U.S. lawyers are increasingly engaging international human rights law and strategies in their domestic social justice advocacy efforts. A strength of the human rights framework is its ability to address the intersection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. Yet pursuit of economic and social rights presents special challenges in the U.S. legal context. This symposium explores strategies for advancing economic and social rights advocacy in the U.S. focusing in particular on the right to housing. Participants will examine legal developments pertaining to the right to housing and related rights, both internationally and in the U.S. And, drawing on international human rights, participants will explore promising approaches to establishing the right to housing in U.S. courts and through other advocacy efforts.
8:45 – 9:15 A.M. REGISTRATION & COFFEE

9:15 – 9:30 A.M. WELCOME REMARKS
Risa Kaufman, Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School

9:15 – 9:30 A.M. INTRODUCTORY KEYNOTE REMARKS
Rob Robinson, Take Back the Land
Maria Foscarinis, Executive Director, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

10:00 – 11:15 A.M. SESSION I. THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF RIGHTS
This panel will evaluate the connection between the right to housing and other rights
along two discrete axes. On the one hand, panelists will discuss housing’s centrality to
other ESRs, including health and education; on the other hand, panelists will explore to
what extent the right can—and should—be formulated in terms of more widely accepted
civil and political rights.

Panelists:
- Philip Alston, Professor of Law & Faculty Director and Co-Chair, Center for
  Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU School of Law
- Martha Davis, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, Program on Human Rights
  and the Global Economy, Northeastern Law School
- Tara Melish, Adjunct Professor of Law & Director, Buffalo Human Rights Center,
  SUNY Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York

Moderator: Cathy Albisa, Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights
Initiative

11:30 – 12:45 P.M. SESSION II. COMPARATIVE APPROACHES TO THE RIGHT TO
HOUSING
This panel will look at international comparative approaches to the right to housing and
related ESCRs and examine factors contributing to the varying approaches.

Panelists:
- Lucy Williams, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, Program on Human Rights
  and the Global Economy, Northeastern Law School
- Bret Theile, Co-Director, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Bruce Porter, Director, Social Rights Advocacy Centre

Moderator: Sarah Cleveland, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, Human Rights
Institute, Columbia Law School

12:45 – 1:15 P.M. BREAK
1:15 – 2:00 P.M. LUNCH & KEYNOTE: LEARNING FROM THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FREEDOM TO MARRY
Evan Wolfson, Founder and Executive director, Freedom to Marry

Moderator: Olatunde Johnson, Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

2:00 – 2:15 P.M. BREAK

2:15 – 3:30 P.M. SESSION III. BUILDING A RECORD ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING IN THE U.S.
Panelists will discuss efforts to develop an international record promoting the human right to housing in the United States through engagement with U.N. mechanisms and grassroots advocacy and explore ways to integrate the outcomes of these efforts into litigation in U.S. courts.

Panelists:
- Eric Tars, Director of Human Rights and Children's Rights Programs, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
- Reena Shah, Director, Human Rights Project, Maryland Legal Aid Bureau
- Tanuka Loha, Human Right to Housing Program Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
- Pete White, Founder & Co-Director, LA Community Action Network

Moderator: Risa Kaufman, Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School

3:30 – 4:45 P.M. SESSION IV. ROUNDTABLE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR & CHALLENGES TO ESTABLISHING A HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING IN THE U.S.
Participants in this interactive exchange will explore issues including: the justiciability of ESCRs; the efficacy of judicial remedies in enforcing ESCRs; and the impact of language and culture on efforts to establish a right to housing in the U.S.

Panelists:
- The Hon. Cathy H. Serrette, Judge, Maryland Circuit Court
- Heidi Wegleitner, Staff Attorney, Legal Action of Wisconsin; District 2 Supervisor, Dane County Board of Supervisors
- Dan Manning, Associate Director/Litigation Director, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Andrew Scherer, Legal Consultant

Moderator: Maria Foscarinis, Executive Director, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

4:45 – 5:00 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS
Ejim Dike, Executive Director, U.S. Human Rights Network