

EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law (AUWCL) , Washington DC, USA <i>S.J.D.</i> , International Trade and Investment Law	Aug. 2021
American University, Washington College of Law (AUWCL) , Washington DC, USA <i>LL.M.</i> , International Legal Studies Program (ILSP)	Aug. 2016
University of Shahid Beheshti , Tehran, Iran, <i>LL.M.</i> , International Law	Oct. 2009
European Inter-University Center for Human Rights (EIUC) , Venice, Italy <i>MA</i> , Human Rights and Democratization	Sept. 2008
University of Allameh Tabataba'i , Tehran, Iran <i>LL.B.</i> , Law	Jan. 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tenure-Track Full-Time Professor, Morgan State University , Baltimore, MD, USA	Sept. 2021-Present
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Coach, Morgan State University Undergraduate Student Team for Penn State SMEAL Business of Sustainability Case Competition.
- Reviewer for leading journals (American Business Law Journal, International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship) and conferences (Academy of Legal Studies in Business, Eastern Academy of Management, Out and Into Africa).
- Book Reviewer, Business Law, 12th Ed. by Henry R. Cheeseman (2024).
- Grant proposal reviewer for National Science Foundation Trustworthy AI in Law and Society Institute (2024-2025).

WORKING PAPERS

- *ESG Paradox in New Ventures: Enhancing Legitimacy without Securing Funding*, presented at the French academy of Legal Studies in Business Conference, Lille, France (Dec. 2024).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- *Peer-to-Peer Lending at the Edge of Innovation: A Mission Tested by Regulation*, Teaching Case, Admitted to the North American Case Research Association (NACRA) Conference, Oct. 2025.

Consultant, World Bank Group , Washington DC, USA	Feb. 2019- May 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EFI Governance Procurement Global Director, Preparation of global survey on countries' public procurement laws and regulations restricting international competition and trade• Drafting research memoranda, preparing presentations, and other work products on priority areas of operational policy work such as governance frameworks for emerging technologies (blockchain, AI, biometrics), alternate dispute resolution for World Bank financing operations, and legal implications of operations in Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) situations• Contributing to the Legal Vice Presidency policy work through drafting of staff guidance notes related to engagement in situations of Fragility, conflict, and Violence (FCV) in close consultation with lead counsels• Developing knowledge management tools by creating content for internal websites and maintaining archival information• Assisting the legal department in the organization of the annual flagship conference "Law, Justice, and Development Week"	

BWW LAW Group, LLC , Rockville, MD, USA	Sept. 2016- Aug. 2017
Paralegal , Title Department	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examined real estate title reports, identified, and resolved title defects	

Kayson Civil Engineering and Construction Company , Tehran, Iran	June 2010- Aug. 2015
In-House Legal Counsel , International Affairs Department	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negotiated terms and conditions of business contracts with foreign partners including Hotel Management Agreements• Revised, modified, and amended the EPC/ FIDIC Model agreements• Prepared Terms of Reference for ICC arbitration, Paris, France• Advised on foreign company laws, land ownership, mortgage, insurance, and tax laws• Oversaw the parent company's corporate governance over subsidiaries and branches overseas	

UNICEF, New York, USA

Oct. 2008-Feb. 2009

Intern, Gender and Rights Unit, Department of Policy and Planning

- Researched and collected impact information on UNICEF national programs on indigenous people
- Drafted legal reports on General Assembly Third Committee Panel Discussions on Women and Children
- Supported the Conference on Legislative Reform to Achieve Human Rights

United Nations Development Program, Bratislava, Slovakia

Aug. 2008 –Sept. 2008

Intern, Democratic Governance Practice for Europe, and CIS

- Researched and analyzed information for UNDP Toolkit: Local Governance, Human Rights Based Approach and Gender Mainstreaming in the Context of Europe and CIS

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Peace and Democracy Tehran, Iran

Nov. 2005- June 2007

Intern, Working Group on Peace

- Supported the center for launching national and international academic conferences on identity, cultural diversity and human rights, democracy promotion, conflict resolution and peace building
- Researched and reported on UN conflict resolutions, drafted agendas, and translated documents

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

PUBLICATIONS

- *Killing the WTO*, 58 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. (forthcoming, Oct. 2025).
- *Domestic Laws and Protectionism in Government Procurement*, Carlos Sebastian Barreto Cifuentes, Katayoon Beshkardana Majed El-Bayya, Lorenzo Rotunno, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 10937 (Oct. 2024).
- *Non-State Actors for Profit: Revisiting Transnational Corporation's Personhood and Responsibility under International Law*, with Faraz Shahlaei, 44 NORTHWESTERN J. INT'L L. & BUS., 249 (2024)
- *Reversing the Irreversible: Mitigating Legal Risks of Blockchain-Based Data Breach through Corporate Governance*, 14 UC L. SF SCI. & TECH. L. J. 175 (2023).
- *Limits of Transparency: China, United States, and the World Trade Organization*, with Padideh Ala'i, in CULTURES OF TRANSPARENCY: BETWEEN PROMISE AND PERIL (Routledge, 2021).
- Translation into Farsi of *International Law in a World of Liberal States* by Anne Marie Slaughter in PHILOSOPHICAL SCHOOLS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, Mahmood Bagheri, Mizan (2016).
- *Commercial Arbitration in International Contracts*, IRANIAN SOC'Y OF CONSULTING ENG'R (2012) (Farsi).
- *The Right to Democracy in Contemporary International Law*, with Reza Eslami, 47 INT'L L. J., Presidential Center for International Legal Affairs (CILA) Publication, 46 (2013) (Farsi).
- *In the Interest of Justice: Prosecutorial Discretionary Power under Article 53 of the Rome Statute*, 5 IRANIAN Y.B. OF INT'L AND COMPAR. L. STUD. 66 (2012).
- *Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Children and Women, A Stocktaking of UNICEF's Approach and Practice*, New York, (Apr. 2009).

PRESENTATIONS

- *A Human Rights-Based Approach to AI in Fintech*, Academy of legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Providence, RI (Jul. 2025).
- *AI, Fintech, and Human Rights*, Northeast Academy of Legal Studies in Business Conference, Eastern Connecticut State University, CT (May 2025).
- *A Critique of WTO Reform Project in an Era of Artificial Intelligence and Data-Driven Global Market*, Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Washington DC (Jul. 2024).
- *AI, Trade, and National Security Exception*, 4th National Annual HBCU Blockchain and Fintech Conference, Baltimore MD (Oct. 2023).
- *Advanced Technologies and the Future of the Multilateral Trading System*, Academy of legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, San Diego, CA (Jul. 2023).
- *Artificial Intelligence: Promises and perils and the Regulatory Framework*, Symposium on AI, Ethics, and Health Disparities, Morgan State University school of Behavioral and Social Science, Baltimore, MD (May 2023).
- *Blockchain and the Right to Erasure: Striking a Balance Between Technological Innovation and Data Protection*, 3rd National Annual HBCU Blockchain and Fintech Conference, Orlando, FL (Nov. 2022).
- Presentation, *Blockchain, AI, and the Right to Explanation: A Global Governance Framework*, Eastern academy of Management, Portland. ME (May 2022).
- Speaker, Bar Association, Montgomery County CLE: Islamic marriage contracts and Mahr- Enforcement Issues (Sept. 2020).

- Poster Presentation, *Deference to National Governments' Determinations of Facts and Laws: A Closer Look at Article 17.6 of the WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement, Appellate Body Standard of Review and the U.S. Arguments*, Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) Biennial Conference, Washington, D.C. (July 2018).

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- *Blockchain and Tokenization of Good Governance*, Research Association for Inter-disciplinary Studies (RAIS) Conference Proceedings (Feb. 2022).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- Expert Consultant, World Bank Women, Business and the Law Annual Report (2023-Present).
- Researcher and Editor for Padideh Ala'i, *The Vital Role of the WTO Appellate Body in the Promotion of Rule of Law, and International Cooperation: A Case Study*, 44 YALE J. OF INT'L L. ONLINE, 86 (2019).
- Organizer & Moderator of a Panel on Financial Inclusion or Exploitation: The Many Faces of Fintech with speakers from the Treasury, Paul Hastings LLP, and BSR, The 5th National HBCU Blockchain and Fintech Conference (Oct. 2024).
- Moderator, 4th Annual National HBCU Blockchain and Fintech Conference (Oct. 2023).
- Moderator, Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference (2022-Present).
- Judge, Penn State Smeal Undergraduate Sustainability Case Competition Apr. 2024).
- Arbitrator, International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington D.C., USA (Apr. 2019).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Harvard Business Impact Teaching with Cases Certificate, (2025).
- Legislative Reform to Achieve Human Rights, Expert Consultation & Panel Discussion, UNICEF, NY, USA (2008).
- Leadership and Civil Rights Certificate, Ifran, Morocco (2007).
- International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law Certificate, ICRC/UNHCR, Bangalore, India (2006).

BAR STATUS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Member, Iranian Bar Association (since 2011).
- Affiliate, National Science Foundation Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law and Society (TRAILS).
- Vice President, International Section, Academy of Legal Studies in Business.
- Member, Society of International Economic Law.

AWARDS

- Outstanding Community Engagement Award, Morgan State University Graves School of Business and Management (2025)
- Outstanding New Reviewer Award, American Business Law Journal (ABLJ) (2024).
- Best Paper Award, International Section, Academy of Legal Studies in Business International (2023).
- Outstanding Academic Achievements Scholarship Award, Iranian American Academics and Professionals Scholarship (2016).

LANGUAGES

Farsi (Native), English (Fluent), French (Upper Intermediate), Arabic (Basics), Turkish (Basics)