



*The Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers' Network
Annual Human Rights in the U.S. Symposium/CLE*

**ENGAGING WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
SYSTEM FOR U.S. ADVOCACY**

Friday, June 12, 2015

Hosted by:

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:15 A.M. REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9:15 – 9:30 A.M. WELCOME REMARKS

Risa Kaufman, Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School
Sarah Cleveland, Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights; Faculty Co-Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School; Member, U.N. Human Rights Committee

9:30 – 10:00 A.M. INTRODUCTORY KEYNOTE REMARKS

James Cavallaro, Director, Stanford Law School International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic and the Stanford Human Rights Center; Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

10:00 – 11:15 A.M. SESSION I: OVERVIEW OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

This introductory panel will explore the doctrinal and structural framework for the Inter-American Human Rights System, provide an overview of advocacy opportunities within the system for U.S. advocates, and examine the U.S. government's engagement with the system.

- Elizabeth Abi-Mershed, Assistant Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Sarah Paoletti, Director, Transnational Legal Clinic, University of Pennsylvania Law School
- James (Jay) Bischoff, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, Office of Human Rights and Refugees, U.S. Department of State

- Charles Abbott, Legal Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean, Center for Reproductive Rights

Moderator: Lisa Reinsberg, Executive Director, International Justice Resource Center

11:15 – 11:30 A.M. BREAK

11:30 – 12:45 P.M. SESSION II: STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

Panelists in this session will discuss strategies for effective advocacy within the Inter-American Human Rights System. Through case studies on a range of issues, including detention, economic and social rights, and women's rights, participants will discuss engagement strategies such as case and thematic hearings, precautionary measures, on-site visits, reports, and engagement with the thematic rapporteurs.

- Denise Gilman, Co-Director, Immigration Clinic, University of Texas at Austin School of Law
- Francisco Rivera, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director, International Human Rights Clinic, Santa Clara Law
- Rosa Celorio, Staff Attorney and Specialist, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Tara Melish, Associate Professor, Director of the Buffalo Human Rights Center, SUNY Buffalo Law School
- Jamil Dakwar, Director, Human Rights Program, American Civil Liberties Union

Moderator: Cynthia Soohoo, Director, International Women's Human Rights Clinic, CUNY Law School

12:45 – 1:00 P.M. BREAK

1:00 – 1:45 P.M. LUNCH & KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

Tracy Robinson, Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Rapporteur on the Rights of Women
with Ariel Dultizky, Clinical Professor; Director, Human Rights Clinic, University of Texas at Austin School of Law

1:45 – 2:00 P.M. BREAK

2:00 – 3:15 P.M. SESSION III: LEVERAGING SUCCESS AND DEEPENING IMPACT

Panelists in this session will draw on examples from the U.S. and the Americas to explore strategies for deepening the impact of advocacy in the Inter-American Human Rights System, including integrating decisions from the IACHR into domestic litigation and policy advocacy; pursuing government accountability through hearings, working meetings and friendly settlement mechanisms; and coordination with other advocates.

- Lenora Lapidus, Director, Women's Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union
- Francisco Quintana, Program Director for the Andean, North America and Caribbean Region, Center for Justice and International Law
- Wade McMullen, Managing Attorney, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
- Lisa Davis, Clinical Professor of Law, International Women's Human Rights Clinic, CUNY School of Law

Moderator: JoAnn Kamuf Ward, Associate Director, Human Rights in the U.S. Project, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School

3:15 – 3:30 P.M. BREAK

3:30 – 4:45 P.M. SESSION IV: STRATEGIC CONVERSATION ON CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

This interactive session will explore ways in which human rights experts are looking beyond the mechanisms of the Inter-American Commission to strengthen human rights accountability in the region and ensure the ongoing independence and efficacy of the Inter-American Human Rights System itself. Panelists will discuss potential opportunities to raise awareness of the System and its protections, complementarity with U.N. mechanisms, and participation within the political organs of the Organization of American States, as well as some of the constraints on these efforts, including political realities and resources, and strategies to address them.

- Emilio Álvarez Icaza Longoria, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Michael Camilleri, Member, Policy Planning Staff, U.S. State Department
- Dinah Shelton, Manatt/Ahn Professor of International Law, George Washington University Law School; Former Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Viviana Krsticevic, Executive Director, Center for Justice and International Law
- Victor Manuel Rodríguez-Rescia, Member, U.N. Human Rights Committee; Senior Consultant, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

Moderator: Sarah Cleveland, Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights & Faculty Co-Director, Human Rights Institute; Member, UN Human Rights Committee

4:45 – 5:00 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS

INFORMATION REGARDING NEW YORK CLE CREDITS:

Columbia Law School has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Board as an Accredited Provider of CLE programs. Under New York State CLE regulations, each live non-transitional CLE panel will provide .15 credit hours per panel session (a total of 6 credit hours for the full day) that can be applied toward the Areas of Professional Practice requirement. CLE credit is awarded only for full attendance of a panel in its entirety. Attorneys attending only part of a Program are not eligible for partial credit for it, although they are most welcome to attend it. Attendance is determined by an attorney's sign-in and sign-out, as shown in the Conference registers. Please note that there will be separate registers for each CLE panel, with sign-out and sign-in required for each one. On sign-out, attorneys should also submit their completed Evaluation Form, provided at the Conference. Please note the NYS Certificates of Attendance will be sent to the email address as it appears in the register unless otherwise noted there.