

**Southwestern Law School and the Human Rights Defender's Office,  
Republic of Armenia  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into, as of the date of the below signatures, between Southwestern Law School, located in Los Angeles, California ("Southwestern"), and the Human Rights Defender's Office, Republic of Armenia, ("Armenia Defender's Office"). The purpose of the MOU is for Southwestern to provide the Armenia Defender's Office with educational and professional development opportunities.

**I. Scope**

1. The duration of this MOU is through May 2023 (i.e., end of Southwestern's spring semester).
2. Southwestern is entering into a similar agreement with the Human Rights Defender's Office, Republic of Artsakh, which includes exactly the same terms memorialized herein. The Armenia Defender's Office will confer with the Human Rights Defender's Office, Republic of Artsakh, to coordinate how each will participate in or share the opportunities offered by Southwestern, enumerated in section II below.
3. The Armenian Bar Association has been involved in Southwestern's conversations with the Armenia Defender's Office. The Armenia Defender's Office will consult with the Armenian Bar Association and seek the organization's guidance to participate in the opportunities offered by Southwestern, enumerated in section II below. The Armenia Defender's Office will also seek the assistance of the Armenian Bar Association, as needed and as feasible, with respect to visa issues.

**II. Opportunities Offered by Southwestern**

Southwestern offers the following educational and professional development opportunities to the Armenia Defender's Office.

1. **Visiting Scholars:** From time-to-time, Southwestern hosts a visiting scholar providing them with work space, access to Southwestern's Library resources, and opportunities to interact with Southwestern faculty. A visiting scholar is typically an accomplished legal professional and/or academic pursuing further development of their research and scholarship agenda.
  - a. For the duration of this MOU, Southwestern will host one such visiting scholar per year from the Human Rights Defender's Offices of Armenia or Artsakh, for a semester or summer session (or part thereof).
  - b. The prospective visiting scholar will have to be an attorney with the Human Rights Defender's Office of Armenia or Artsakh or a law school faculty member in Armenia or

Artsakh. In either case, the prospective visiting scholar must be recommended by the Human Rights Defender of Armenia or Artsakh.

- c. The prospective visiting scholar will have to submit the following materials, at least three months before the proposed visit, to be considered by Southwestern's Vice Dean: letter of support from the Human Rights Defender of Armenia or Artsakh; resume; purpose of visit and research agenda; and preferred date of visit.
  - d. Southwestern shall not bear any financial responsibility for the visiting scholar. The visiting scholar will be responsible for all the travel and visa arrangements as well as costs associated with the visit.
2. **Scholarships:** For the duration of this MOU, Southwestern will offer two types of scholarships to Armenia and Artsakh.
- a. Full LL.M. Scholarship
    - i. Full scholarship for up to one General LL.M. student per year.
    - ii. The applicant will have to apply and meet the General LL.M. admission requirements.
  - b. Full Scholarship for Enrolling in Select Courses
    - i. Full scholarship for up to four visitors per year, enrolling in up to three courses per term – i.e., fall semester (typically mid-August to mid-December); January Intersession (one-week-long courses in early January); spring semester (typically second week of January to mid-May); summer session (typically end of May to third week of July).
    - ii. The visitor will have to apply as though they were applying for the General LL.M. program.
    - iii. Typically a cap of three visitors will apply to each term, and typically a cap of two visitors will apply to each course.
    - iv. Visitor could choose grading based on Southwestern's alpha grade system or High Honors, Honors, etc.
    - v. Upon satisfactory completion of course(s), Southwestern will provide each attendee with a certificate attesting to completion of course(s).
  - c. Additional Provisions Applicable to Scholarships. With respect to both types of scholarships (II.2.a & b, above), the following provisions apply:
    - i. Admission to the LL.M. program will follow Southwestern's usual procedures.
    - ii. Current information about Southwestern's LL.M. program can be found here: <https://www.swlaw.edu/jd-llm-programs/general-llm> .
    - iii. Each student will be responsible for all the travel and visa arrangements as well as costs associated with attending Southwestern – outside of the scholarship tuition awarded by Southwestern to the student.
    - iv. The Armenia Defender's Office will promote the scholarships among its staff and area law schools and provide recommendations to Southwestern for applicants it believes are best qualified for the Southwestern scholarships.

- v. Southwestern will award scholarships to entering students based on the recommendation of the Armenia Defender's Office as well as considering prior academic performance, letters of recommendation, professional and other experience, interest in studying in the United States, and other relevant factors.

**III. Additional Provisions**

1. Both institutions will promote the various initiatives of this MOU within their respective community.
2. This MOU may be amended in writing by mutual decision of both institutions. Both institutions anticipate that any issues that arise and any modifications to this MOU that need to be made will be addressed cooperatively between the institutions.
3. Either institution may terminate this MOU by giving three months' notice in writing to the other institution. Both institutions will cooperate to ensure no student or visiting scholar's educational and professional development opportunities are compromised due to termination of this MOU.
4. All notices and communications with respect to the MOU should be directed to:

Anahid Gharakhanian, Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing & Skills and  
Director of the Externship Program  
on behalf of Southwestern Law School  
3050 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90010  
[agharakhanian@swlaw.edu](mailto:agharakhanian@swlaw.edu), 213.738.6786; and

Dr. Arman Tatoyan  
Human Rights Defender, Republic of Armenia  
Pushkin 56a str.  
0002 Yerevan, Armenia  
[tatoyan@ombuds.am](mailto:tatoyan@ombuds.am), +37410 53 02 62

In witness whereof, the parties have here offered their signatures:

Date: Nov 25, 2019  
Southwestern Law School  
By Susan Westerberg Prager  
Dean & CEO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Arman Tatoyan  
Human Rights Defender, Republic of Armenia

