

The Sustainability Case Challenge: How Interdisciplinary Collaboration Meets
Preparation for Real-World Business Practice

by

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This paper describes a collaborative effort by instructors for international human rights law and global sustainable development to jointly integrate a team-based, hands-on interdisciplinary exercise into their course during the fall 2022 semester. The exercise, also known as the Sustainability Case Challenge (Case Challenge), provides students with an opportunity to explore the moral imperatives of sustainable development. Student teams put themselves in the role of a fictional outside consulting group hired by the senior leadership of a real-life organization to help it address a problem it faced related to one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Student submissions were evaluated according to the following dimensions: (1) ethical issues; (2) business/financial issues; (3) legal issues; and (4) persuasiveness. The present paper outlines the results and challenges encountered by the instructors in connection with the Case Challenge.