



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

LOCALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NEW ERA: STRATEGIES FOR STATE AND LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

May 19, 2017
9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Co-sponsors:

Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute
Columbia Human Rights Law Review
Northeastern University School of Law, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Host:

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
4 Times Square, New York, NY

AGENDA

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

9:30 – 9:45 A.M. – WELCOMING REMARKS

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

9:45 – 10:30 A.M. – INTRODUCTORY KEYNOTE REMARKS and Q&A

- Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Illinois State Attorney General
 - Introduced by JoAnn Ward, Deputy Director, Human Rights in the U.S. Project, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute

10:30 – 11:45 A.M. SESSION I: THE RENEWED RELEVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

State and local governments play a significant role in bringing the United States into compliance with its international human rights commitments. Lawyers and advocates are initiating, encouraging, and promoting these efforts and developing new strategies to “bring human rights home.” This introductory panel will explore the relevance and challenges of state and local implementation of human rights in the United States, particularly in light of the current political landscape; domestic and international comparative approaches to subnational human rights implementation; the role of the federal government in facilitating and supporting state and local human rights implementation; and the critical importance of working in close partnership with impacted communities.

Panelists:

- Martha Davis, Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law, and Co-director, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy
- Cathy Albisa, Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, and Commissioner, New York City Human Rights Commission
- Michele Grigolo, Lecturer in Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University
- Olatunde Johnson, Professor of Law and Vice-Dean for Intellectual Life, Columbia Law School
- Meredith Johnston, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser for Human Rights and Refugees (L/HRR), U.S. Department of State

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

11:45 A.M.– 12:00 P.M. BREAK

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. SESSION II. STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE STATE AND LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: BRINGING WOMEN’S RIGHTS HOME

This session will explore specific strategies for effective and creative implementation of human rights at the state and local level, with a particular focus on women’s rights, including local implementation of the women’s rights treaty, CEDAW.

Panelists:

- June Zeitlin, Director of Human Rights Policy, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Director, Mayor’s Office of Diversity and Human Rights, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Krishanti Dharmaraj, Executive Director, Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
- Caroline Bettinger-López, Professor of Clinical Legal Education, Director, Human Rights Clinic, University of Miami School of Law

Moderator: Debra Liebowitz, Professor of International Relations and Women’s & Gender Studies, and the Associate Dean for Curriculum and Faculty Development, Drew University

1:00 – 2:00 P.M. LUNCH (PROVIDED) & REMARKS

- Robin Toma, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

2:00 – 3:00 P.M. SESSION III. LITIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS: THE ROLE OF STATE COURTS IN U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION

In this session, panelists will discuss the role that state courts can play in ensuring U.S. compliance with human rights, with a particular focus on strategies, successes, and challenges of integrating international human rights law into state court litigation.

- Hon. Kristin Booth Glen, former New York County Surrogate Court Judge, and Dean Emerita, Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law
- Johanna Kalb, Associate Professor of Law, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
- Wilhelm H. Joseph Jr., Esq., Executive Director, Maryland Legal Aid

Moderator: Steven Watt, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU Human Rights Program

3:00 – 3:15 BREAK

3:15 – 4:30 SESSION IV: LEVERAGING SUCCESSES AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES: LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY FOR WATER AND SANITATION

Advocates for the right to water and sanitation have had particular success by drawing on international human rights standards and engaging with international and regional human rights mechanisms. Panelists in this session will explore human rights advocacy for the right to water and sanitation in local campaigns in Detroit, Michigan, rural Alabama, and California.

- Inga Winkler, Lecturer, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University
- Catherine Flowers, Rural Development Manager, Equal Justice Initiative & Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise Community Development Corporation, and Director of Environmental Justice and Civic Engagement, Center for Earth Ethics
- Alice Jennings, Edwards & Jennings, Detroit, Michigan

Moderator: Cindy Soohoo, Director, International Human Rights Gender Justice Clinic at CUNY School of Law

4:30 – 4:45 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS

- The Honorable William Bell, Mayor of the City of Birmingham