

FACT SHEET

The 2017 Independent Panel for the Election of Inter-American Commissioners

Nienke Grossman (USA) is an Associate Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Her recent scholarship examines the causes of and possible solutions for the paucity of women judges on international courts and tribunals, and she is co-editing a forthcoming book on legitimacy and international courts (Cambridge University Press). Professor Grossman has presented her work at various law faculties and conferences around the world, as well as at the United Nations. Prior to entering academia, she was a Research Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center, an Associate in Foley Hoag LLP's international litigation practice, and a law clerk to United States Federal District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee. She has served as a legal advisor to Latin American states in cases before the International Court of Justice and has advised petitioners in cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Professor Grossman was, until recently, co-chair of the American Society of International Law's International Courts and Tribunals Interest Group, and she is a Strategic Advisor to Gqual, a group dedicated to increasing the percentage of women on international law-making bodies. She is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, and has an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center.

Miguel Gutiérrez (Costa Rica) graduated with a degree in Economics from the University of Costa Rica in 1993. He holds a Ph.D. in Education with specialization in pedagogical mediation from Universidad de la Salle (2006). He studied philosophy and theology at the Major Seminary of the Dioceses of Choluteca for two years (1966-1967) in Honduras. In addition, he was awarded a fellowship from the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame. Moreover, he is the facilitator for the process of National Dialogue with all the political parties represented in Costa Rica's parliament. He is also the founder and was, from 1994 to 2014, the director of the Programa Estado de la Nación; in that period he coordinated the publication of nineteen national reports and four reports on the state of education. He also led the Central American Regional Project whose objective was the preparation of four development reports on each country in the region, and has served as a recognized consultant for a range of governmental and academic institutions at the national and regional level.

Cecilia Medina (Chile) graduated from the School of Law of the University of Chile (1958). She earned her degree as Doctor of Laws at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands (1988). She has lectured at the University of Chile, University Diego Portales and several European and American universities. She is the founder and former Director of the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Chile School of Law. She was also appointed professor at the Robert F. Kennedy Chair for distinguished Latin Americans at Harvard Law School (1997). She was a member (1995-2002) and President (1999-2001) of the United Nations' Human Rights Committee, and judge (2004-2007) and President (2008-2009) of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. She participated in a five person commission – the Independent Panel on the International Criminal Court Judicial Elections – which aimed to analyze the background of the candidates to the International Criminal Court under the requirements of the Rome Statute in order to serve as background for the Court's elections which took place subsequently. For her distinguished work in human rights, she was awarded the grade of Commandeur of the order of Oranje Nassau by the Kingdom of The Netherlands. In 2015 she also participated in the Independent Panel for the Election of Inter-American Commissioners and Judges.

Elizabeth Salmón (Peru) is an Associate Professor of International Law at Pontifical Catholic University of Peru School of Law and Director of the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights (IDEHPUCP). She is also the Director of the Master's Degree Program in Human Rights at the same university. She holds a Ph.D. in International Law from the University of Seville, Spain. She is the author of several publications on public international law, international human rights law, international criminal law, international humanitarian law and transitional justice. She has been a consultant in the Peruvian Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defense, as well as the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She has also consulted for the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. In addition, she is a visiting professor at the Universidad de Universidad Externado de Colombia and a guest lecturer for the annual course at the Institut International des Droits de l'Homme.

Miguel Sarre (Mexico) is an Associate Professor at the School of Law of the Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology (ITAM). He was a member of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (2007-2014). He holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from the Escuela Libre de Derecho from Mexico City. He was promoter of the institution of the ombudsman in Mexico and was the first one to occupy the position of ombudsperson in the country. Later, he served as Third General Visitor and Technical Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission in Mexico. He has worked in the legislation and instrumentation of state offices that support the investigative tools of the public defender's offices, the autonomous expert and forensic services in the federative entities, as well as the due process inside the penitentiary system and the incorporation of the adversarial system in the justice criminal system in Mexico. He is advisor to the pioneering organization for the relatives of persons deprived of liberty "Mothers and Sisters of Luis Pasteur Square" and a board member for the Due Process of Law Foundation.