

**Ruth K. & Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series**  
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



**Panel Discussion: “The Death Penalty: European Union and International Perspectives”**  
By European Consuls General in Miami, and FIU College of Law Experts

**Tuesday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus**  
**11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street – Miami, FL 33199 – FIU College of Law –Courtroom RDB 1000**

**Panel Discussion Participants: Biographical Notes**

**Moderator**



**Professor Manuel A. Gómez**

*Associate Dean for International and Graduates Studies  
& Professor of Law, FIU College of Law*

J.S.D., J.S.M., Stanford University

J.D. (cum laude), Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (Caracas, Venezuela)

Manuel A. Gómez is Associate Dean of International and Graduate Studies and Professor of Law at Florida International University College of Law where he regularly teaches courses on Complex Litigation, International Arbitration, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Law and Society, and Introduction to International and Comparative Law, with emphasis on Latin America. Professor Gómez also has law teaching experience at other US universities such as Stanford and Iowa, and has been at numerous Latin American, European, and Asian universities, either as guest lecturer, speaker or visiting professor. Professor Gómez’s research and academic writing focuses on dispute resolution and governance, legal and institutional reform in Latin America, the globalization of the legal profession, and innovations in legal education. More specifically, professor Gómez studies the use of different dispute resolution mechanisms and fora in an array of contexts, ranging from transnational litigation and international arbitration, to domestic litigation and other non-institutionalized mechanisms. He is also an expert on institutional and legal reform in Latin America, and is also interested in the globalization of lawyers, the role of Judges, and innovations in legal education. Professor Gómez has also served as legal expert in the context of domestic and transnational litigation, and International Arbitration proceedings in the US and Latin America. He is a founding member of the Miami International Arbitration Society (MIAS), member of the Faculty Council of the International Law Section of the Florida Bar, member of the Academic Council at the Institute of Transnational Arbitration (ITA), and member of the Academic Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU, among others.

## **ACADEMIC PANELIST**



**Professor Stephen K. Harper**  
*Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor*  
*FIU College of Law*

B.A., Haverford College  
J.D., Northeastern University School of Law

Stephen K. Harper teaches a course on the death penalty and is the supervising attorney in the death penalty clinic.

For 29 years he worked at the Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office, the last 17 as Co-coordinator of the Capital Litigation Unit. He was primarily responsible for the gathering and presentation of mitigation evidence in capital cases. From 1989 –1995, he served as the Chief of the Juvenile Division. In 2002, he took a two-year leave of absence to coordinate the Juvenile Death Penalty Initiative, a project ending with his oversight of the drafting and filing of amicus briefs in *Roper v Simmons*.

Harper has lectured nationally and internationally on both juvenile and death penalty issues. He worked on the American Bar Association’s American Bar Association’s Guidelines Advisory Committee and participated in the revision of ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Counsel in Death Penalty Cases. He has consulted with and advised the military defense team in case involving a child soldier in Guantanamo under the Military Commissions Act — *USA v Omar Ahmed Khadr* and has consulted in the death penalty cases of *Abdul Kabir v Quarterman* and *Brewer Quarterman*.

In 1998, he received the American Bar Association’s Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award for “outstanding dedication and advocacy on behalf of delinquent youth.” In 2005, he received the Southern Center for Human Rights’ Frederick Douglass Award for “his demonstrated brilliance and tenacity in defense of human rights in the criminal justice system and in 2011 the James “Jim” Evans Slater Award for “your outstanding representation of indigent persons charged with capital crimes, and your relentless pursuit of justice” presented by the Florida Public Defender Association.

## **INTERNATIONAL PANELISTS**



**Hon. Cándido Creis Estrada**  
*Consul General of Spain in Miami*

Cándido Creis is a career diplomat in the Spanish Foreign Office. In 1995, he took up his first assignment as Head of Foreign Policy and Security Area at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Madrid. In 1996 he joined the staff of the Royal Household of His Majesty the King as Deputy Director of the Department of Protocol. In 2001 he went on to work at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union in Brussels until 2006. From 2006 to 2009 he served as Counselor at the Embassy of Spain in Tel Aviv. In 2009 he returned to Brussels to the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union. In 2010 he was Chief of Staff of the Undersecretary of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Most recently, Cándido Creis was appointed Chief of Protocol of the Royal Household of His Majesty the King of Spain (2011 – 2014). From December 2014 to July 2015, he served as Vice Commissioner of the Spanish Pavilion of the World Expo –Milano 2015 (“Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”).

Since August 2015, Cándido Creis is the Consul General of Spain in Miami for Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Cándido Creis has a Law Degree from the Complutense University of Madrid and a Course of English Law from the University of Kent at Canterbury.



**Hon. Catalin Ghenea**  
*Consul General of Romania in Miami*

Catalin Ghenea assumed his duty as Consul General of Romania in Miami on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Prior to this appointment he was posted as Consul and Consul General in Los Angeles. Between 1999–2002 he served as diplomatic counselor in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North America Division, after heading the Israeli Office in the Division for Middle East and Africa.

For two years, between 1997-1999, he was employed as program advisor – international officer – with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995 he was, beginning 1990, Director for International Relations for Youth in the Ministry of Youth and Sport, being member of, or heading, Romanian delegations to numerous international conferences.

Mr. Ghenea holds a master's Degree in Architecture with the University of Bucharest, profession which he performed until 1990. He also holds a master's Degree in Public Administration with the University of Bucharest.

He is fluent in English, French, German and Portuguese.



**Hon. Clément Leclerc**  
*Consul General of France in Miami*

Clément Leclerc assumed office as Consul General of France in Miami on September 5, 2016. Upon joining the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003, Mr. Clément Leclerc was assigned to the Department for the United Nations and international organizations.

In 2006, he was appointed First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New-York, where he served in the Security Council team.

In 2009, he joined the Office of the President of the French Republic as technical advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa.

From 2012 to 2016, he served as First Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of France in Mexico.

Clément Leclerc, who holds a master's in international law, is also a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies and of the French National School of Government (ENA).



**Hon. Gera Sneller**

*Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami\*

Gerdine (Gera) Sneller joined the Netherlands' ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993 as a career diplomat. She is currently serving as the Netherlands' Consul General in Miami for Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Before arriving in Miami in August 2017, Gera Sneller served as the Netherlands' Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi (2013-2017) and Deputy Head of Mission/Head of Development Cooperation in Dakar, Senegal (2008-2013). Prior, Gera Sneller served at the Ministry in The Hague and at the Netherlands' Permanent Representation at the United Nations in New York.

Gera Sneller holds master's degrees from the University of Amsterdam in Economic and Social History and Economics (Macro-economics, International Economic Relations and Development Economics).