

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Screening and Discussion of Ukraine Documentary

September 1, 2026. Washington, PA.

The public is invited to attend a screening of the documentary "Stand Tall for the Rule of Law" and discussion about the ongoing war in Ukraine on October 13, at 6:00pm at W&J College Burnett Center, East Wheeling Street, Washington & Jefferson College. The program is hosted by W&J College's pre-law and Conflict and Resolution Studies programs, the Washington County Bar Association, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

In early December of 2023, a documentary film crew and a delegation from the American Society of International Law (ASIL) crossed the Polish border in Lviv, Ukraine, to meet with members of the Ukrainian Association of International Law for a three-day "Stand Tall for the Rule of Law" summit, which included 75 international law experts and 75 Ukrainian counterparts. Their agenda was to reaffirm commitment to the fundamental principles of international law, respond to the call of the Ukrainian legal community for partnership, and to reflect on the role of international law at this historic inflection point. The timing of the event marked the 7th anniversary of the Genocide Convention and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The film crew documented portions of the summit, capturing both the dialogue among legal scholars and the unfolding tragedy in Ukraine. The resulting 22-minute documentary was directed by Mark Rinehart and produced by Summer Wright, with Director of Photography Nic Mclean and a Ukrainian local crew. It received a Best Short Documentary nomination at the Berlin Independent Film Festival.

The post-screening discussion will feature Ronald A. Brand, the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Professor of Law and the Academic Director of the Center for International Legal Education (CILE) at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He attended the Rule of Law Summit as part of his work with CILE. In an post-summit interview with the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, he stressed "Peace requires justice; justice requires the rule of law; and the rule of law requires lawyers."

Brand has delivered a special course on private international law at the Hague Academy of International Law, been a Fulbright Scholar in Belgium, and been a Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna. He has received the ABA Section on International Law's Leonard A. Theberge Award in Private International Law, the University of Pittsburgh Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement, and a Dr. Jur. honoris causa from the University of Augsburg. Brand was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Special Commissions and Diplomatic Conferences of The Hague Conference on Private International Law that concluded the 2005 Convention on Choice of Court Agreements and the 2019 Hague Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters and now is a U.S. representative to the Working Group considering a convention on concurrent proceedings. He has worked with the US Commerce Department Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) to train students in more than 30 countries in the Middle East, the Balkans, and Asia, for the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Washington County Bar Association at 724-225-6710 or wcbawashcobar.org. # # # #