The Human Rights Institute sits at the heart of human rights teaching, practice, and scholarship at Columbia Law School. Founded in 1998 by the late Professor Louis Henkin, the Institute draws on the Law School’s deep human rights tradition to support and influence human rights practice in the United States and throughout the world. The activities of the Human Rights Clinic are included in the Institute’s work, enabling us to multiply our impact on the field and engage students more fully in our efforts.

The Institute currently focuses its work in several substantive areas: Human Rights in the United States; Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights; Human Rights in the Global Economy; and Human Rights and Rule of Law in Burma. We have developed distinct approaches to work in each area, building bridges between scholarship and activism, developing capacity within the legal community, engaging governments, and modeling new strategies for progress.

This report details our activities from September 2013–August 2014.

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Human Rights in the United States

The Institute’s Human Rights in the United States Project develops the capacity of U.S. lawyers, policymakers, and advocates to incorporate a human rights framework into domestic advocacy efforts. We build networks, facilitate trainings, conduct educational outreach, and promote coordination among progressive public policy and advocacy groups. The Project also directly contributes to the development of legal theories and positive precedents based on international law through work on select litigation before U.S. courts, in international and regional fora, and through other research and advocacy projects.

Building the Field of Domestic Human Rights Lawyers

A centerpiece of the Institute’s Human Rights in the United States Project, our Bringing Human Rights Home (BHRH) Lawyers’ Network has grown to more than 730 members, including individuals working in more than 37 states across the U.S. The membership of our BHRH Lawyers’ Network is drawn from approximately 200 advocacy and legal services organizations, 50 universities and law schools, and a number of private law firms, as well as state and local human rights bodies. Our members, who range from law students to attorneys in practice for more than 50 years, are dedicated to using international law and human rights strategies as part of their domestic advocacy efforts. This year’s biannual BHRH Network meetings brought members together to discuss common challenges, engage in strategic discussions, and develop joint strategies and projects on issues including U.N. advocacy, U.S. policy initiatives, U.S. matters before the Inter-American Commission, and pending cases in U.S. courts. We convened periodic meetings of the Network’s Working Group on the Inter-American System and also launched a new Working Group on Local Human Rights Lawyering, in conjunction with American University Washington College of Law’s Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Through the former group, the Institute facilitated periodic communication and meetings among Network members, the U.S. State Department, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In between meetings, BHRH Network members stayed connected through the BHRH Lawyers’ Network listserv and participated in two Continuing Legal Education programs (see Events, page 12). Members also made use of the Institute’s U.S. Human Rights Online Library, our online clearinghouse for domestic human rights resources, including sample briefs, pleadings, and other materials relevant to this work.
State and Local Implementation of Human Rights

State and local governments play a key role in ensuring that the United States meets its human rights treaty obligations. The Institute works to strengthen human rights protections in the United States by building the capacity of state and local officials to implement human rights at the local level, and by advocating for federal support and coordination of these efforts. Under the direction of JoAnn Kamuf Ward, associate director of the Institute’s Human Rights in the U.S. Project, and the Institute’s Executive Director Risa Kaufman, the Institute engages in direct outreach to state and local officials and agencies, as well as conducts federal and international advocacy on these issues.

As part of this work, the Institute chairs the Human Rights at Home (HuRAH) Campaign’s State and Local Government Subcommittee, bringing together state and local government officials and advocates from across the country to develop and implement strategies to incorporate human rights into local law, policy, and practice. In the past year, the Institute has strengthened its relationships with state and local human rights agencies throughout the U.S. and developed important new relationships with mayors and other local officials to identify opportunities to bring human rights home. We have done this primarily through the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

In addition, the Institute develops resources and provides technical support to assist state and local officials in translating international human rights principles into local practice. This year, we assisted the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in developing statewide human rights hearings and traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to present testimony on effective local human rights strategies. In August, we released a new toolkit on human rights impact audits and assessments, drawing on the experiences of five local jurisdictions that are using these tools.

Also this year, the Institute intensified its efforts to advocate for federal support of state and local human rights implementation. The Institute led international advocacy on this issue through its participation in the March 2014 U.N. Human Rights Committee’s review of U.S. compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), as well as the August 2014 U.N. Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination’s review of U.S. compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Along with our partner IAOHRA, the Institute submitted shadow reports and traveled to Geneva for both reviews to highlight state and local efforts to advance human rights and detail the need for federal support and coordination of this work. At the conclusion of the reviews, both the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination issued recommendations consistent with the Institute’s submissions.
Access to Justice

In response to the crisis in unmet civil legal needs, the Institute is strengthening human rights advocacy efforts to secure meaningful access to counsel in civil cases. Led by Executive Director Risa Kaufman, working with Institute Project Attorney Erin Foley Smith ’10, the Institute is enlisting and supporting legal services and the wider U.S. access to justice community to deepen advocacy efforts at the U.N. and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

This year, much of our access to justice work focused on the U.N. human rights treaty reviews. In conjunction with the U.N. Human Rights Committee’s review of U.S. compliance with the ICCPR in March 2014, the Institute drafted and submitted a coalition shadow report detailing the civil justice gap in the United States and recommending federal reforms to ensure that people who are low-income and poor have meaningful access to legal representation in cases where basic human needs are at stake, including in immigration proceedings. With our partner Northeastern University School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE), the Institute filed a similar report with the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination for its August 2014 review of U.S. compliance with the CERD. The Institute participated in the civil society delegation to both the ICCPR and CERD reviews in Geneva to raise awareness around the issue with the committees and the U.S. government delegations, and engaged in wider public education around the issue. Our efforts resulted in strong recommendations from both committees. The U.N. Human Rights Committee recommended that the U.S. provide access to legal representation for immigrants and for domestic violence victims. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination recommended the U.S. guarantee access to legal representation in all immigration-related matters and allocate sufficient resources to ensure effective access to legal representation in civil proceedings implicating basic needs.

The Institute is working to translate and leverage this international success to support domestic litigation and advocacy. In June, with our partner PHRGE, we convened U.S. access to justice experts to explore ways to strategically coordinate international and domestic advocacy to advance access to justice in civil cases in the United States. In addition, the Institute provided significant support to the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau’s right to housing project, through research and drafting for a report to the Maryland judiciary on the role of judges in promoting and protecting the right to housing in the state’s rent courts. We also joined a coalition working to achieve a right to counsel for litigants facing eviction in New York City housing courts.
The Institute engages extensively with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United States Government to enhance the efficacy and impact of the Inter-American Human Rights System and strengthen U.S. participation in commission proceedings and regional human rights issues more broadly.

The Inter-American Human Rights System

The Institute engages extensively with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the United States Government to enhance the efficacy and impact of the Inter-American Human Rights System and strengthen U.S. participation in commission proceedings and regional human rights issues more broadly.

Led by JoAnn Kamuf Ward, associate director for the Institute’s Human Rights in the U.S. Project, the Institute, in partnership with the Human Rights Clinic, also participates in strategic litigation and advocacy on substantive issues at the IACHR in order to ensure accountability for individual human rights violations and foster changes in law and policy to prevent future violations. Current cases address domestic violence and the sentencing of juveniles to life without parole. In the past year, the Institute also engaged in research and advocacy directed at the Commission on access to justice and women’s access to healthcare.

In 2014, under the leadership of the Institute and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law’s Transnational Legal Clinic, the BHRH Inter-American Working Group organized its annual meeting with IACHR commissioners and staff, as well as met with the U.S. State Department, to explore ways to strengthen U.S. engagement with the system, implement Commission recommendations, and highlight specific areas of substantive concern.

For several years, the Working Group has called for the United States to develop more institutionalized and transparent mechanisms for engaging with the Commission. In April of 2014, consistent with these recommendations, the State Department announced the creation of a formal government and civil society working group on human rights in the Inter-American System, to be established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Institute and members of the BHRH Inter-American Working Group have provided substantial feedback and guidance on this endeavor.

The Institute continues to develop resources for advocates interested in engaging with the Commission and to track U.S. cases to identify notable trends and facilitate a greater understanding of the connections between recommendations from the IACHR and U.N. treaty bodies and experts.

GONZALES V. UNITED STATES

This year, there were several welcome developments regarding implementation of the Commission’s landmark decision in Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) v. United States. In 2011, the Commission issued a decision finding the U.S. government responsible for human rights violations against a Colorado woman and her three deceased children by failing in its legal obligation to protect women and girls from domestic violence. It also made comprehensive recommendations for changes in U.S. law and policy. Since that time, the Institute has been working to raise awareness about the decision and implement its recommendations. The Institute is co-counsel in the case with the ACLU and the University of Miami Human Rights Clinic. At the federal level, on April 10, the U.S. Departments of Justice and State co-sponsored a roundtable on domestic violence, sexual assault, and human rights—an outgrowth of recommendations made in Lenahan working meetings with the IACHR. The roundtable brought together approximately 50 federal agency representatives and a dozen participants from civil society to discuss how international human rights principles can inform government efforts to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence. As a follow-up to the meeting, co-counsel in
Lenahan developed a resource guide on domestic violence, sexual assault, and human rights to support incorporating human rights into federal policy and practice. At the state level, the Colorado legislature issued a formal tribute to Ms. Lenahan, recognizing freedom from domestic violence as a human right that governments have an obligation to ensure. In partnership with the University of Miami Human Rights Clinic, the Institute serves as a clearinghouse for the growing number of local resolutions recognizing freedom from domestic violence as a human right. These are collected in the online publication Recognizing Freedom From Domestic Violence as a Fundamental Human Right: Local Resolutions Across the United States.

**JUVENILE LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**

In March of 2014, the IACHR held a long-awaited merits hearing in *Hill v. United States*, which challenges the practice of sentencing juveniles to life without the possibility of parole (JLWOP). The Institute worked with co-counsel from the ACLU and the ACLU of Michigan to prepare for the hearing, engaging a range of amicus support and assembling a diverse panel of experts to present oral testimony. At the hearing, U.S. Senator John Conyers and retired Michigan Circuit Court Judge Fred Mester presented testimony on the pernicious impacts of the sentence. Attorney Deb Labelle, who has conducted JLWOP litigation and advocacy in domestic and international arenas, presented testimony as well. Amici for the hearing included the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and Georgetown Law’s Human Rights Institute, as well as the University of San Francisco School of Law. Each addressed critical legal issues, such as the applicability of international norms to the case and the disparate racial impact of JLWOP in the U.S.—the only country where the sentence is still used.
This year, the United States was reviewed by U.N. expert committees for its compliance with two of the core human rights treaties that it has ratified: The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The Human Rights Institute played a key role in civil society advocacy for both reviews.

In March, Human Rights Institute Executive Director Risa Kaufman and Associate Director JoAnn Kamuf Ward, along with a group of four students from the Human Rights Clinic (Paula Ximena Mendez Azuela ’14 LL.M., Sara Osama Kayyali ’14, Ami Shah ’15, and Caroline Stover ’14), traveled to Geneva to participate in the civil society delegation for the ICCPR review. There, the team conducted advocacy related to reports that the Institute submitted to the Committee urging greater access to counsel in civil cases and enhanced federal support for local and state initiatives to protect human rights.

In August, Institute Project Attorney Erin Smith ’10 participated in the civil society delegation to the CERD review to raise similar concerns with the U.N. Committee monitoring U.S. compliance with the Race Convention and to urge the CERD Committee to take up the issues raised in the two reports the Institute filed in conjunction with the review.

The Institute’s advocacy paid off. The resulting recommendations from the committees included strong recommendations concerning state and local implementation of human rights and access to justice.
Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights

The project on Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights promotes dialogue among governments, academics, and civil society advocates on issues relating to human rights in national security contexts, including armed conflict and counterterrorism activities, and promotes independent research, legal analysis, and advocacy on these issues. The Institute hosted several meetings during the year to explore current challenges in U.S. counterterrorism practices. Topics included the legal framework governing the use of drones in targeted killings and the legal implications of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan for the Guantánamo detentions and the use of force. This spring, we welcomed our new Senior Director Nathalie Weizmann, who is overseeing the Institute’s ongoing legal, policy, and advocacy work relating to national security and human rights.

Harmonizing Standards for Armed Conflict

The Institute continued its work on the Project on Harmonizing Standards for Armed Conflict, led by Institute Faculty Co-Director Sarah Cleveland, Senior Fellow Sir Daniel Bethlehem, a visiting professor at Columbia Law School and the former legal adviser to the U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office, and Rebecca Ingber, project consultant and associate research scholar at Columbia Law School. This project is exploring avenues for raising legal standards for humanitarian protection in non-international armed conflicts.

Now in its third year, the goal of the Harmonization Project is to explore the feasibility of extending the entire Geneva Convention treaty regime, which was developed for conflicts between states, to conflicts between states and non-state armed groups. Individual states, or groups of states, would adhere to this regime as a minimum baseline for all armed conflicts through legally binding unilateral declarations. If this approach proves feasible, it would have the effect of harmonizing the legal standards for the conduct of all armed conflicts, regardless of classification. This would clarify legal requirements, raise the level of protection for individuals, and reduce multilateral coordination problems, based upon the highest current levels of protection under international humanitarian law and rules that states are already comfortable administering in situations of international armed conflict.

In November, the project leaders hosted the fourth meeting of the Harmonization Project’s steering committee, composed of high-level current and former military personnel from the U.S., Canada, the Netherlands, and Australia, as well as leading academic experts on the law of war and human rights. Also in November, the Institute organized a second meeting with U.S. human rights civil society groups to update them on the project and address shared challenges. Project leaders Cleveland and Bethlehem met to discuss the project with the U.N. Office of Legal Affairs in New York City in January, and with NATO legal advisers in Brussels in May. In addition, Cleveland presented the project to human rights and international...
humanitarian law experts at a panel held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society of International Law in April, and at the Oxford-ICRC Transatlantic Workshop on Armed Conflict at Oxford University in July. Project leaders also continue to consult with outside experts. The final project report is due this winter, and the project leaders are contemplating pursuing a follow-up project on the relationship between international human rights law and the law of armed conflict.

THE LIEBER CODE AND CONTEMPORARY LEGAL CHALLENGES

In November, the Institute co-hosted a day-long conference, “From Gettysburg to Guantánamo: 150 Years of the Lieber Code and the Law of Armed Conflict,” which brought together internationally renowned experts on international humanitarian law and human rights to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 1863 Lieber Code. Drafted by Columbia Law School Professor Francis Lieber and signed by President Lincoln as General Order No. 100, the Lieber Code regulated the conduct of U.S. soldiers during the American Civil War. As the first comprehensive codification of the laws of armed conflict, the Code grappled with issues involving the regulation of armed conflicts between states and non-state groups that remain pressing today.

Participants included Faculty Co-Director Sarah Cleveland, Senior Fellow Sir Daniel Bethlehem, and Columbia Law School Professors Philip Bobbit and Matthew Waxman. Also participating were Professors John Fabian Witt of Yale Law School; Sir Adam Roberts and Dapo Akande of Oxford University; Dr. Bruce Oswald of Melbourne Law School; Robert Chesney of the University of Texas at Austin School of Law; Major-General Blaise Cathcart, Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Armed Forces; Jelena Pejic, senior legal adviser of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Marten Zwanenburg, then senior legal adviser in the Netherlands Ministry of Defense; and Naz Modirzadeh, senior fellow, HLS-Brookings Project on Law and Security at Harvard Law School. Brigadier General Richard Gross, U.S. Army, legal counsel to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, delivered the keynote address.

The conference was co-hosted with the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law, the Roger Hertog Program on Law and National Security, and the Lieber Society of the American Society of International Law. Papers and proceedings from the conference will be published in the coming year in the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law.

U.S. Terrorism Prosecutions of American Muslims

In July, the Institute released the report Illusion of Justice: Human Rights Abuses in U.S. Terrorism Prosecutions together with Human Rights Watch. Led by former associate director of the Institute’s Counterterrorism and Human Rights Project Naureen Shah ’07, and adviser and former fellow to the Counterterrorism and Human Rights Project Tarek Ismail ’11, with significant research assistance from students in the Human Rights Clinic, the report builds on three years of research and interviews on the prosecution of “homegrown terrorism” defendants. Upon its release, the report garnered significant media attention from The Washington Post, The New Yorker, and The Guardian, among other outlets.
Human Rights and the Global Economy

The Institute continues to work on a range of issues arising out of developments in the global economy. The projects this year, taken on through the Human Rights Clinic and through the continuing work of former Faculty Co-Director Peter Rosenblum '92 LL.M., extend from the labor rights of producers in global supply chains, to the impact of large-scale land acquisitions and the development of tools to combat the “resource curse.” The underlying issues include violations of traditional civil and political rights and efforts to implement economic and social rights, particularly the rights to food, housing, and livelihood.

The Extractive Sector

The Institute continued its work on human rights in the extractive sector, as well as its collaboration with The Carter Center focusing on mining governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). While the Institute’s past extractive-industry-related efforts have focused primarily on improving transparency and accountability around contracts, revenues, and the overall governance and enforcement of mining deals, this year the Institute concentrated on the community-level human rights impacts of mining and related infrastructure deals.

Through the Human Rights Clinic and in collaboration with the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, the Institute provided research and technical support throughout the 2013–2014 academic year to Congolese civil society and community members conducting human rights impact assessments (HRIAs) of mining and infrastructure projects in the DRC. This support included a trip to the DRC by the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment’s Kaitlin Cordes '08, who supervised a team of Human Rights Clinic students working on the project, and Human Rights Clinic student Doug Cantwell '15. Cordes and Cantwell travelled to the DRC to conduct an intensive three-day workshop with local partners. The trip also allowed the Columbia team to coordinate more closely with their Carter Center counterparts, including Elisabeth (Lies) Caesens '09 LL.M., who leads The Carter Center’s mining governance work in the DRC.

Building off of the Human Rights Clinic’s experience with HRIAs in the DRC, the Institute worked with the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment and the Institut d’études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) Law School Clinic to organize a roundtable on human rights impact assessments of large-scale foreign investments. The roundtable, which took place at the Law School in April, kicked off with a public keynote speech by Michael Posner, an expert on business and human rights and the former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. Posner’s speech focused on why human rights are important for business. To help disseminate some of the shared observations from the roundtable, the Institute and its partners are finalizing a publication that highlights its key outcomes.
Following four years of research by the Human Rights Clinic and wide consultation with unions and NGO’s, the Institute released a report documenting worker abuse on tea plantations owned by Tata and the World Bank.

Tea Plantations

India’s tea sector employs about 3 million workers on plantations that date from colonial rule and have changed little since. After a crisis in producer prices at the beginning of this century, many companies pulled out of plantation production. To facilitate this move, one of India’s two largest companies, Tata Global Beverages, brought the World Bank’s private investment arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), into a complicated scheme to spin off its plantations while it concentrated on more profitable retail marketing of its brands.

In February of this year, following four years of research by the Human Rights Clinic and wide consultation with unions and NGOs, the Institute released a report documenting worker abuse on plantations owned by Tata and the World Bank. The report, *The More Things Change: The World Bank, Tata and Enduring Abuses on India’s Tea Plantations*, examines the dire living and working conditions faced by those living on the plantations, such as inadequate and insufficient housing, acute hazards in sanitation, and denial of required statutory benefits, including medical care, to many workers’ families, in violation of the explicit requirement of Indian law.

The report received widespread media attention, including pieces in *The New York Times* and the *Financial Times*, and has resulted in a World Bank investigation of the claims made in the report. Responses to the report’s findings from the IFC and Tata are available on the Institute’s website. Former Human Rights Institute Faculty Co-Director Peter Rosenblum ’92 LL.M., labor rights expert Ashwini Sukthankar, and Sarah Mechlovitz Saadoun ’14, continue to engage in advocacy around the report’s findings.
Human Rights and Rule of Law in Burma

In collaboration with the Program on Peace-building and Human Rights at Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights, the Institute continued its work on promoting human rights and the rule of law in Burma.

**Strengthening Democracy**

Building on Faculty Co-Director Sarah Cleveland’s trip to Burma in February 2013, where she provided advice to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of parliament on constitutional reform and the law of international human rights, the Institute helped support the rule of law–strengthening efforts of the Burmese civil society organization Justice For All. Columbia Law School provided the organization with a post-graduate law fellow for a year to help it develop a “Know Your Rights” training manual for civil society trainings to be conducted around the country. The Institute also worked with Columbia Law School students to develop a spring break caravan, which sent six students to Burma to work with Justice For All during the Law School’s spring break. The participating students assisted with developing the training manual and met with numerous other organizations to gain an appreciation of the legal topics communities would most benefit from understanding.

The caravan also sought to expose the students to the legal issues facing the people of Burma and the strategies and challenges of local human rights groups working to address these issues. In the spring of 2014, the Institute helped send Ben Fleming II, senior advisor to the director of the Program on Peace-building and Human Rights, to Burma for six weeks to study the current pedagogical and curricular needs of law departments in universities around the country. A report on Fleming’s findings is forthcoming later this year. In addition, the Institute helped place other current and post-graduate Columbia Law School students with human rights advocacy groups in Burma, and is exploring collaboration on rule of law efforts in Burma with the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law in London.

Cleveland continues to work with organizations and experts inside and outside of Burma on a variety of human rights and rule of law issues.

In Burma with our partners from Justice for All.

Standing: Stephanie Amoako ’15 LAW, ’15 SIPA (far left) and Amy Wang ’15 (third from left), Jan Messerschmidt ’14 (second from right), Douglas Cantwell ’15 (far right).

Seated: Levon Golendukhin ’15, (far left), Ramya Ravishankar ’14 (second from left). Our guide for the week was Mariel Fernandez ’13 (far right).
Events

In its mission to support and influence human rights practice in the United States and throughout the world, Columbia Law School’s Human Rights Institute sponsors events that promote innovative scholarship and activism, strategic planning, network building, and the continued education of human rights practitioners.

Continuing Legal Education Events

THE ALIEN TORT STATUTE AND TRANSNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE AGE OF KIOBEL: A CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

November 14, 2013, New York City: Co-sponsored by the Center for Constitutional Rights, this program focused on the Alien Tort Statute (ATS) as a tool for seeking accountability for serious human rights violations, particularly in light of the Supreme Court’s decision in Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: 20 YEARS AFTER U.S. RATIFICATION

May 2, 2014, hosted by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York City: This year’s Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers’ Network annual symposium/CLE on domestic human rights commemorated the 20th anniversary of U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The full-day symposium brought together more than 100 lawyers, advocates, and government officials to discuss the history of the convention and explore advocacy strategies and opportunities presented by the Committee’s August review of U.S. compliance. The event featured a welcome address by Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and a keynote discussion with Carlos Manuel Vázquez ’83, member of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and Gay MacDougall, former U.N. Independent Expert on Minority Issues and former member of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The event was co-sponsored by the Northeastern University School of Law Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, the ACLU, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Conferences and Workshops

HARMONIZATION PROJECT HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES CONSULTATION

November 13, 2013, New York City: The Institute organized the second of two meetings with human rights experts to discuss the Project on Harmonizing Standards for Armed Conflict. Project leaders met with advocates to provide an update on the project, receive input, and explore shared challenges.
HARMONIZATION PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

November 22, 2013, New York City: The Institute hosted the fourth meeting of the steering committee of the Project on Harmonizing Standards for Armed Conflict. The meeting, held in conjunction with the Lieber Code conference, allowed steering committee members to provide input on the project’s draft report.

FROM GETTYSBURG TO GUANTÁNAMO:
150 YEARS OF THE LIEBER CODE AND THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

November 21, 2013, New York City: See Page 8 for a description.

INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM WORKING GROUP MEETING

December 17, 2013, New York City: The Institute organized a meeting of the Inter-American Human Rights System Working Group of the BHRH Lawyers’ Network. Professor James Cavallaro, recently elected commissioner on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, engaged with members of the working group before commencing his role as commissioner in January.

THE 40TH ANNUAL WOLFGANG FRIEDMANN CONFERENCE HONORING ARYEH NEIER

March 26, 2014, New York City: Together with the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law and the Columbia Society for International Law, the Institute co-sponsored Columbia Law School’s annual Friedmann conference. The event included a keynote address by honoree Aryeh Neier, former president of Open Society Foundations and founding executive director of Human Rights Watch, as well as afternoon panels on Constitutionalism and Human Rights in the Middle East and Challenges for Human Rights Advocates in the Post 9/11 Era. The program featured prominent experts in human rights and international law.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF LARGE-SCALE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS: A COLLABORATIVE REFLECTION

April 16, 2014, New York City: The Institute, the Sciences Po Law School Clinic, and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment hosted a multi-stakeholder roundtable at Columbia Law School. This event brought together 27 experts, practitioners, academics, and law clinic students from multiple countries to reflect on the challenges and opportunities related to Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs). The closed sessions generated a rich discussion that drew from on-the-ground experiences conducting HRIAs of large-scale investment projects across the globe, from Canada to Cambodia. Roundtable participants reflected on the various ways that HRIAs are utilized, their efficacy and impact, common obstacles and best practices, and the role of community engagement, partnerships, and capacity building. To help disseminate some of the shared observations, the Institute and its organizing partners will publish a document highlighting the key outcomes.
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

WINNING THE MEDIA DEBATE ON TARGETED KILLING

May 14, 2014, New York City: The Institute hosted a meeting organized by ReThink Media that brought together leading advocates working on targeted killing and U.S. drone strike policy to share the results of ReThink’s recent analysis of U.S. media coverage of these issues. Participants, together with ReThink staff, reviewed the findings of the audit, discussed effective messaging, and shared strategies to increase positive media coverage.

TEACHING BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP

May 15–16, 2014, New York City: The fourth annual Teaching Business and Human Rights Workshop at Columbia University brought together 30 faculty members from universities around the country and internationally, to share cross-disciplinary strategies for teaching business and human rights. The workshop was an opportunity for individuals teaching this subject to engage with corporate responsibility executives and advocates, to discuss key themes in their courses, and to share what works (and doesn’t work) in the classroom. By fostering collaboration among teachers, the workshop sought to strengthen this emerging, multidisciplinary field of study and practice. This event was co-hosted with the University-wide Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

EXPERT MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CIVIL CASES

June 12, 2014, New York City: This meeting brought together experts on access to civil justice issues in the U.S. The session was a place for participants to explore the full range of access to justice advocacy being pursued in both domestic and international fora, and to discuss ways to strategically coordinate international and domestic advocacy to maximize impact. The meeting was co-organized with the Northeastern University School of Law Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy.

BHRH Lawyers’ Network

The Institute’s bi-annual Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers’ Network meetings, which took place on November 14, 2013 and June 6, 2014, brought together network members to discuss common challenges, advocacy strategies, U.S. policy initiatives, developments in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and pending cases in U.S. courts.
Speaker Series

The Human Rights Institute is the focal point for human rights education, scholarship, and practice at Columbia Law School. During the academic year, the Institute runs a dynamic speakers' program and works closely with Columbia Law School student groups on other programming activities. This wide variety of programming brings our students together with an array of distinguished human rights scholars, activists, diplomats, and government officials from around the world. A sampling follows:

**CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**
September 16, 2013: Mary Gerisch, President, Vermont Workers’ Center

**CRISIS IN SYRIA**
September 23, 2013: Jean-Marie Guéhenno, former Deputy Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on Syria

**THE KADI CASE: U.N. TERRORISM SANCTIONS AND BEYOND**
October 7, 2013: Maya Lester, Barrister, Brick Court Chambers; Fellow, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, London

**SECRET JUSTICE: SAFEGUARDING SECURITY WITHOUT UNDERMINING JUSTICE**
October 10, 2013: Martin Chamberlain, QC Brick Court Chambers, London

**A CONVERSATION ON INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
October 15, 2013: Judge Theodor Meron, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and President of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. Moderated by Lori Fisler Damrosch, the Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy, Columbia Law School

**INVISIBLE PALESTINIANS: RIGHTS AND IDENTITY OF PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL**
October 16, 2013: Nadia Ben-Youssef, USA Representative, Adalah—The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights

**FROM UNDESERVING POOR TO RIGHTS HOLDER**
October 21, 2013: Magdalena Sepúlveda, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty

**VOICES FOR JUSTICE: THE INFLUENCE AND IMPACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROCEDURES**
October 22, 2013: Magdalena Sepúlveda, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty; Olivier De Schutter, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Moderated by Ignacio Saiz, Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights
The South African Constitution at Twenty

In April 2014, the Institute was privileged to host Justice Edwin Cameron of the South African Constitutional Court. Appointed as a Justice by the late President Mandela, and serving in that capacity since 2009, Cameron is one of South Africa’s most prominent judicial figures, with a long history of human rights activism, and a particular focus on labor rights and later on HIV/AIDS. Justice Cameron delivered a lecture based on his new book, *Justice: A Personal Account*. Cameron also met with students in Professor Cleveland’s class on Human Rights: Law, Policy, and Strategy, to discuss the challenges of progressive human rights legal development from the perspective of an advocate and a jurist.

FILM SCREENING: THE LAW IN THESE PARTS AND Q&A WITH THE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2013: Hosted by Katherine Franke, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and Director, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, Columbia Law School. Co-sponsored by the Middle East Institute, the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, and the Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCoy Faculty-Student Intellectual Life Series

THE ICC AND THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS

October 30, 2013: Andreas Zimmermann, Professor of International Law and Director, Human Rights Centre, Potsdam University

THE LAST GREAT HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGE?
GLOBAL DECRIMINALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY USING CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

November 12, 2013: Lord Peter Goldsmith, Former Attorney General, United Kingdom; European and Asian Chair of Litigation, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

THE FUTURE OF ATS LITIGATION AFTER KIOBEL: A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES

November 13, 2013: Paul Hoffman, University of California, Irvine School of Law

LEGAL CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES FOR COMBATING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

February 3, 2014: Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence Against Children

THROUGH THE LENS OF THE LAW: THE JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC STATE

February 19, 2014: Hassan Jabareen, Founder and General Legal Director, Adalah—The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel. Co-sponsored by Social Justice Initiatives, Center for Palestine Studies, Middle East Institute, and the *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*

THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR: HUMAN RIGHTS, LAW, AND STRATEGY

February 24, 2014: Lama Fakih, Researcher, Human Rights Watch. Co-sponsored with Rightslink, The Middle East Institute, Middle Eastern Law Students Association, Columbia Society of International Law, and the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs’ Arab Students Association

DWARFS, RABBITS, NELSON MANDELA, AND THE NINTH CIRCUIT:
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN DIGNITY

March 24, 2014: Christopher McCrudden, Professor of Human Rights and Equality Law, Queen’s University Belfast and William W. Cook Global Law Professor, University of Michigan Law School
SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE TEA:
LABOR CONDITIONS, CORPORATE BRANDING, AND INDIAN TEA PLANTATIONS

March 24, 2014: Launch event for Institute report *The More Things Change: The World Bank, Tata, and Enduring Abuses on India’s Tea Plantations*


DEFYING INJUSTICE: LESSONS FROM DEFEATING APARTHEID TO THE ARAB SPRING:
AN INTER-ACTIVE DIALOGUE AMONG ACTIVISTS AND SCHOLARS


BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

April 16, 2014: Michael Posner, Professor of Business and Society, NYU Stern School of Business

Vince Warren, Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights
The Legal Legacy of
*Sale v. Haitian Centers Council*

This year, the Institute hosted a series to commemorate the 20th anniversary of *Sale v. Haitian Centers Council*, 509 U.S. 155 (1993). Brought on behalf of Haitians interdicted on the high seas and detained on Guantánamo, *Sale* was one of the seminal American human rights advocacy efforts of the 1990s. The litigation changed U.S. foreign policy, spawned satellite litigation, became the subject of numerous books and articles, and inspired a generation of human rights scholars and activists. Faculty Co-Director Sarah Cleveland and Institute adviser and scholar in residence Harold Hongju Koh organized five sessions with members of the original legal team and Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr. of the Eastern District of New York. The sessions examined various aspects of litigation and the legacy of *Sale* on human rights advocacy today.

**I. THE HAITIAN CASE TWENTY YEARS ON: OVERVIEW AND IMPACT ON IMMIGRANTS’ RIGHTS LITIGATION AND LAW**

Wednesday, September 25, 2013: Lucas Guttentag, Ford Foundation Distinguished Senior Research Scholar in Law; Robina Foundation Senior Visiting Human Rights Fellow and Lecturer-in-Law, Yale Law School; Founder and Former Director, ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project

**II. THE HAITIAN CASE AND EXTRATERRITORIALITY**

Wednesday, October 2, 2013: Sarah Cleveland, Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights; Faculty Co-Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School

**III. THE HAITIAN CASE, THE “LAW OF GUANTÁNAMO,” AND TRANSNATIONAL PUBLIC LAW LITIGATION**

Wednesday, October 23, 2013: Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law, Yale Law School; Scholar in Residence (2013–2014), Columbia Law School

**IV. THE HAITIAN CASE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY**

Wednesday, November 6, 2013: Michael Wishnie, Deputy Dean for Experiential Education, William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, Yale Law School; and Michael Ratner ’69, President Emeritus, Center for Constitutional Rights

**V. REMEMBERING THE HAITIAN CASE: A CONVERSATION WITH JUDGE STERLING JOHNSON, JR.**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013: In conversation with Harold Hongju Koh. Commentary by Brandt Goldstein, author of *Storming the Court: How a Band of Yale Law Students Sued the President—and Won*
Publication Highlights

Full text for many of the publications listed below can be found on our website. Visit: www.law.columbia.edu/human-rights-institute/publications

**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the United States: A Human Rights Based Approach and Practice Guide**
Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, Miami Law School Human Rights Clinic, and the ACLU Women’s Rights Project, August 2014

**Using Human Rights Assessments in Local Governance: A Toolkit for State and Local Human Rights and Human Relations Commissions**
The Human Rights Institute and The International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, August 2014

**The Need for Effective Federal Outreach and Mechanisms to Coordinate and Support Federal, State and Local Implementation of The Convention: Response to the Seventh to Ninth Periodic Reports of the United States to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**
The Human Rights Institute and The International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, July 2014

**Equal Access to Justice: Ensuring Meaningful Access to Counsel in Civil Cases, including Immigration Proceedings: Response to the Seventh and Ninth Periodic Reports of the United States to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**
Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute and Northeastern University School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, July 2014

**Symposium Issue on Bringing Economic and Social Rights Home: The Right to Adequate Housing in the United States**
*Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, in conjunction with the Human Rights Institute, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and Northeastern University School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, Spring 2014

**Challenging Juvenile Life Without Parole: How Has Human Rights Made A Difference?**
Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, June 2014

**Access to Justice: Ensuring Meaningful Access to Justice in Civil Cases**
Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic, 64 Syracuse L. Rev. 409 (2014)

**The More Things Change: The World Bank, TATA, and Enduring Abuses on India’s Tea Plantations**
The Human Rights Institute, January 2014

Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic, August 2013

**Closing the Gap: The Federal Role in Respecting and Ensuring Human Rights at the State and Local Level: Response to the Fourth Periodic Report of the United States to the United Nations Human Rights Committee**
Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute and International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, August 2013
Faculty and Staff

Columbia Law School has been a pioneer in international human rights since the 1960s, when the late Professor Louis Henkin transformed the teaching of law here to reflect the growing need for this new field of study. Today, Institute faculty and scholars continue to break new ground, drawing on the Law School’s deep human rights tradition to support and influence human rights practice in the United States and throughout the world.

SARAH H. CLEVELAND, the Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights and Faculty Co-Director of the Institute, continues to pursue her interests in the domestic application of human rights law and the intersection of human rights, constitutional law, and the law of armed conflict.

This year, together with Sir Daniel Bethlehem and Rebecca Ingber, Cleveland continued work on the Project on Harmonizing Standards for Armed Conflict. She organized a steering committee meeting, met with the U.N. Office of Legal Affairs, NATO legal advisers, and human rights groups, and presented the project to experts at the Oxford-ICRC Transatlantic Workshop on Armed Conflict. The project’s final report is due at the end of this year.

Building on her prior work on human rights sanctions in Burma, Cleveland continued to oversee the Institute’s Project on Rule of Law in that country. She helped supervise a Columbia post-graduate fellow working with the local NGO, Justice for All, on developing a “Know Your Rights” training manual for civil society trainings around Burma, helped place other current and post-graduate Columbia students with advocacy groups addressing human rights in the country, helped organize and supervise research on strengthening legal education there, and worked with Columbia Law School students to organize a spring break caravan to the country. She continues to assist in supporting law reform efforts in Burma.

As the U.S. Member on the Council of Europe’s European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Cleveland participated in the ongoing work of the Commission in evaluating the compatibility of national laws and legal reforms with fundamental rights, including serving as a rapporteur on questions of constitutional reform for the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Georgia.

Cleveland continues to serve on the Council of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association, and the Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee on International Law. She is the Co-Coordinating Reporter directing and overseeing the development and production of the American Law Institute’s Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the United States. In that capacity, over the past year, she has helped produce Restatement drafts on the status of treaties in U.S. law, participated in meetings with experts and advisers to the Restatement project, and discussed the Restatement project on panels at the ASIL annual meeting and elsewhere. She was also elected to the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law.
Cleveland traveled frequently this year, joining delegations and presenting on a number of panels covering a variety of issues in international law. Last fall, she was a public member of the U.S. delegation in the U.S.-China Legal Experts Dialogue. In February, she attended a first-of-its-kind conference that brought U.S. Supreme Court Justices together with judges from the European Court of Justice. The meeting took place in Luxembourg and aimed to increase communication and mutual understanding between the two courts. In April, Cleveland was an invited presenter at a three-day Chatham House meeting on China’s approach to International Human Rights Law. In June, she traveled to the American Academy in Berlin to participate in the Richard Holbrooke Forum’s Workshop on “Statecraft and Responsibility: Lessons from Bosnia, Syria, and Ukraine.”

Cleveland participated in a number of other speaking events this past year, including a conference at Yale Law School on “The Globalization of High Seas Interdiction” and a workshop on “The New Challenges to the Chemical Weapons Convention” held at the University of Rome, where she discussed the pending Supreme Court case of Bond v. United States. She chaired a roundtable discussion on the end of conflict and lethal targeting at ASIL’s annual meeting, and spoke on a panel titled “Drone Strikes and Targeted Killings: Domestic and International Perspectives” at the Second Circuit Judicial Conference in June, among other activities.

Cleveland organized a number of events at Columbia University this year. In the fall, together with Human Rights Institute adviser Harold Hongju Koh, she organized a series of talks commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Sale v. Haitian Centers Council case and delivered a presentation as part of the series on the extraterritorial application of human rights law. She was a key organizer of this year’s conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Lieber Code and exploring current challenges in the Law of Armed Conflict (see page 8). She presented at a transnational meeting on Global Freedom of Expression and Information organized by Columbia University in March. Cleveland also participated in this year’s Friedmann conference, moderating a panel discussion and introducing the award recipient, Aryeh Neier, at his keynote lecture and the award dinner.

Cleveland has a pending article on the power of Congress to implement treaties after the Bond case: Defining and Punishing Offenses Under Treaties, 124 Yale. L. J. ___ (forthcoming), and has published two articles on the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Kiobel regarding the Alien Tort Statue: After Kiobel, 12 J. Int’l Crim. Just. 551 (2014), and The Kiobel Presumption and Extraterritoriality, 52 Colum. J. Transnat’l L. 8 (2013).
RISA E. KAUFMAN, executive director of the Human Rights Institute and lecturer-in-law, works to expand resources and opportunities for U.S. lawyers seeking to integrate human rights into their domestic practice, foster accountability for the U.S.’ human rights treaty commitments, and promote access to justice in the United States. During the 2013–2014 academic year, she also co-directed the Human Rights Clinic with JoAnn Kamuf Ward.

Much of Kaufman’s work in the past year was focused on deepening the Institute’s efforts to advance advocacy for meaningful access to civil counsel in the U.S. through a human rights framework (see page 3 for details). In connection with her participation in the civil society delegation for the U.S. ICCPR review in Geneva, she published an op-ed in *The National Law Journal* titled “U.S. Justice Gap is Under International Scrutiny” (Mar. 3, 2014), and engaged in other media advocacy. A story highlighting the issue and the ICCPR aired on NPR’s Morning Edition.

Connected to this work, in 2013–2014, Kaufman supervised a team of Human Rights Clinic students working with the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau to develop a report on the role of state court judges in protecting the right to housing in rent court. With colleagues Martha F. Davis and Heidi Wegleitner, she published *The Interdependence of Rights: Protecting the Human Right to Housing by Promoting the Right to Counsel*, 45 Colum. Hum. Rts. L. Rev. 732 (2014), discussing the implications of advocacy efforts to link the right to counsel in civil cases with a housing rights strategy.

As part of the Institute’s work to build the field of domestic human rights lawyers, Kaufman continued to lead the Institute’s Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers’ Network. In addition she supervised a team of Human Rights Clinic students to develop a report exploring strategies for U.S. advocates to engage effectively with the U.N. Special Procedures. She worked with Columbia Law School’s *Human Rights Law Review* and partner organizations National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty and Northeastern University School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy to develop a symposium issue of the *Human Rights Law Review* focused on the right to housing in the United States. The special issue was an outgrowth of the Institute’s 2013 Symposium on the topic. In addition, Kaufman completed work on *Human Rights Advocacy in the United States* (with Martha F. Davis and Johanna Kalb), the first law school course book with a focus on U.S. human rights advocacy. The book was released by West Publishing in October 2014.

Kaufman developed and facilitated several major events this year, including the Institute’s annual symposium and CLE program on human rights in the United States (focused this year on the 20th anniversary of U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), and an expert meeting on access to justice. She led a workshop, “Contributing to Discussions on Article 15 at the United Nations,” at the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition in Washington, D.C., and presented on panels and webinars on access to justice and the human rights implications of *Bond v. U.S.*, among other issues.

Kaufman serves on the steering committee of the Human Rights at Home Campaign (HuRAH) and as an advisory board member for American University Washington College of Law’s Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law’s Local Human Rights Lawyering Project. She is a co-editor and frequent contributor to the Human Rights at Home law professors blog.

JOANN KAMUF WARD, associate director of the Institute’s Human Rights in the United States Project and a lecturer-in-law, continued to lead the institute’s work with state and local governments to strengthen their capacity to use human rights. She engaged with media, government, and international and regional human rights experts to raise awareness of how human rights standards and strategies improve governance, and to strengthen domestic accountability for human rights violations. During the 2013–2014 academic year, Ward also co-directed the Human Rights Clinic, with Risa Kaufman.

Ward supervised a team of clinic students focused on state and local human rights implementation. The team engaged in U.N. advocacy and contributed technical assistance to state and local agencies and officials, providing research on a number of substantive issues, developing local human rights strategies, and drafting op-eds. Several clinic students helped prepare for, and attended, the review of U.S. compliance with the ICCPR, creating advocacy materials regarding state and local implementation and gender equity. Leading up to the review, Ward worked with several
students to co-author a piece on Huffington Post titled “Human Rights on Hold,” responding to the U.S.’ initial postponement of its participation in the review as a result of the 2013 government shutdown.


Leading the Institute’s efforts to strengthen the efficacy and impact of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in the United States, Ward continues to co-coordinate the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers’ Network Inter-American Working Group. In this capacity, she oversees development of advocacy resources, such as the updated Primer on Recommendations from the Inter-American Commission and the United Nations to the United States. She also serves as co-counsel in the Lenahan (Gonzales) case and Hill v. United States, challenging juvenile life without parole on behalf of 32 individuals in Michigan currently serving this sentence.

In support of an ongoing campaign to improve access to healthcare in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, Ward traveled to Austin, Texas, with several clinic students, as well as members of the Center for Reproductive Rights and CUNY’s International Women’s Human Rights Clinic, to interview women about their experiences accessing healthcare. Students also worked with Ward to prepare testimony and organize amici for the IACHR juvenile life without parole hearing. The hearing and Columbia’s engagement were reflected in several news outlets, including the ThinkProgress piece, “Why This Human Rights Commission Is Intervening To Review Life Without Parole Sentences For Kids.”

Ward serves on the steering committee of the Human Rights at Home Campaign (HuRAH) and as a member of the New York City Bar Association’s International Human Rights Committee.

ERIN FOLEY SMITH ’10 joined the Human Rights Institute in November 2013 as a project attorney for the Human Rights in the United States Project. Her work focuses on juvenile life without parole, as well as access to justice issues, with a particular focus on immigration.

Based on interviews with a number of advocates, Smith authored a case study detailing how advocates have used human rights strategies and frameworks to advance efforts to end the practice of sentencing juveniles to life without parole in the United States. The case study was published through the Human Rights Institute in June.

As part of the Institute’s work on access to justice, Smith researched jurisprudence and reports of the Inter-American System of Human Rights on the subject of access to counsel in criminal, civil, and immigration cases, laying the groundwork for the Institute’s future advocacy on access to justice issues before the Inter-American Commission. Smith also assisted in the preparation of the June 12, 2014, Access to Justice experts’ meeting, hosted by the Human Rights Institute and Northeastern University School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE). Smith co-authored, along with PHRGE, a shadow report for the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in connection with its August 2014 review of the United States. The report focuses on access to justice, in particular access to counsel in civil cases where basic needs are at stake, including immigration cases. She traveled to Geneva in August as part of the civil society delegation to the U.N. review of U.S. compliance with the CERD. In Geneva, she advocated with the CERD Committee and with U.S. government officials around issues related to access to justice and state and local implementation of human rights.
SIR DANIEL BETHLEHEM, KCMG QC, is a senior fellow at the Human Rights Institute, a visiting professor at Columbia Law School, and a barrister with 20 Essex Street Chambers, London. Together with Faculty Co-Director Sarah Cleveland, he directs the Institute’s Project on Harmonizing Standards for Armed Conflict, and he provides ongoing consultation and assistance to the Project on Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights. He participated in the Harmonization Project Steering Committee meeting at Columbia Law School in November, as well as in presentations on the Harmonization Project with human rights advocates, at the U.N., and NATO. He was also an organizer and panelist for the Lieber Code Conference. Bethlehem is the former principal legal adviser to the U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office, a position he held from May 2006 to May 2011. Prior to this, he was the director of the Lauterpacht Center for International Law at Cambridge University.

TAREK Z. ISMAIL ’11, Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights Fellow, worked to facilitate network-building among grassroots communities, civil rights attorneys, and policy advocates to develop research and advocacy strategies. Ismail’s focus has largely been on domestic counterterrorism practices, including surveillance and counterterrorism prosecutions. This year, working with students from the Human Rights Clinic, Ismail continued a wide-ranging research project to examine the impact of “home-grown” terrorism investigations and prosecutions on Muslim communities in the United States. Ismail interviewed families, community members and advocates, defense attorneys, government personnel, and area experts in 10 cities across the United States. The project culminated in a groundbreaking report, released with Human Rights Watch in July 2014, Illusion of Justice: Human Rights Abuses in U.S. Terrorism Prosecutions. Following the release of the report, Tarek continued to serve as adviser to the counterterrorism and human rights project. He authored a post on JustSecurity discussing the report and the use of radicalization theories in counterterrorism sting operations, and conducted other media outreach for the report.

GRETA MOSESON, the Institute’s program manager, helped to organize the Institute’s CLE symposia, several expert conferences and workshops, and a robust speaker series of human rights experts for Columbia students. This year Moseson managed the release of several new publications for the Institute, assisting with production, media outreach, and dissemination of the reports. She continues to facilitate daily operations of the Institute’s initiatives and serve as the main point of contact and communications for the Institute.

HAROLD HONGJU KOH, Sterling Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, is an adviser to the Human Rights Institute and was a visiting scholar at Columbia Law School for the 2013–2014 year. Together with Faculty Co-Director Sarah Cleveland, Professor Koh organized the Institute’s Sale v. Haitian Centers Council speaker series, at which he also served as a presenter. He provides ongoing consultation and assistance to the Institute’s project on Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights, as well as the Institute’s project on Human Rights in the United States. This year, he met with students in the human rights clinic on several occasions to discuss strategies for engaging with government officials and the U.N. human rights mechanisms. Professor Koh is one of the country’s leading experts in public and private international law, national security law, and human rights. From 2009 to 2013, he served as the legal adviser to the U.S. State Department, service for which he received the Secretary of State’s Distinguished Service Award. From 2004 to 2009, Koh served as the 15th dean of Yale Law School. From 1998 to 2001, he served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.
REBECCA INGBER is a consultant with the Institute and an associate research scholar at Columbia Law School. She has been affiliated with the Human Rights Institute for the past two years through her work on the Project on Harmonizing Standards for Armed Conflict, which is exploring avenues for raising legal standards in non-international armed conflicts. Ingber worked with Sir Daniel Bethlehem and Faculty Co-Director Sarah Cleveland to convene the project’s steering committee this year. Ingber also published an article on national security and human rights decision making in the U.S. executive branch titled *Interpretation Catalysts and Executive Branch Legal Decisionmaking*, 38 Yale J. Int’l L. 359 (2013).

BETTINA SCHOLDAN ’14 LL.M., researcher with the Institute, served as a delegate of the ICRC, working on behalf of victims of armed conflict in Africa, the Middle East, and Afghanistan, before coming to Columbia Law School to pursue her LL.M. For the Human Rights Institute, she researched various legal issues relating to the use of force, the relationship between human rights and international humanitarian law, and the legal implications of the end of an armed conflict.

GABRIELA ECHEVERRIA is a visiting scholar at Columbia Law School and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Essex, working under the supervision of Professor Nigel Rodley. For the past two years she has been an affiliated researcher with the Institute, conducting research on the right to reparation for victims of human rights and international humanitarian law violations. Echeverria has wide experience working in international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including most recently with the Open Society Justice Initiative and as the international legal adviser of REDRESS.

Welcome New Institute Faculty and Staff

This year, the Institute welcomes several new members to our team. In July 2014, SARAH KNUCKEY joined the Institute as Faculty Co-Director and the Lieff Cabraser Clinical Professor in Human Rights. Professor Knuckey joins the Institute from NYU School of Law, where she directed the Initiative on Human Rights Fact-Finding and the Project on Extrajudicial Executions at NYU’s Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. Knuckey is an international human rights lawyer, professor, and special adviser to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions. She has carried out fact-finding investigations and reported on human rights and armed conflict violations around the world, including in Afghanistan, Brazil, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, and the United States. Knuckey’s work has addressed issues such as unlawful killings, violations in armed conflict, sexual violence, corporate accountability, extractive industries, and protest rights. Her current academic research interests include human rights methodologies, critical perspectives on human rights, new weapons technologies, transparency norms, and post-traumatic stress disorder and resilience.
This spring, the Institute welcomed **NATHALIE WEIZMANN** as the new senior director of the Counter-terrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights project. Weizmann has extensive experience in international human rights and humanitarian law, including, most recently, seven years of service as a legal adviser with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), both at the organization’s Geneva headquarters and as legal adviser to the Iraq delegation. Together with Institute Faculty Co-Directors Cleveland and Knuckey, Weizmann will be coordinating the project’s engagement on legal and policy issues relating to national security and the intersection of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Her work includes conducting legal research, producing expert papers, blog posts and other publications; soliciting research from experts; coordinating a research and discussion group; and engaging in outreach to U.S. and foreign governments, civil society, and other actors.

This summer, **BENJAMIN HOFFMAN** joined the Institute and the Human Rights Clinic as a new clinical fellow. Hoffman is a lawyer specializing in international human rights law and corporate accountability. Prior to joining the Institute, he spent three years working with EarthRights International in Lima, Peru, supporting community-led efforts to resist the harmful consequences of resource extraction and megadevelopment projects in the Andean-Amazonian region, primarily through transnational litigation. Hoffman’s work and scholarship focus on the integration of community collaboration and empowerment in transnational human rights advocacy, strategy, and methodology.
Spotlight on Alumni

Graduates of Columbia Law School are actively engaged throughout the human rights movement, both in traditional fields and at the cutting edge. Many are leading positive change in the United States and across the world, working for human rights NGOs, government, and academia. Others spearhead pro bono activities in the private sector or launch new organizations to bring innovative approaches to the fight for human rights and social and economic justice.

CHANDRA BHATNAGAR ‘02 LL.M. came to Columbia Law School as a Human Rights Fellow in the LL.M. program, focusing on the domestic application of international human rights norms. While at Columbia, Bhatnagar was a legal extern at the U.N. Department of Political Affairs and served as a teaching assistant in the Human Rights Clinic. After receiving his Master of Laws, Chandra joined the Institute’s Bringing Human Rights Home Project, where he fought to improve conditions affecting post-9/11 detainees and engaged in efforts to organize a coalition of human rights defenders. Bhatnagar then received a Skadden Fellowship and joined the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, where he directed a community-based project providing legal services to low-wage workers from South Asia. In 2004, Bhatnagar was hired as one of the three founding members of the Human Rights Program of the American Civil Liberties Union, where he currently serves as a senior attorney. His litigation practice centers on the intersection of racial justice and immigration. Some of his cases include: David, et al. v. Signal International, LLC, et al. and EEOC v. Signal International, LLC, lawsuits on behalf of more than 500 Indian men trafficked into the U.S. as guest workers and subjected to abuse and racial discrimination; Awad v. Ziriax, et al., a legal challenge to Oklahoma’s proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting Oklahoma judges from considering “international law” or “Sharia law”; and Raza v. City of New York, a constitutional challenge to the NYPD’s discriminatory, suspicion-less surveillance of Muslim New Yorkers. Bhatnagar has also engaged in high-level international human rights advocacy at the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

KAITLIN CORDES ’08 decided to enroll at Columbia Law School because of its strong reputation in international law and her desire to work on social justice issues from an international perspective. With an interest in business, human rights, and economic justice, she spent her 1L summer in India working on global labor rights with a small nonprofit organization and her 2L summer in New York working with the economic justice program of the Brennan Center, as well as a semester interning at the Center for Constitutional Rights supporting its business and human rights litigation. She devoted much of her 3L year to working on projects for the Law School’s Human Rights Clinic, which included traveling to India to conduct research on labor issues. The same year, she began focusing on human rights within the food system as a student of Visiting Professor Olivier De Schutter, who served as the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to food between 2008 and 2014. After a clerkship on the Supreme Court of New Jersey, Cordes served as an adviser to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to food and then worked on women’s rights to food and livelihood with an Indian nonprofit organization. She subsequently served as a Sandler Fellow at Human Rights Watch, where she investigated the human rights situation of farmworkers in South Africa. She also founded Righting Food, a website focused on food, human rights, and the law. Currently, she works as a legal researcher at the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute, where she leads its work on land and agriculture and also focuses on the intersection of human rights and investment. Through this position, Cordes has continued to collaborate with the Human Rights Institute. In 2013–2014, she supervised a team of Human Rights Clinic students working on human rights impact assessments of mining investments, traveling with a student to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2014.
NETA PATRICK ’11 LL.M. came to Columbia to complete a Master in Law Program (LL.M.) on a full Human Rights Fellowship. Previously, Patrick practiced as a lawyer in Israel, specializing in Israeli constitutional and human rights law. Patrick worked as an associate in the law office of Michael Sfard for three years, where she was the legal director of the “Rule of Law” project for the human rights organization Yesh Din (Hebrew for: there is law). Patrick co-litigated a variety of cases at the Israeli Supreme Court and district courts, including those involving conscientious objectors to military service, Bedouin communities’ indigenous right to land, and freedom of speech in times of conflict.

Following her graduation from Columbia Law School as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, Patrick stayed on as a fellow with the Human Rights Institute, where she worked on a project that focused on housing land and property rights in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank. Together with Professor Peter Rosenblum ’92 LL.M. and students from the Human Rights Clinic, she participated in a research mission to Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territories and collected testimonies from members of local communities who suffered home-demolitions. Following the research mission, the Human Rights Clinic drafted and submitted two reports to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing.

Upon her return to Israel in the summer of 2012, Patrick became the director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, working with Israeli and Palestinian students on various issues such as LGBT rights, the right to privacy, and migrant workers’ rights. Since December 2012, Patrick has also presided as chairperson of the board of directors of the Human Rights Defenders Fund, which affords human rights defenders with the necessary legal tools to prevent a “chilling effect” on participation in human rights activity. Patrick was recently appointed the executive director of the Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din.

JENNIFER SOKOLER ’10 chose to enroll at Columbia Law School due to its extraordinary commitment to public interest law and human rights. She spent her 1L summer in Eastern Europe working with Professor Jack Greenberg on a project comparing the segregation of Roma students in Hungary with segregation of African-American students in the United States. An outstanding human rights student, after her 2L year, Sokoler completed an internship with the Office of the Prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania. During the fall semester of her 3L year, Sokoler externed with the Office of the Legal Adviser at the United States Department of State, where Institute Faculty Co-Director Sarah H. Cleveland was serving as the counsel on international law. Sokoler also served as a research assistant to University President Lee Bollinger on his first amendment book Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide Open.

After clerkships with the Honorable Denise Cote ’75 of the Southern District of New York, and the Honorable Robert A. Katzmann, Chief Judge of the Second Circuit, Sokoler joined the Center for Reproductive Rights’ United States Legal Program as a legal fellow. At CRR, she worked on cases protecting women’s access to safe and affordable contraception and abortion care, including: a successful lawsuit against the FDA to make emergency contraception available over-the-counter to women of all ages; a challenge to laws adopted by an emergency session of the Texas legislature during the summer of 2013 that were intended to shut down a large number of the state’s remaining abortion clinics; and a First Amendment challenge to a North Carolina statute that compels physicians to display and describe real-time ultrasound images to women seeking abortions, even against their patients’ wishes. This summer, Sokoler began a clerkship with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.
For Further Information

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