**

**2021 Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence Fellowship**, to fund travel to the 2021 Conference for Assistant Professors at Purdue University

**University of Louisville Annual Student Champion Award (Selected by Students)**

**2020 Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) & Legal Writing Institute (LWI) Scholarship Grant**, to fund *Imposter Syndrome & The Law School Caste System* (forthcoming in Pace Law Review 2022)

## **SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Confronting Legacies of Indigenous Injustice**

- Presenter, (In)Justice International's World Convention in Finland (March 2023).
- Presenter and Panelist, Indigenous Access to Justice Conference hosted by Arizona State University (Feb. 2023).
- Presenter, The University of Gothenburg's Critical Heritage Studies Research Group (Jan. 2023).
- Presenter, Workshop on Environmental Destruction: The Effects of War, Pollution & Capital hosted by (In)Justice International and Liverpool Hope University (Dec. 2022).

### **A Framework for Synergy**

- Presenter, American Society of International Law Mid-Year Meeting at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law (Nov. 2023).
- Presenter, The University of Gothenburg's Human Rights Seminar (Feb. 2023).
- Presenter and Panelist, The Consequences of War and Their Interdependence Conference at The University of Padova, Italy (Nov. 2022).

### **The Role of Truth Telling in Indigenous Justice**

- Symposium Presenter and Panelist, Touro Law Center's Journal of Race, Gender, and Ethnicity's 2022 Symposium: "Redressing Legacies of Injustice from Slavery, Empire, and Beyond: Reparations and Restorative Justice," panel on "Negotiating Memory in the Project of Repair" (March 2022).

### **Fake News & International Criminal Law**

- Presenter, Saint Louis University School of Law's Center for International and Comparative Law's Distinguished Speaker Series (Sept. 2021).

### **Imposter Syndrome & The Non-Traditional Law Professor**

- Presenter and Participant, AALS Annual Meeting, AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Scholarship Workshop (Jan. 2022).
- Invited Presenter, Utah Law Review Symposium: #IncludeTheirStories: Rethinking, Reimagining, and Reshaping Legal Education (Nov. 2021).
- Presenter and Panelist, Central States Law Schools Association Annual Conference (Sept. 2021).
- Virtual Presenter, 2021 ALWD Biennial Conference (June 2021).

### **A National Truth Commission for Native Americans**

- Symposium Presenter, Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society Symposium: "Confronting Violence Against Indigenous Peoples" (Feb. 2021).

### **Propaganda Warfare on the International Criminal Court**

- Presenter and Panelist, AALS Annual Meeting, New Voices in International Human Rights (Jan. 2021).
- Presenter, American Society of International Law Research Forum at Case Western Reserve University School of Law (Oct. 2020).
- Presenter, Northern Illinois University Junior Scholars Chicagoland Conference (Oct. 2020).
- Presenter, Brandeis Law Faculty Speaker Series (Sept. 2020).

### **A Renewed Call for Hybrid Tribunals**

- Presenter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Postgraduate Conference in International Law & Human Rights at the University of Liverpool (June 2019).
- Presenter, Normative Developments in International Law Conference at Canterbury Christ Church University (June 2019).
- Participant and Commentator, American Society of International Law Southeast Junior Scholar Workshop at Washington & Lee University School of Law (May 2019).

### **In Need of Prosecution: The Role of Personal Jurisdiction in the Khmer Rouge Tribunal**

- Commentator and Presenter, American Society of International Law International Courts and Tribunals Interest Group 2019 Works-In-Progress Conference at The John Marshall Law School (Jan. 2019).
- Presenter and Panelist, AALS Annual Meeting, New Voices in International Law and Human Rights Panel (Jan. 2019).
- Presenter and Panelist, British International Studies Association “International Law Under Pressure” Workshop at The University of Glasgow (Nov. 2018).

### **Legal Writing Presentations**

- Presenter, *A Director-Less Approach to Collaboration During a Pandemic*, Virtual LWI One-Day Workshop hosted by Appalachian School of Law (Dec. 2020).
- Presenter, *Imposter Syndrome & Legal Writing Faculty*, LWI One-Day Workshop at Penn State Dickinson Law (Dec. 2019).
- Presenter, *Fostering Engagement & Practical Experience in the Legal Writing Curriculum*, Carolinas Legal Research & Writing Colloquium at University of South Carolina School of Law (May 2019).

## **EDITORIAL & REVIEWER ROLES**

**International Journal of Transitional Justice** (published by Oxford University Press),  
Invited Reviewer (2023 – present).

**The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals** (published by Brill), Invited  
Reviewer (2023 – present).

**American Society of International Law, International Courts & Tribunals Interest  
Group**, Newsletter Editor (2020 – present).

**American Bar Association Section of International Law, International Courts & Judicial  
Affairs Committee**, Committee Editor of *International Law Year in Review* (2017-2022).

**Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute**, Editorial Board Member (2020-  
2021).

**Legal Communication & Rhetoric: JALWD**, Guest Reviewer (2020).

Loyola Law Review, Casenote & Comment Editor (2013-14).

## **OTHER TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies**

*Guest Lecturer* (2023)

Taught class on Truth Commissions & Indigenous Justice in Global Politics of Heritage Course (part of the Master's Degree Program in Global Studies).

### **American Red Cross**

*Guest Lecturer* (2021 – present)

Trained and certified by the American Red Cross to create and teach seminars on international humanitarian and international criminal law to Red Cross volunteers and the general public. My two-part seminar series on [Introduction to International Criminal Law](#) garnered an audience of approximately 200 attendees.

### **Tracing Inherent Powers Research Project**

*Associated Expert on Louisiana Jurisprudence* (2021 – present)

Surveyed the exercise and rationalization of uncodified powers by domestic courts within Louisiana in furtherance of the [Tracing Inherent Powers](#) research project led by Leiden University.

### **Lawyers, Conflict & Transition**

*Researcher, Cambodia Project* (2019)

Researched contemporary legal issues in Cambodia caused by the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime in furtherance of research project led by Queen's University Belfast.

## **CLERKSHIP & OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

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Admitted to the Louisiana Bar

### **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA**

*Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Carl J. Barbier* (2014 – 2015)

### **Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP, New Orleans, LA**

*Legal Consultant* (2018 – 2023)

*Associate Attorney, Litigation, Tort & Insurance and Maritime Law Sections* (2015 – 2017)

### **Akerman LLP, New Orleans, LA**

*Associate Attorney, Consumer Financial Services Section* (2017 – 2018)

### **U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria, VA**

*Summer Law Clerk; Criminal Division* (2012)

## **EDUCATION**

**J.D., *Summa Cum Laude*, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, 2014**

Graduated Second in Class of 212 students

Common Law Division; Certificate in International Legal Studies

Loyola Law Review, Casenote and Comment Editor & Board Member

Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team, Student Coach, Oralist,  
& Brief-Writer

**B.B.A. International Business, *Magna Cum Laude*, Loyola University Maryland, 2011**

NCAA Division I Varsity Cross County & Indoor/Outdoor Track Athlete

Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, Study Abroad Participant

## **LEADERSHIP ROLES & SERVICE POSITIONS**

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### **American Society of International Law**

*International Courts & Tribunals Interest Group Advisory Board Member* (2019 – present)

*Creator and Editor of International Courts & Tribunals Interest Group Newsletter* (2020 – present)

### **ABA Section of International Law**

*Senior Advisor to International Courts & Judicial Affairs Committee* (2022 – present)

*Co-Chair of International Courts & Judicial Affairs Committee* (2019 – 2022)

*Vice Chair of International Courts & Judicial Affairs Committee* (2017 – 2019)

### **Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot**

*Volunteer Arbitrator* (2017 – 2018; 2021 – 2022)

### **Clooney Foundation for Justice**

*Trial Monitor, Certified by the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner* (2020 – present)

### **The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition**

*Affiliate Member* (2021 – present)

### **Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Young Alumni Board**

*Board Member and 2014 Class Representative* (2017 – 2018)