

Michael P. Seng, professor University of Illinois Chicago

The summer program in human rights law taught at Palacky University from May 12 to 30 was life-changing for the American participants. It took them away from their comfort zones in the United States and allowed them to experience law school from a European perspective. Seeing the contrasting approaches taken by the United States, Czechia, and Europe was very valuable especially at this time where the mantra being propagated in the United States is “America First.” Looking at the scope of human rights from an international perspective forced the students to go back to the basics and reexamine the most basic concepts that they accept as the norm. It forced them to look at different remedies and broaden their thinking. The summer program will have a profound effect on how they practice law and frame legal issues in the future. The great hospitality shown by the faculty, staff and students at Palacky was impressive and Olomouc is a perfect university town to host such an experience. All who participated from the United States send their thanks to those at the Palacky Faculty of Law who made this possible.