

**“THE U.S. AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS:  
20 YEARS AFTER RATIFICATION”**

**CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
MARCH 16, 2012 • 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
SKADDEN • FOUR TIMES SQUARE • NEW YORK CITY**

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COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE  
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**AGENDA**

*The United States ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1992. As the U.S. government and civil society prepare for the fourth periodic review of the United States' compliance with its obligations under the covenant, this program will examine the history and impact of U.S. ratification and engagement with the U.N. Human Rights Committee, which monitors its compliance with the covenant, and will look ahead at the possibilities for ensuring U.S. accountability for its human rights commitments.*

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

**9:15 – 9:30 A.M. WELCOME**

Risa Kaufman  
*Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School*

**9:30 – 10:00 A.M. OPENING REMARKS**

Michael O’Flaherty  
*Vice-Chairperson, U.N. Human Rights Committee & Professor of Applied Human Rights and Co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham*

Introduced by:  
Jamil Dakwar  
*Co-Chair of USHRN ICCPR Task Force; Director, ACLU Human Rights Program*

**10:00 – 11:15 A.M. SESSION I: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ICCPR (1 hr, 15 min.)**

*This panel will provide the historical context from which to understand the ICCPR as a core Covenant within the UN Bill of Rights, an overview of the scope of protections under the treaty, and discussion of opportunities for engaging in advocacy with the treaty mechanism.*

- Hurst Hannum  
*Professor of International Law, Tufts Fletcher School*

- Hadar Harris  
*Executive Director, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law*
- Eric Tars  
*Director of Human Rights and Children's Rights, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty*

Moderator:

Risa Kaufman

*Lecturer-in-Law & Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School*

**11:15 – 11:30 A.M. BREAK**

**11:30 – 12:45 P.M. IMPACT OF US RATIFICATION**

*Panelists will discuss lessons learned from the 1992 Senate-conditioned ratification of the treaty, its implications on future ratification processes, and its impact on domestic and foreign human rights policies. The panel will also assess the judicial role in upholding the ICCPR and the value-added of the treaty in domestic litigation.*

- Elisa Massimino  
*President and Chief Executive Officer, Human Rights First*
- Evelyn Aswad  
*Assistant Legal Advisor, Human Rights & Refugees Office, U.S. State Department*
- Ralph Steinhardt  
*Professor of Law and International Affairs, George Washington University*
- Steven Watt  
*Senior Staff Attorney, Human Rights Program, American Civil Liberties Union*

Moderator:

Wendy Patten

*Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Foundations*

**12:45 – 1:15 P.M. BREAK**

**1:15 – 2:00 P.M. LUNCH & KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

Sir Nigel Rodley  
*Member, U.N. Human Rights Committee & Professor of Law  
and Chair, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex*

Introduced by:

Peter Rosenblum

*Lieff Cabraser Clinical Professor of Human Rights Law & Faculty Co-Director,  
Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School*

**2:00 – 3:15 P.M. SESSION III: THE DYNAMICS OF REPORTING: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL**

*Panelists will examine how the official governmental reporting process and engagement with the UN Human Rights Committee shapes and impacts domestic policy, as well as how the civil society shadow reporting process contributes to organizing and advocacy efforts.*

- Robert K. Harris  
*Assistant Legal Advisor for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, U.S. State Department*
- Karen Stevens  
*Acting Chief, Policy and Strategy Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice*
- Andrea Ritchie  
*Police Misconduct Attorney*
- Sarah Paoletti  
*Co-Chair of USHRN ICCPR Task Force; Practice Associate Professor of Law and Director, Transnational Legal Clinic, University of Pennsylvania Law School*

Moderator:  
Devon Chaffee  
*Legislative Counsel, ACLU Washington Legislative Office*

### **3:15 – 3:30 P.M. BREAK**

### **3:30 – 4:45 P.M. SESSION IV: ROUNDTABLE: ISSUES IN INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

*Participants in this interactive exchange will explore issues including *lex specialis* (ICCPR/IHL interplay); extraterritorial application of the treaty; possibilities for addressing economic, social and cultural rights through the covenant's equality and non-discrimination provisions; and the relationship between ICCPR and other treaties.*

- Harold Koh  
*Legal Advisor, U.S. State Department*
- Philip Alston  
*John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law, NYU School of Law*
- Cynthia Soohoo  
*Director, International Women's Human Rights Clinic, CUNY Law School*
- James Ross  
*Legal and Policy Director, Human Rights Watch*

Moderator:  
Professor Sarah Cleveland  
*Louis Henkin Professor in Human and Constitutional Rights & Faculty Co-Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School*

### **4:45 – 5:00 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS**

Jamil Dakwar  
*Director, Human Rights Program, American Civil Liberties Union*