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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law, "Dean Logan's Blog: Prof. Teitz Tapped for Important International Law Mission" (2011). *Law School Blogs*. 289.

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Dean Logan's Blog

Prof. Teitz Tapped for Important International Law Mission

Posted by David Logan on 08/25/2011 at 03:02 PM

RWU Law has always prided itself on the extraordinary credentials and accomplishments of its faculty – in the classroom, in scholarly journals, and in “boots on the ground” practice settings.

So it was a great pleasure to learn that [Professor Louise Ellen Teitz](#) – a founding member of the RWU Law faculty and a “tough but loveable” favorite in the building – has been appointed First Secretary at the Permanent Bureau of the [Hague Conference on Private International Law](#). In this capacity she is the highest-ranking American diplomat on the staff of the Conference, which is based at The Hague in the Netherlands. In fact, the U.S. has not had a representative at this level since the mid-1990s.

[The Hague Conference](#) has representatives from over 70 countries, and precedes the United Nations by more than 50 years. While the UN focuses on public international law, the Hague Conference is the premier organization for the development and enforcement of private international law treaties and conventions. The Conference defines itself as “a melting pot of different legal traditions, developing and serving multilateral legal instruments, which respond to global needs.

Professor Teitz recently wrote me.

“
I am very excited about this appointment, as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to continue my work in international law reform.
”



Professor Louise Ellen Teitz at The Hague, Netherlands, during a June 2011 diplomatic conference.

“
I will take primary responsibility for several of the International Family Law conventions, including the Hague Abduction Convention and the 1996 Convention on Protection of Children, which together regulate children, family and property relations. My first big assignment is working with negotiations on proposed changes to the Abduction Convention.”



Professor Teitz (front row, first on left) with the Delegates to the Special Commission on Child Abduction Convention

The entire RWU Law Community is incredibly proud of Louise Ellen, and wish her all the best as she embarks on this exciting new venture helping to improve the lot of families around the globe. My only regret is that her posting will keep her out of the country for a while - and her inimitable presence will be sorely missed until she returns.

As she noted in a recent email,

“
I will miss my colleagues and students at RWU during my leave, but look forward to staying in touch electronically and by occasional return visits to my home in Rhode Island.”

The feeling is mutual – but we are all very proud of Professor Louise Ellen Teitz, a standout international player on our top-notch faculty.



Professor Teitz empaneled with other members of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law