

AALS Annual Convention Plenary Panel: Impact of Globalization on Human Rights – Introduction of the Panel

By Dean Claudio Grossman

[Editors' Note: From the plenary panel that presented at this year's Association of American Law Schools Annual Convention on January 4, 2003, in Washington, DC. The remarks of the panelists appear exclusively in *German Law Journal* with the kind permission of the authors and the AALS.]

Addressing Human Rights requires that we consider both reality and imagination. What forces are shaping the world in which we live? What space is available for change? What role is played, and can be played by individuals? At a meeting of relatively young leaders of this hemisphere, organized by the Inter-American Development Bank at the end of the Twentieth Century, Gabriel Garcia Marquez was asked what we might expect from the Twenty-First Century as we emerge from the Twentieth Century, which distinguished itself with two world wars and with genocide. Gabriel Garcia Marquez responded by saying that we should not expect anything from the Twenty-First Century. He explained that everything relevant was the result of imagination, from the *Ninth Symphony* to heart transplants; they were in the heads of their inventors before taking place in reality.

I can hardly think of a better group of individuals than the contributors to this AALS Plenary Panel to discuss the relevant issues involved in analyzing the *Impact of Globalization on Human Rights*, bringing to bear both reality and imagination to question. We have, after all, the possibilities and potential to change the world in which we live. Contributing to the Panel are: Tom Farer, Dean of the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver, who will discuss the effect of globalization on democracy; the Honorable Patricia Wald, the current chair of the Open Society Justice Initiative, who will discuss international norms, international courts, national security, the role of NGOs, and issues involving the definition of human rights and enforcement mechanisms; Aryeh Neier, the President of the Open

Society Institute, who will generally discuss the impact of globalization on human rights; and Anne-Marie Slaughter, Dean of the Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, who will discuss the role of government networks in promoting and protecting human rights.