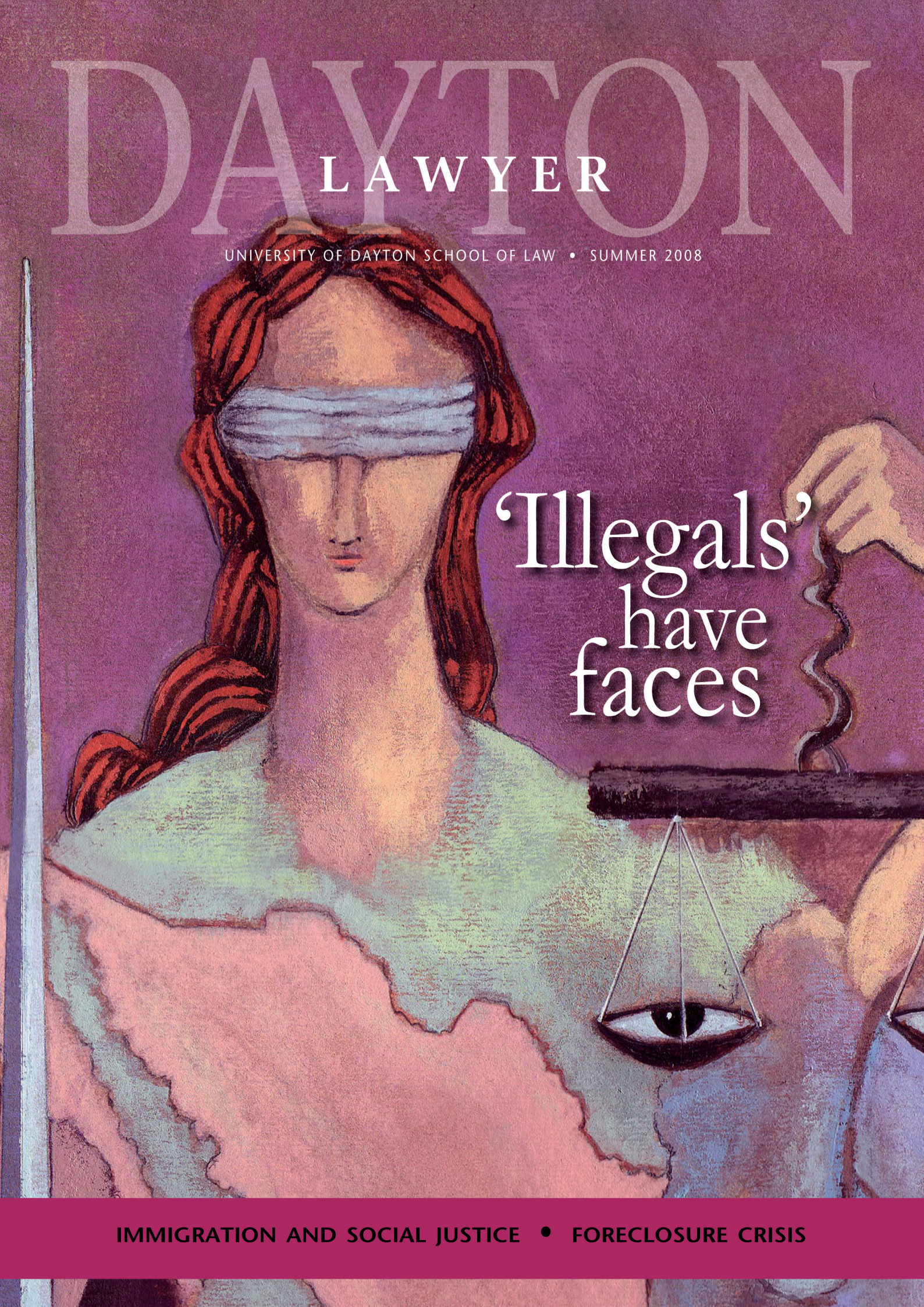


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‘Illegals’
have
faces

IMMIGRATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE • FORECLOSURE CRISIS

War crimes, genocide — not run-of-the-mill cases

For most Americans, the turmoil in West Africa has been reduced to news broadcasts and TV images. For Morris Anyah '96, it is as familiar as the courtroom, where he is a co-counsel defending Liberia's former president, Charles Taylor.

Anyah's career went international in 1999 when he joined

Morris anyah '96

the United
Nations
international



criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. During his two years with the tribunals he argued in a genocide case against the former prime minister of Rwanda, Jean Kambanda, and worked on the "Siege of Sarajevo" case for alleged crimes against humanity by Major General Stanislav Galic in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Six years later, in 2007, a former United Nations colleague asked him to go

international again and to join the team defending Taylor against accusations of fueling a civil war in Sierra Leone. Anyah joined them and found the setting was familiar but the case was different than most.

"Mr. Taylor has not been charged with committing any crimes against his own people of Liberia ... and it has not been alleged that he personally executed ... any victims of the awful conflicts in Sierra Leone," Anyah said. Because of this, Anyah said, Taylor's case poses less of a moral dilemma for him than the "run-of-the-mill capital cases."

His biggest challenges will be the ethical and legal disputes arising from the 11-count indictment, involving charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He said he must be careful not to overstep protective measures barring disclosure of witnesses' identities and promises to nation-states limiting the disclosure of sensitive information.

Anyah will continue to split his time between The Hague, in the Netherlands, and his Atlanta criminal defense practice for at least another nine months, until he is home for good. His assessment thus far is that it is "too early to fully appreciate and reflect on all that has happened, all that is still happening, and all that is yet to happen."

—Jennie Szink '09