

**WILLIAM JESSUP UNIVERSITY
PUBLIC POLICY DEPARTMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY FORUM
January 25, 2009**

The Public Policy Department hosted its 3rd Annual International Justice Day Forum from 3-5 pm on Sunday, January 25th, 2009, in the WJU Lecture Hall. This event featured Gary Haugen, President and CEO of International Justice Mission as well as leaders of Agape International Mission and Adventure Christian Church. Over 300 people attended this much anticipated event where students, faculty, and members from the community came together to address key human rights and global justice issues.

This event was cosponsored by the WJU Chapter of International Justice Mission. The WJU Chapter of IJM is dedicated to promoting international justice on the local, state, and national levels and encourages individuals to address injustice worldwide. IJM Chapter students gave a dramatic performance at the beginning of the program, highlighting the widespread issue of human trafficking and sexual exploitation throughout the world.

Gary Haugen founded IJM in 1997 to combat global injustices such as human slavery, sexual exploitation, and violent oppression. He discussed what was the global challenge and opportunities to promote justice as well as how the church can address these issues. Mr. Haugen also explained how IJM works with local and international organizations to free these victims and enable them to become contributing members of their community. IJM's justice professionals work in their communities in 12 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to secure tangible and sustainable protection of national laws through local court systems.

Following Mr. Haugen's presentation, a distinguished panel of experts directly involved in this effort shared their experience and perspectives on the principal concerns in this fight against injustice. Don and Bridget Brewster, Executive Director and Administration Director of Agape International Mission, answered the call from God to minister to victims of sexual exploitation by establish restoration and rehabilitation centers. They recalled the testimonies of many of these young girls who have been freed from the lives of sexual slavery. Rick Stedman, Senior Pastor of Adventure Christian Church, encouraged the Body of Christ to take a stand against these injustices and explained how members of the civic community can get involved. Bryce Jessup, President of William Jessup University, continued to encourage those in attendance that we can all do something to combat this problem; he also commented on the younger generation's passion for justice and how the different age groups can unite around this issue. Mr. Jessup then presented a special gift of \$1,000 from the Public Policy Department on behalf of WJU to Gary Haugen to support IJM's ongoing work.

After the presentations, the floor was opened for members of the audience to ask questions concerning issues discussed in the forum. Questions related to the prosecution of child predators who travel to third world countries and what our government is doing about this crime domestically. Additionally, a time of prayer was lifted up specifically for those serving as lawyers, legal assistants, and investigators in these countries.

At the end of the program, various ministries committed to seeking justice both domestically and globally were invited to briefly share the heart of their ministries and how we can do something here and now. Representatives from Agape International Mission, Courage To Be You, the Chab Dai Coalition, Providence World Ministries and Stanford University's Freedom Summit all presented unique opportunities for community members to fight this global injustice on a local level.

The William Jessup University International Justice Day provided not only an opportunity to raise awareness concerning significant human rights abuses, but provided insight into the lives of those who have committed themselves to stopping these injustices; these living testimonies provoke and inspire us all to heed the words of Isaiah 1:17, "seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless, and plead the case of the widow."