

 **Columbia Law School**

435 West 116th Street, New York, NY 10027

[law.columbia.edu](http://law.columbia.edu)

 **Columbia Law School**

# Leading Change

**HUMAN RIGHTS AT  
COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL**

**Columbia Law School's innovative and expansive human rights program trains the next generation of strategic and creative human rights leaders.**

Columbia Law students join a pioneering human rights law faculty at a world-renowned university with extensive curricular offerings, global reach, and deep ties with the international human rights community. Graduates of Columbia go on to lead social change around the world through directing NGOs, supporting social movements, advising governments, working at the U.N., litigating in international courts, or as teachers and scholars.

**The Human Rights Path at Columbia Law School**

Beginning with admission and continuing through graduation and beyond, Columbia students are members of a vibrant human rights community. They work closely with leading faculty and lawyers to develop their human rights expertise. Situated in New York, alongside the headquarters of the U.N. and many international NGOs, students have diverse opportunities to meet leading practitioners and hone their skills through clinics, externships, and field placements.

During their time at the Law School, students are provided individualized mentoring and career guidance from professors, the many human rights advocates on staff at the Law School, and Columbia's extensive network of alumni and advocates around the world.



**Far left: Professor Sarah Cleveland speaking at a human rights panel at the Law School.**

**Left: Human Rights Clinic student Candy Ofime '17 meets with a community in Papua New Guinea to discuss the effects of industrial gold mining on human rights.**

**1L YEAR**

Students can apply for Columbia's unique 1L Advocates Program, in which they work on cutting-edge human rights cases beginning in their first semester of law school. They can also join student groups and moots, and attend frequent talks by influential advocates. All students are eligible to receive stipends for summer public interest internships.

**2L AND 3L YEARS**

Students choose from a wide range of classes taught by distinguished scholars and advocates. They can enroll in clinics and externships to develop real-world experience, including the Human Rights Clinic, Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Mediation Clinic, or an externship at the U.N. Students can write academic papers with close faculty guidance, and join the staff of one of the Law School's 14 journals.

**AFTER GRADUATION**

The Law School supports students in launching and developing their careers through public interest fellowships, a generous loan repayment program, and continued career advising.

## The Human Rights Institute

The Human Rights Institute (HRI) is the anchor for the human rights community at Columbia Law School. Co-directed by professors Sarah Cleveland and Sarah Knuckey, HRI is one of the oldest and largest law school human rights centers in the world. Founded in 1998 by the late Professor Louis Henkin, HRI advances international human rights through education, advocacy, fact-finding, scholarship, and critical reflection. Working in partnership with activists, communities, and organizations, HRI promotes justice for violations, strengthens human rights law and institutions, amplifies collective power, builds bridges between scholarship and activism, and develops innovative human rights methods.

### COMMUNITY & EVENTS

HRI brings together students, scholars, and advocates through workshops and panel discussions. It provides a robust program of events featuring a diverse array of experts, including grassroots activists, senior U.N. and government officials, and academics.

HRI brings leading academics, emerging scholars, and advocates to Columbia as Human Rights Practitioners-in-Residence, Visiting Scholars, and Senior Fellows, who teach and mentor students. Through Columbia University's Human Rights Advocates Program, Columbia students also have the opportunity to learn from experts from the global south.

### INNOVATIVE RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

HRI is a global leader in human rights research and advocacy. Its experienced researchers and large staff of lawyers include experts in counterterrorism and armed conflict, business and human rights, socioeconomic rights, data visualization, and critical approaches to human rights. HRI produces cutting-edge scholarship that tackles pressing human rights issues.

### STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students are encouraged to collaborate with HRI's faculty and staff on all of HRI's projects. Students can join HRI's Student Advisory Board, helping to nurture the human rights community and plan programming at Columbia while developing leadership skills.

### HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE ADVOCACY PROJECTS

#### Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict, and Human Rights

HRI advances respect for human rights in armed conflict and law enforcement operations through investigating violations and war crimes, employing data visualization, advocating at the U.N., seeking law reform, and supporting human rights defenders.

#### Human Rights in the United States

HRI advances social justice in the United States through a human rights framework, and coordinates the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers' Network of more than 800 advocates.

#### Human Rights and Business

HRI holds corporations to account for human rights abuses, and seeks to recalibrate the corporate-community power imbalances that lead to human rights violations.

#### Human Rights Methods, Systems, and Critique

HRI innovates interdisciplinary investigation methods, conducts research to improve mental health in the human rights field, researches human rights critiques, and works to strengthen the global human rights architecture.



Carolyn Forstein '15 in Peru with a mural protesting a proposed gold mine.

## The Human Rights Clinic

The Human Rights Clinic is a yearlong course that prepares students for lifelong careers in social justice advocacy around the globe. As members of the Clinic, students join a community of advocates working to recalibrate the global power imbalances that drive economic and political inequality, threats to physical security, poverty, and environmental injustice. Through fact-finding, reporting, litigation, media engagement, advocacy, training, and innovative methods, the Clinic seeks to prevent abuse and promote accountability for violations.

With the mentorship of the Clinic's professors and supervisors, students work on real human rights cases, and develop the wide range of skills necessary to be strategic and creative lawyers, and critically analyze and advance human rights methodologies. The Clinic engages students in an active and co-creator mode of education, and students are involved in building the methods and pedagogy of the Clinic itself.

### SKILLS

Project selection and strategy  
Advocacy tactics  
Fact-finding  
Interdisciplinary methods  
Interviewing techniques  
Report and brief-writing  
Judicial and quasi-judicial processes  
Media  
Resilience  
Ethics  
Project evaluation

### ACTIONS

The Clinic functions similarly to a non-governmental organization. Clinic projects vary from year to year, and each addresses marginalized, urgent, and complex human rights issues around the world, including in the Central African Republic, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Yemen, and the United States. Current projects focus on corporate accountability for human rights violations, labor and education rights of immigrant communities and religious minorities, violations in counterterrorism operations and armed conflict, abuses by international peacekeepers, and sexual violence.

### MENTORSHIP

To contribute to a strong and collaborative human rights community at Columbia Law School and beyond, the Clinic builds a network of current students, alumni, and scholars. The Clinic runs a special mentorship program for students, pairing them with leading local and international advocates.

## HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

### Sarah Cleveland, Faculty Co-Director, Human Rights Institute



Cleveland, the Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights, teaches the foundation course in international human rights, which examines its history, laws, and institutions. She is currently an independent expert on the U.N. Human Rights Committee, and the U.S. Member on the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. From 2009 to 2011, she served as the Counselor on International Law to the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State. She was a clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun.

### Sarah Knuckey, Director, Human Rights Clinic, Faculty Co-Director, Human Rights Institute



An international human rights advocate and Lief Cabraser Associate Professor of Clinical Law, Knuckey has carried out fact-finding investigations and reported on violations around the world related to unlawful killings, sexual violence, corporate abuses, armed conflict, the impacts of extractive industries, and protest rights. Her research interests include human rights methodologies, critical perspectives on human rights, clinical pedagogy, and post-traumatic stress disorder and resilience. Knuckey is founding editor of Just Security, an online forum for analysis of U.S. national security law. From 2007 to 2016, she served as an adviser to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions. In 2017, Knuckey received the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by Columbia University.

### JoAnn Kamuf Ward, Director, Human Rights in the U.S. Project, and Lecturer-in-Law

Ward, whose work focuses on using a human rights framework to address social injustice in the United States, is the director of the Human Rights in the U.S. Project.

### Tony Wilson, Director, Security Force Monitor

Wilson directs HRI's Security Force Monitor, which aims to use data to make security forces more transparent and accountable. Previously, Wilson worked with the National Security and Human Rights Campaign at the Open Society Foundations.

### Priyanka Motaparthi '09, Director, Project on Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict and Human Rights

Prior to joining HRI, Motaparthi served as acting Emergencies director at Human Rights Watch, where she led the Emergencies division's investigations and reporting on global atrocities and human rights crises. She is a regular media commentator and her writing has appeared in outlets including *CNN*, *Foreign Policy*, *Newsweek*, and the *New Yorker* online.

### Sarah Mehta, TrialWatch Legal Fellow

Mehta is the TrialWatch Legal Fellow at Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute and Clinic and the Clooney Foundation for Justice (CFJ), working to develop and implement a new international trial monitoring project.

### Gulika Reddy '16, Clinical Teaching Fellow

Reddy is a human rights lawyer and the Founder & Director of Schools of Equality, a non-profit organization in India that runs activity-based programs in schools with the aim to shift social attitudes that perpetuate gender-based violence and other forms of identity-based discrimination. She has worked with lawyers and non-profits and academic institutions in India to advance human rights and mainstream human rights education.

### Tom Longley, Deputy Director, Security Force Monitor

Longley is a human rights and technology researcher. He has worked on field investigations of war crimes in Kosovo and Sierra Leone, as well as on documenting large-scale human rights violations in Zimbabwe, Cambodia, and other countries.

### Anjli Parrin '17, Legal Fellow

Parrin is a Kenyan human rights advocate, and a Legal Fellow working on war crimes investigations with the Human Rights Clinic and Institute. She has previously worked for various U.N. offices in East, Central, and the Horn of Africa.

### Jessica Pierson, Interim Director of Programs & Program Administrator

Pierson directs the programming for the Human Rights Institute, including the L.L.M. Human Rights Fellows Program, the 1L Advocates Program, and HRI's public facing events. She is also the administrator for the Human Rights Clinic.

## Leading Faculty, Courses, and Research



**Far left: Professor Sarah Knuckey with professors and students in Myanmar during a workshop on teaching human rights law and advocacy.**

**Photo: Bassam Khawaja**

**Left: Clinic students at Parliament Haus in Papua New Guinea.**

Through lectures, seminars, clinics, and practicums taught by the world's leading scholars and advocates, Columbia students develop a deep knowledge of the doctrine, politics, and history of human rights law, and the skills to pursue a public interest career.

### EXPERTISE

A unique feature of Columbia Law School is its array of courses taught by leading practitioners. Students learn directly from impact litigation lawyers and advocates who investigate abuse and run human rights campaigns. Frequent professors from practice include Hina Shamsi, a lawyer at the ACLU specializing in national security issues; Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch; Richard Gray Jr., an expert in community organizing; Risa Kaufman of the Center for Reproductive Rights; and transitional justice expert Graeme Simpson.

### COURSES

The Columbia Law School curriculum includes foundational courses taught by preeminent scholars and practitioners in international law, human rights, international criminal law, refugee law, and international humanitarian law. The Law School also offers a diverse range of specialized courses on an array of topics: international environmental law, business and human rights, the European Union, counterterrorism, international courts, war crimes, African legal theory, gender justice, immigrants' rights, nonprofit law, and civil rights lawyering in the United States.

### HUMAN RIGHTS THEORY & PRACTICE

Columbia Law School specializes in teaching students the critical theory and practice of human rights and social justice advocacy. In addition to Columbia's renowned Human Rights Clinic, and its unique U.N. Human Rights Committee Practicum, students can choose from classes focusing on international or U.S. domestic advocacy, socioeconomic rights advocacy, law and development, visioning social change, and leadership. Students can also hone their skills through externships at the U.N., NGOs, and government agencies, or they can design their own project at an NGO for course credit.

### STUDENTS WORK CLOSELY WITH FACULTY

In addition to classes, students at Columbia can work closely with faculty and HRI as research assistants, becoming involved in cutting-edge human rights and international law projects. Students have worked with leaders in the field such as Deputy Director of the Human Rights Clinic Benjamin Hoffman on new business and human rights initiatives, Visiting Professor of Law Amal Clooney to research fair trial laws, and Lecturer-in-Law Alex Moorehead on drone strikes. Students have also worked with Professor Sarah Cleveland in her capacity as a member of the U.N. Human Rights Committee, including traveling to Geneva with her during Committee sessions to examine country compliance with international human rights law.

### STUDY ABROAD

Students also have many study abroad options and can earn additional degrees and certificates. There are regular programs in Amsterdam, Oxford, and Paris, and opportunities to spend a semester overseas at one of over 20 leading law schools.

### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Beyond the Law School, students benefit from Columbia University's substantial human rights offerings and programming from the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, the first academic center in the world to be founded with an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights. To broaden and deepen their expertise, students can take courses at other branches of the University in diverse topics such as human rights and public health, NGOs and the human rights movement, children's rights advocacy, U.N. human rights mechanisms, women's rights, and social media and human rights. Students can also take introductory or advanced language classes to help prepare them for careers in the international and social justice fields.

### TEACHING ADVOCACY



**Hina Shamsi  
Lecturer-in-Law,  
Director of the  
National Security  
Project at the ACLU**

Shamsi is one of the foremost national security experts in the U.S., and she teaches the International Human Rights Advocacy seminar. The course evaluates human rights advocacy tools in current political and social contexts, and critically examines the role of institutions and non-governmental organizations in the human rights field.



**Human Rights Clinic students worked with international lawyers in Geneva to draft a new U.N. protocol on the investigation of unlawful killings.**

## Bassam Khawaja '15 Alumni Profile



**CURRENTLY**  
Lebanon and Kuwait researcher in the Middle East and North Africa division at Human Rights Watch

**HIS PATH**  
B.A. Macalester College

James Kent Scholar

*Columbia Human Rights Law Review*,  
Editor in Chief

Leonard H. Sandler Fellow at Human Rights Watch

### What type of human rights work are you involved in?

Before my current post, I worked for the children's rights division at Human Rights Watch (HRW), where my focus was a report about access to education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. There are more than 250,000 Syrian refugee children out of school in Lebanon—the report documents the barriers keeping children out of school, identifies particularly vulnerable groups such as older children and children with disabilities, and advocates for policy changes and humanitarian support to ensure that more children are able to realize their right to an education. HRW's approach focuses on fact-finding investigations and advocacy. For me, this involved field interviews with Syrian refugees and educators; legal analysis; writing the report and shorter blog posts; speaking with the media; and advocacy with government officials, humanitarian agencies, and donors.

### In what ways were you involved in human rights during your time at Columbia Law School?

I was in the Human Rights Clinic, where I worked on a project team advocating for greater transparency and accountability for U.S. targeted killings and drone strikes, alongside a coalition of human rights organizations. I also worked with Rightslink, the *Human Rights Law Review*, the Student Public Interest Network, the International Refugee Assistance

Project, and the student-led human rights working group. I interned with Human Rights Watch in Beirut and New York, as well as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and The Legal Aid Society immigration unit. As a research assistant, I had the opportunity to help design and conduct human rights trainings in Yangon, Myanmar.

### What motivates you as a human rights lawyer?

I see human rights law as a powerful tool for social justice advocacy. I'm drawn to the broad set of strategies and approaches that exist within the human rights framework, and the opportunities for collaboration with local and international partners. The human rights field is also still emerging, with ample opportunities for innovation, critique, and improvement. I can't imagine doing anything else.

### What advice do you have for students interested in pursuing a career in human rights?

Be strategic about your time in law school. Think carefully about the skills that are important to the type of work you want to do, and make sure that you don't leave law school without them. Get as close as possible to work you want to do through internships and experiences outside of the classroom. Seek out guidance and mentorship from students, professors, supervisors, and alumni. The human rights community at Columbia is an incredible source of support and inspiration.

## Human Rights Institute 1L Advocates Program



Lecturer-in-law Kayum Ahmed teaches 1L Advocates about socioeconomic rights. Ahmed was previously the Chief Executive Officer of the South African Human Rights Commission.

Columbia Law School's distinctive Human Rights Institute 1L Advocates Program is designed for students interested in pursuing a career in human rights. It provides tailored mentorship from human rights alumni and current students, specialized human rights seminars, and the opportunity to visit NGOs. Students work on human rights investigations and advocacy projects from the very first semester of law school.



**"The HRI 1L Advocates Program is a valuable opportunity to work immediately on the human issues and values that brought me to law school."**  
—Tiffani Burgess '20

## Student Organizations, Moot Courts, and Journals

Columbia Law School's vibrant human rights community includes many student-led groups, which provide opportunities for students to engage in research and advocacy, organize events, and meet colleagues and mentors.

**Rightslink** builds human rights community; organizes events; provides career counseling; and connects students with practitioners and NGOs around the world for mentorship, pro bono research, and advocacy.

**The Law in Africa Student Society** provides a forum for students, professors, and practitioners to meet and pursue their interest in African cultures, societies, legal jurisprudence, and careers. It sponsors events, builds networks, engages in pro bono projects, and supports curricular development through reading groups and seminars.

**The Student Public Interest Network (SPIN)** builds community for students interested in pursuing public interest law and provides a network for collaboration. SPIN has mentoring programs, social events, career advising, and supports students to attend public interest conferences.

**Empowering Women of Color** champions diverse women and supports them in light of the unique challenges they face in the legal profession.

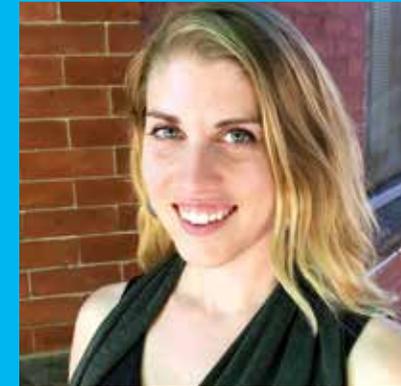
**The Columbia Society of International Law** provides career guidance, links students with top international firms and practitioners, and builds connections that span the globe among students and alumni.

**The Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights** sponsors an immigration law moot court team and connects students to pro bono opportunities, including weeklong caravans to volunteer at refugee and immigration organizations, such as the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project.

**Columbia Human Rights Law Review** is the top-ranked human rights journal in the United States. Students work with influential scholars while deepening their own scholarship. They also can join other leading journals with a social justice or international focus, including the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, *Columbia Journal of European Law*, *Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems*, and the *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*.

To hone their research and oral advocacy skills, students can participate in moot courts such as the **Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition**, the **International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition**, the **Jean-Pictet Competition** (international humanitarian law), and the **Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition** (public and civil rights law).

## Stephanie Persson '15 Alumni Profile



**CURRENTLY**  
Staff Attorney, Children's Rights, a nonprofit that represents thousands of children when foster care systems fail them and holds governments accountable for their well-being.

**HER PATH**  
B.A. University of Washington

Awarded Columbia Law School's Edwin Parker Prize and Human Rights Institute leadership commendation

Visiting Fellow, University of Hong Kong

Columbia Law School Greater China Public Interest Fellow

### What type of human rights work are you involved in?

I work at Children's Rights, which does amazing work helping to reform foster care systems around the U.S. The organization has been especially successful at using class action litigation as a means to fight for children in failing foster care systems. When I was a Greater China Public Interest Fellow, I worked on a variety of projects and advocacy to improve the child welfare system in Hong Kong.

### In what ways were you involved in human rights during your time at Columbia Law School?

My 1L year I participated in the Human Rights Internship Program and spent the summer in Beijing researching juvenile justice reform. My 2L year I joined a Spring Break Caravan to South Africa, where we did field research on the right to education. My 3L year I worked with the Human Rights Clinic, which was an intensive deep dive into human rights work. My team worked on a project investigating the impacts of a gold mine in Papua New Guinea and spent time on the ground in PNG conducting interviews and field research, which was an incredible learning opportunity. I'm also equally interested in domestic human rights issues, so I tried to balance these international projects with work closer to home. I interned at The Door, doing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications, and at the

Juvenile Rights Practice of The Legal Aid Society, working on child welfare and juvenile delinquency cases.

### What motivates you as a human rights lawyer?

Although we often equate the law with "justice," in so many cases the law itself allows for or causes injustice. Having a legal education provides you with this incredible set of tools and position of power. It allows you to be an advocate for those whose voices may not otherwise be adequately heard. I've always been particularly interested in the law's effects on those who have the least voice within particular systems or power structures. In my case, this has led me to focus on children's rights and particularly the child welfare and juvenile delinquency systems.

### What advice do you have for students interested in pursuing a career in human rights?

Pursue what inspires you. Law students face so much pressure to do everything "right." We feel pressure to join the right student groups, be on the right journal, do exactly the right internships, and to get the right job post-graduation. For those people interested in pursuing a career in human rights and social justice, I think doing everything "right" is far less important than doing something you feel passionate about.

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## Tutu Alicante '04 LL.M. Alumni Profile



**CURRENTLY**  
Executive director and founder of EG Justice, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., which works to promote human rights, the rule of law, transparency, and civic participation to build a just Equatorial Guinea

**HIS PATH**  
J.D. University of Tennessee  
College of Law

Employment attorney with Southern Migrant Legal Services representing farmworkers

Recipient of Echoing Green fellowship to establish EG Justice

### What human rights work are you currently involved in?

I am currently running the only human rights organization focused exclusively on Equatorial Guinea. EG Justice is dedicated to calling international attention to the abuses of the dictatorial Obiang regime, characterized by systematic incarcerations, disappearances, torture, and assassination of citizens. Despite more than one billion dollars in annual oil production revenue, over 75 percent of Equatorial Guinea's citizens live on less than two dollars a day, without access to health-care, education, and clean water. EG Justice's mission is to work with citizens to end government impunity and advocate for lasting democratic reforms. Its diasporic network of concerned individuals and organizations demand accountability for human rights violations, raise awareness about socioeconomic and political conditions in Equatorial Guinea, and ensure that the natural resource revenues of the state benefit the majority of the people in the country.

### In what ways were you involved in human rights during your time at Columbia Law School?

I worked with the Human Rights Clinic, as well as with students from the School of International and Public Affairs who were fulfilling externships on human rights and development.

### What motivates you as a human rights lawyer?

Equatorial Guinea is the third-largest oil-producing nation in Africa, with a GDP per capita that is higher than that of France or Japan, but its citizens are severely impoverished. What does that amount of wealth mean when people in my country do not have running water? What does it mean when people lack adequate healthcare? When they are tortured and wrongfully imprisoned? Where does the money go?

### What advice do you have for students interested in pursuing a career in human rights?

Never give up. Find what truly motivates you, commit to fighting to right what you see as an untenable injustice, and volunteer or work for organizations that focus on that issue. Never give up.

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## Human Rights Internship Program

Columbia's Human Rights Internship Program (HRIP) enables J.D. students to intern over the summer at human rights organizations by providing travel expenses, a stipend, and human rights training. Each year, Columbia students intern around the world. They've worked at the U.N. Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, U.N. agencies, and domestic and global human rights organizations. Through HRIP, students can engage in strategic litigation, investigate abuse, provide direct client services, explore new areas of human rights, sharpen their advocacy skills, and deepen their human rights community. All J.D. students are eligible for HRIP funding, and they are provided extensive guidance and support in selecting organizations with which to work.

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## Social Justice Initiatives: Pro Bono and Career Advising

Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) implements Columbia Law School's mandatory pro bono program, and manifests the Law School's belief that public interest law should be a part of the professional life of every Columbia student and graduate. SJI assists student associations and brings leading social justice advocates to campus. SJI's experienced career advisers provide extensive and individually tailored mentoring and guidance. SJI's staff includes an expert in human rights and international public law careers and a team of leading human rights practitioners who work as adjunct advisers. All J.D. students are guaranteed funding to do public interest work during their 1L and 2L summers.

## On Campus: Events, Symposia, and Speaker Series



Students receive feedback from leading academics and practitioners on their research papers during Columbia's Human Rights Student Paper Symposium.

Columbia Law School runs a year-round program of events, inviting prominent human rights scholars, practitioners, and advocates to address current issues in the human rights field. From discussions of careers and the intricacies of practicing human rights law to lectures that tackle human rights theory, students are offered valuable opportunities to engage directly with leaders in the field.

### SELECTED PAST EVENTS

#### Does the U.N. Protect Human Rights?

Columbia Law School Visiting Professor Amal Clooney interviews U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein about human rights challenges around the world and the U.N.'s successes and failures in tackling them.

#### Human Rights Violations in War

Leading Yemeni human rights advocate Radhya Al-Mutawakel and Kristine Beckerle of Human Rights Watch share tactics for accountability.

#### The Trump Administration and International Law

Harold Hongju Koh, former Legal Adviser and Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the U.S. Department of State, discusses the extent to which the Trump Administration has affected international law.

#### Human Rights and Racial Justice

HRI hosts a special series on human rights struggles against racial injustice. Events explore race and climate change, discrimination against Muslims post 9/11, the persecution of Rohingya, migrant workers' rights, and xenophobia among political leaders.

#### The Rule of Law and International Criminal Tribunals

Judge Theodor Meron, President of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, lectures on the role of international tribunals.

#### Human Rights Student Paper Symposium

Student authors present their original work to a panel of academics and practitioners who specialize in human rights and international law. Students receive constructive feedback from experts and strengthen and polish their work for publication.

## Naureen Shah '07 Alumni Profile



**CURRENTLY**  
Senior Director, Campaigns,  
Amnesty International USA

**HER PATH**  
B.S.J. Medill School of Journalism,  
Northwestern University

James Kent Scholar

Harlan Fiske Stone scholar

Associate Director, Counterterrorism &  
Human Rights Project, Columbia  
Law School

Legislative Counsel, ACLU,  
Washington, D.C.

### What type of human rights work are you involved in?

Until recently, I have covered human rights abuses committed in the name of national security, specifically human rights abuses committed by the U.S. government. My work with the Security and Human Rights program focused especially on the closure of Guantanamo Bay and fighting the Muslim ban, in addition to working against the use of torture and surveillance as tools of the state, ending secrecy around the use of drones in situations of war, and ensuring that the U.S. government's use of lethal force is compliant with international laws and standards. In response to President Trump's executive order, for example, we held a briefing for congressional staff to highlight the impact it would have on refugees.

### In what ways were you involved in human rights during your time at Columbia Law School?

I was an articles editor at the *Human Rights Law Review* and worked on a special issue about the war on terrorism. I was a member of the Columbia National Lawyers Guild chapter. I interned almost every semester with organizations such as The Legal Aid Society, Amnesty International USA, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. I also participated in the Human Rights Internship Program, traveling to Capetown to work on refugee issues. I was the recipient of the Sidley-Austin Fellowship and the Lowenstein Enhanced

Loan Repayment Assistance Program Fellowship. After law school, I received the Human Rights Watch Sandler Fellowship, for which I researched in the London office's Asia division and produced a report on abuse, torture, discrimination, and extrajudicial killings by police forces in India.

### What motivates you as a human rights lawyer?

I went to law school because I was upset with what was happening during the Iraq war and after 9/11. I wanted to be more effective in advocating for change, and I saw a law degree as bestowing more power and credibility in the world. However, I've realized that power doesn't come from law, it comes from ordinary activists. As a lawyer I can support activists, but it's really about supporting a global human rights movement that started decades ago and will continue for decades to come. Change happens over decades, not years, and if lawyers think of themselves as part of a bigger global movement we can be better allies.

### What advice do you have for students interested in pursuing a career in human rights?

Find a job that helps you develop the skills you will need for the job you want. It's not about having your dream job in the first five years. Ultimately this is a marathon, not a sprint. If you commit yourself to that marathon, you'll be in it. This industry desperately needs new young lawyers and thinkers.

## Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Columbia's generous human rights scholarships and fellowships attract students and leading advocates to Columbia each year. Our generous Loan Repayment Assistance Program helps students who want to begin human rights careers immediately after graduation.

Columbia's postgraduate social justice and government fellowships provide stipends to J.D. and LL.M. graduates to work at public interest, human rights, or government organizations anywhere in the world.

### FELLOWSHIPS

**The David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellowship** enables graduates to spend one year working with a human rights organization anywhere in the world.

**The Herbert & Nell Singer Social Justice Fellowship** helps launch the social justice career of a Columbia Law graduate by providing a stipend to do public interest work in the United States.

**The Leonard H. Sandler Fellowship** provides Columbia Law students the opportunity to work for one year with Human Rights Watch, investigating human rights violations and conducting advocacy to curtail abuse.

**The Parker Fellowship at the International Court of Justice** funds students to participate in a judicial clerkship in The Hague.

**The Human Rights LL.M. Fellowship** is awarded to top incoming LL.M. human rights students and provides generous financial support, tailored mentoring from the Human Rights Institute, special events with leading human rights advocates and scholars, and an opportunity to participate in the Human Rights Institute's cutting-edge research projects. Fellows are given special consideration for admission to Columbia's Human Rights Clinic.

**The Lowenstein and Berger Fellowships** support the careers of Columbia students by providing some of the most generous loan repayment support in the country for graduates entering public interest work.

**The Global Public Service Fellowship**, announced in 2018, funds J.D. and LL.M. students to work in public interest organizations.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Columbia offers generous scholarships for public interest students. The new Greene Public Service Scholars program, with an endowment of \$7 million, provides full-tuition scholarships to help outstanding students prepare for careers in government, nonprofit organizations, academia, social entrepreneurship, or community development.

### AWARDS

Upon graduation, outstanding J.D. and LL.M. human rights students are recognized through commendations and prizes that are awarded based on their commitment to human rights and academic achievement.

### ALUMNI IN ACTION



**Candy Ofime '17** was awarded the Leonard H. Sandler Fellowship, which is only open to recent graduates of Columbia Law School, to work at Human Rights Watch for a year after graduation. Enrolled in an international dual degree program, she fulfilled her J.D. requirements in two years and then spent a year in Paris where she earned her LL.M. in international arbitration and trade.



**Daily Guerrero '17** received the 18-month Chadbourne & Parke Fellowship at The Door, a multi-service agency in New York City that represents high-risk youth in immigration cases. In 2019, she will become a law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.



Residents of Papua New Guinea meet with Human Rights Clinic members to discuss how mining has affected the human right to water.