

“ENGAGING WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS”
COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE
NYS CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
JUNE 3, 2011 • 8:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
SKADDEN • FOUR TIMES SQUARE • NEW YORK CITY

CO-SPONSORED BY:

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (ASIL)
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (UNA-USA)

HOST:

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER, & FLOM LLP

This program will explore strategies for U.S. lawyers to effectively engage with UN human rights mechanisms as a means of furthering domestic social justice advocacy efforts. Participants will receive a grounding in the international human rights system and mechanisms as well as an understanding of strategies for engagement with civil society and government and challenges of local implementation and follow-up.

AGENDA

8:45 - 9:15 A.M. REGISTRATION & COFFEE

9:15 - 10:00 A.M. WELCOME REMARKS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- Risa E. Kaufman
Lecturer-in-Law & Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School
- Peter Rosenblum '92
Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein Clinical Professor in Human Rights & Co-Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School
- Gay J. McDougall
Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

10:00 - 10:50 A.M. PANEL I: U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: 101

**NYS CLE: 1.0 TRANSITIONAL AND NONTRANSITIONAL CREDIT, AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE*

This session will provide an overview of U.N. mechanisms for ensuring compliance with human rights commitments, focusing on U.N. charter and treaty bodies. Participants will gain an understanding of core human rights treaties and the operation and functioning of treaty monitoring bodies, U.N. special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review, as well as opportunities for civil society engagement with these processes

Panelists:

- Hadar Harris
Executive Director, Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law
- Chandra S. Bhatnagar '02
Senior Staff Attorney, Human Rights Program, ACLU
- Jennifer A. Prestholdt
Deputy Director and Director of International Justice, The Advocates for Human Rights

Moderator:

- Theresa Harris
Executive Director, Human Rights USA

10:50 - 11:00 A.M. BREAK

11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. PANEL II: STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

**NYS CLE: 1.5 TRANSITIONAL AND NONTRANSITIONAL CREDITS, AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE*

This session will explore opportunities and strategies for effective civil society engagement in the U.N. human rights system. Panelists will explore opportunities that U.N. human rights mechanisms and processes offer for community engagement and organizing, including shadow reporting and organizing country visits by UN special procedures, as well as opportunities for civil society engagement with federal, state and local government officials, to address human rights concerns. The session will also examine the role of civil society in shaping the government's engagement with the UN system, as well as the impact of civil society engagement on government policy and practice.

Panelists:

- Lisa A. Crooms
Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law
- Ejim Dike
Director, Human Rights Project, Urban Justice Center
- Catherine Albisa
Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Respondant:

- Julie A. Fernandes
Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Justice

Moderator:

- Cynthia Soohoo
Director, U.S. Legal Program, Center for Reproductive Rights

12:30 – 1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30 – 2:45 P.M. PANEL III: LEVERAGING SUCCESS

**NYS CLE: 1.5 TRANSITIONAL AND NONTRANSITIONAL CREDITS, AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE*

Successful advocacy at the international level does not automatically translate into positive change within local communities, where human rights matter most. This session will explore the challenges of implementation and follow up. Panelists will highlight efforts to incorporate findings and recommendations from UN bodies into domestic advocacy efforts, including litigation and policy initiatives, as well as the importance and challenge of translating international advocacy “successes” to state and local officials. The importance of building and leveraging community engagement will also be explored.

Panelists:

- Eric Tars
Human Rights Program Director/Children & Youth Attorney, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
- Antonio M. Ginatta
Advocacy Director, U.S. Program, Human Rights Watch
- Joey L. Mogul
Partner, People’s Law Office

Moderator:

- Alice Miller
Lecturer in Residence and Senior Fellow, Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law, Berkeley Law School

2:45 – 3:00 P.M. BREAK

3:00 – 4:15 PANEL IV: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

**NYS CLE: 1.5 TRANSITIONAL AND NONTRANSITIONAL CREDITS, AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE*

The United States recently underwent the first comprehensive review of its human rights record under the Universal Periodic Review process, a new peer-review mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council. This roundtable will debrief the UPR process, identify successes and challenges, and ways in which the recent review can and should inform and impact future reviews of the United States, particularly upcoming reviews by human rights treaty bodies.

Participants:

- Jamil Dakwar
Director, Human Rights Program, ACLU
- Theodore J. Piccone ‘09
Senior Fellow, Deputy Director for Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution
- June Zeitlin
Director, CEDAW Education Project, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Education Fund
- Suzanne F. Nossel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, United States Department of State

Moderator:

- Risa E. Kaufman

4:15 – 4:30 P.M. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Sarah H. Paoletti
*Senior Coordinator, USHRN UPR Project; Practice Associate Professor of Law
and, Director, Transnational Legal Clinic, University of Pennsylvania Law School*

NYS CLE CREDIT: Under New York State CLE regulations, this transitional and non-transitional CLE program will provide in aggregate a maximum of five (5.5) credit hours, all which can be applied toward the Areas of Professional Practice requirement, provided the attendance qualification is met in full. Credit will be awarded only to attorneys in attendance for entire sessions, as reflected in the conference attendance register which attorneys must sign both prior to and following their attending program sessions. There will be one register for the Morning Sessions and another for the Afternoon Sessions. Attorneys attending only part of a session are not eligible for partial credit for it, although they are welcome to attend it. On departure, attorneys seeking credit should also submit their completed Evaluation Form, provided at the conference.

CONFERENCE MATERIALS: Conference materials will be distributed on CD to attendees. Printed review copies of the CD will be available at the conference. Printed copies Registrants can request (via Registration, below) a printed copy.

REGISTRATION: Online preregistration will close for all transactions, including refunds, at 5pm on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. On-site registration will be available at the Conference, space permitting. Confirmed reservations are transferrable. Kindly notify Greta Moseson (greta.moseson@law.columbia.edu) of transfers by the close of preregistration and otherwise as soon as possible.