

Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Benjamin B. Ferencz Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic & Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights (CLIHHR)

New York, NY

August 2013 – Present

Professor of Law

Associate Professor of Law

Assistant Professor of Clinical Law

Visiting Professor of Clinical Law

Telford Taylor Clinical Teaching Fellow & Lecturer in Clinical Law

Clinic: Direct Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic. Teach and supervise law students working on human rights, refugee rights, international criminal justice advocacy and strategic litigation projects. Supervised students representing asylum seekers before the Asylum Office. Develop syllabi, teaching materials, class lectures, simulations and trainings. Develop current and future case projects in partnership with NGOs, international criminal tribunals, and UN agencies and experts. Mentor students for journal notes, internships, fellowships and other professional opportunities. Supervise clinical teaching fellows.

Institute: Direct Institute focusing on Human Rights and Mass Atrocity Prevention. Manage Confronting Structural Violence Law Teaching Guides (CSV) Project, a funded study to determine best practices for teaching atrocity prevention in law schools. Plan and implement conferences, workshops, high-level meetings and symposia. Present scholarship at conferences and events. Co-managed Institute strategic plan, marketing, fundraising, communications, and events. Manage Institute's program coordinator, interns and law student fellows. Manage team of student editors working on IntLawGrrls blog. Meet with funders and prepare funding requests and reports.

Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS), Porto Alegre, Brazil

July 2016

Fulbright Specialist in Law & Visiting Professor

Received Fulbright scholarship and taught 20-hour intensive seminar. Supervised students on visits to indigenous communities to investigate conditions and land rights claims. Developed timetables for on-going and future projects with counterpart at UNISINOS on indigenous land claims and genocide prevention. Co-authored article for Brazilian law journal on early warning atrocity risk analysis of the Guaraní-Kaiowá indigenous population.

Fordham Law School, Sustainable Development Law Initiative, International Law & Development in Africa Clinic, New York, NY

August 2011 – December 2011

Supervising Attorney & Lecturer

Supervised and co-taught law students working on sustainable development and justice sector reform initiatives in Ghana. Supervised student team, working in collaboration with Her Ladyship Chief Justice Georgina Wood, to develop a family justice center on a holistic model to improve access to justice for women in Ghana. Supervised, trained and managed students to conduct field research in Ghana, analyze findings, and make recommendations and a final presentation to the Chief Justice.

Cornell Law School, International Human Rights Clinic & Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Ithaca, NY
July 2008 – August 2010

Women & Justice Fellow (Clinical Teaching Fellow)

Clinic: Co-taught and supervised law students working on international human rights and humanitarian law advocacy projects in the clinic and in the field. Provided legal assistance and international human rights advocacy, including impact litigation and reform efforts, on women's human rights and gender justice, in the United States, Latin America and Asia. Designed, implemented and managed human rights clinical research projects.

Center: Co-founded the Center with Faculty Director and Clinical Professor of Law Sital Kalantry. Co-designed and implemented the Center's vision, goals, structure and strategies. Planned and implemented conferences, including judges' conference on *Gender-Based Violence and Access to Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas*. Managed legal internship research program to populate database of gender-based violence cases globally. Supervised student interns to respond to research requests from judges on issues of gender justice and human rights, including a memorandum on barriers to justice for survivors of gender violence in conflict. Planned and implemented speaker series and other events. Prepared annual reports and other information for advisory board.

COURSES TAUGHT

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Seminar and Clinic

Direct Clinic and Seminar 2017 – Present

Managed Clinic and Led Seminar 2016 – 2017

Co-Taught 2015 – 2016

Teaching Fellow 2013 – 2015

Yeshiva University, International Human Rights Law & Atrocity Prevention Graduate Seminar

Taught Seminar Spring 2022

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Indigenous Rights in the Americas Seminar

Taught Seminar Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023

Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS), Human Rights, Indigenous Rights and Atrocity Prevention

Taught Seminar Summer 2016

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Ecuador Pro Bono Legal Service Project

Co-Taught Winter Sessions 2014 – 2015

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Jesuits Massacre Documentation Project

Taught Seminar and Managed Project Summer 2014

Fordham Law School, International Law & Development in Africa Clinic Seminar and Clinic

Co-Taught and Supervised Project Fall 2011

Cornell Law School, International Human Rights Seminar and Clinic

Teaching Fellow 2008 – 2010

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Virtue Foundation, New York, NY

September 2010 – July 2013

Program Director

Directed rights-based health, education, justice, and women's empowerment development programs globally, including in Ghana, Kenya, El Salvador, Mongolia, Cambodia, and the United States. Planned and executed fundraising and program strategies; developed, implemented, and tracked project plans; coordinated with advisory board, senior management, volunteers, and partner organizations; designed and implemented impact evaluation tools; and managed website content. Researched and authored reports, drafted articles for directors, and wrote grants in furtherance of project goals. Managed volunteers, graduate student interns, and law clinic students. Coordinated project assistance to, among other projects, implement a mobile public health program and rights-based healthcare trainings in El Salvador; adapt and innovate integrated court models toward improving access to legal, social, medical and other services for women and children in Ghana; train judges and prosecutors in human rights and gender justice in Kenya; coordinate and implement multi-city medical missions in Mongolia; reform laws toward criminalizing and improving access to justice for survivors of acid attack violence in Cambodia; and implement Sandra Day O'Connor's iCivics program in schools in New York.

RFK Center for Justice & Human Rights, Washington, DC

December 2007 – July 2008

Attorney Advocate

Planned and implemented advocacy strategy to improve the right to education of Afro-descendant and indigenous communities in Colombia, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Organized fact-finding missions to Colombia. Coordinated and consolidated reports from International Human Rights Clinics at Cornell Law School and the University of Virginia School of Law. Presented findings and prepared witnesses' testimony for thematic hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the right to education; edited submission of final report. Planned and conducted conferences.

Center for Health Policy, Columbia University, New York, NY

July 2007 – June 2008

Public Health Legal Consultant

Researched and prepared gap analysis for the NY State Bar Association comparing New York laws and model laws for public health emergency preparedness. Developed a database of fluoridation laws for attorneys working to improve oral health and health equity through water fluoridation. Contributed to publications and presented findings at law and public health conferences.

Center for Reproductive Rights, New York, NY

June 2007 – August 2007

Legal Intern, International Legal Program

Researched and drafted legal memoranda on international women's reproductive rights and sexual health rights issues; analyzed litigation strategies to bring challenge to total abortion bans in Latin America. Prepared national counterparts to initiate impact litigation in international and regional enforcement bodies. Researched and wrote legal memoranda in international reproductive rights litigation in Nicaragua, Poland and India. Researched and drafted memoranda in support of impact litigation to combat maternal mortality in Brazil and India.

Praxis Institute for Social Justice, Lima, Peru & USA

June 2006 – March 2007

Legal Associate

Researched and analyzed demands for reparations of victims and families based on testimony before the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Researched and published findings on enforced sterilization campaigns against Quechua-speaking women during the Peruvian conflict. Interviewed individuals responsible for managing Truth Commission on the implementation of reparations program and reported analyses of findings.

Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project, Brooklyn, NY

June 2005 – August 2005

Legal Intern

Researched, interviewed and prepared legal arguments and client testimony for family court and integrated domestic violence (IDV) court appearances in Spanish and English. Drafted and edited legal memoranda, court motions and affidavits on behalf of domestic violence shelter clients. Counseled shelter clients and conducted intake interviews. Interviewed clients, prepared affidavits, and drafted motions for VAWA petitions and asylum applications for Immigration Law Project.

United States Peace Corps, Oña, Ecuador

July 2001 – October 2003

Rural Health Extension Volunteer and Volunteer Co-Trainer

Initiated, proposed and managed project to train 60 teachers and health workers in sexual health and alcohol education through USAID Small Projects Assistance grant. Planned and implemented three-month intensive training for 34 health volunteers. Created and piloted alcohol education curriculum and implemented health education/prevention campaigns in eight communities. Coordinated efforts to introduce family violence shelter, education and social services to Oña. Organized leadership conferences and scholarships for more than 100 girls to complete secondary education.

Gannett Health Services, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

June 2000 – June 2001

Health Promotion Assistant & HIV Test Counselor

Developed and coordinated health education and outreach services for Cornell community on topics such as nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, stress reduction, and alcohol. Led workshops, created educational materials, designed media campaigns, advised student groups, and provided health education and information on campus. Certified by NY State Department of Health in HIV pre- and post-test counseling.

EDUCATION

Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY

December 2007

Juris Doctor (JD), Cum Laude, Dean's List

Sara Weddington Writing Prize for New Student Scholarship in Reproductive Rights Law, 2007: *Untold Truths: The Exclusion of Enforced Sterilizations from the Peruvian Truth Commission's Report.*

Daniel B. Chernoff Prize for Academic Excellence in Intellectual Property/Patent Law, 2007: *Bioprospecting and Indigenous Cultural Rights: Creating Authorship, Agency, Empowerment and the Next Generation of Biopirates?*

Freeman Award for Commitment to Civil-Human Rights

CALI Excellence Award (highest grade), International Human Rights Clinic

Teaching Fellow, Cornell Legal Writing Program

Admissions Editor, Cornell International Law Journal

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD
Master of Public Health (MPH), Human Rights & Humanitarian Assistance
GPA: 4.0, Dean's List

May 2007

MPH Capstone Award for Outstanding Work on Original Research, Analysis & Writing, 2007:
Countering Prevailing Trends in Violation of Women's Rights to Life & Health: An Analysis of Nicaragua's Complete Abortion Ban
Refugee Health Training Fund Award for Contributions to Humanitarian Assistance and Development for Vulnerable Populations

Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences, Ithaca, NY
Bachelor of Arts (BA), Government, Law and Society
Graduation with Distinction (top 2%), Dean's List

May 2000

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Slavery Crimes as Core Crimes under International Law, in 36 TRANS. L. & CONTEMP. PROBLEMS ____ (forthcoming, 2026).

Armed Conflict: Protecting Health & Human Rights in Complex Emergencies, in FOUNDATIONS OF GLOBAL HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS (Benjamin Mason Meier & Lawrence Gostin eds, 2d, forthcoming) (with Karinne Lantz & Payal Shah).

Remembering American Atrocities, in OXFORD HANDBOOK OF MEMORY LAW (Aleksandra Gliszczyńska-Grabias & Angelika Nußberger eds., forthcoming).

Slavery Crimes in U.S. Law, in LITIGATING INTERNATIONAL CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN U.S. COURTS (Mark Klamberg ed., forthcoming).

Conclusions and Recommendations, in UNCOVERED: IDENTITY-BASED MASS VIOLENCE IN URBAN CONTEXTS (Rachel Locke et al., eds., 2025) (with Rachel Locke).

Recognizing and Reclaiming Indigenous Peoples' Constitutional Land Rights in Brazil: Challenges and Opportunities, in LAND RIGHTS NOW: GLOBAL VOICES ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LAND JUSTICE (William Nikolakis ed., 2025) (with Fernanda Frizzo Bragato).

The Myth of Slavery Abolition, 75 U.C. L. J. 1287, 1287-1334 (formerly HASTINGS L. J.) (2024).

All Roads Lead to Rome: Combating Impunity for Slave Trade and Slavery Crimes, 5(1) J. HUM. TRAFFICKING, ENSLAVEMENT & CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE 177, 177-202 (special issue, 2024) (invited).

Aesthetics of Slavery and Slave Trade Crimes, 37 TEMPLE INT'L & COMP. L. J. 105, 105-22 (2024) (invited).

Unsettling Human Rights Clinical Pedagogy and Practice in Settler Colonial Contexts, 31 J. GENDER, SOC. POL. & L. 441 (2023) (with Caroline Bishop LaPorte) (selected from competitive submission).

Health in Conflict: International Humanitarian Law as Global Health Policy, in GLOBAL HEALTH LAW & POLICY: ENSURING JUSTICE FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD (2023) (Lawrence O. Gostin & Benjamin Mason Meier eds.) (textbook chapter with Benjamin Mason Meier).

Prohibiting Slavery and the Slave Trade, 63 VA. J. INT'L L. 51 (2022).

Disaggregating Slavery and the Slave Trade, 17 FL. INT'L U. L. REV. 515 (2022).

The International Crimes of Slavery and the Slave Trade: A Feminist Critique, in GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW (Rosenthal et al. eds., 2022) (with Patricia Viseur Sellers).

Public Health, Mental Health, Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention, HARV. HEALTH & HUM. RTS. J. (Special Issue with Caitlin Mahoney, Amy Meade & Arlan Fuller, 2021).

PUBLIC HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND MASS ATROCITY PREVENTION (Routledge Press, with Caitlin Mahoney, Amy Meade & Arlan Fuller eds., 2021).

VIOLATING RIGHTS: ENFORCING THE WORLD'S BLASPHEMY LAWS (2020) (with Joelle Fiss).

Populist Nationalism Threatens Health and Human Rights in the COVID-19 Response, AM. J. PUB. HEALTH (with Caitlin Williams & Benjamin Mason Meier, 2020) (<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdfplus/10.2105/AJPH.2020.305952>)

Missing in Action: The International Crime of the Slave Trade, 18 J. INT'L CRIM. JUST. 517-542 (with Patricia Viseur Sellers, 2020).

Sexual Slavery and Customary International Law, in THE PRESIDENT ON TRIAL: PROSECUTING HISSÈNE HABRÉ (Sharon Weill et al. eds., 2020) (with Patricia Viseur Sellers).

Corporate Accountability for Gender-Based Violence: Acid Attacks in India, in HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA (with Sital Kalantry) (Satvinder Juss ed., 2019).

Colonial Legacies of Coercive Control: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence as International Crimes in Africa and Latin America, in GEOPOLITICS AND DECOLONIZATION: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH (Fernanda Frizzo-Bragato and Lewis Gordon eds., 2018).

RESPECTING RIGHTS? MEASURING THE WORLD'S BLASPHEMY LAWS (2017) (with Joelle Fiss).

Book Review, SITAL KALANTRY, WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND MIGRATION: SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA (2017), INT'L J. LEGAL INFO. (2017).

Indigenous Atrocities and Territorial Conflicts: Risk Analysis in the Case of the Guarani-Kaiowá in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, REVISTA JURÍDICA CONSULEX (July 15, 2016) (with Fernanda Frizzo Bragato).

Closing Impunity Gaps for the Crime of Aggression 17 CHICAGO J. OF INT'L L. 51-79 (2016).

Examining the Practice of Developing Human Rights Indicators to Facilitate Accountability for the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, 6 J. HUM. RTS. PRACTICE 159 (2014) (with Benjamin Mason Meier, Georgia Lyn Kayser, Urooj Quezon Amjad & Jamie Bartram).

Translating the Human Right to Water and Sanitation into Public Policy Reform, 20 SCIENCE & ENG. ETHICS 120 (2014) (with Benjamin Mason Meier, Georgia Lyn Kayser, Urooj Quezon Amjad, Fernanda Dalcanale & Jamie Bartram).

Catalysts for Change: A Proposed Framework for Human Rights Clinical Teaching and Advocacy, 18 CLINICAL L. REV. 459 (2012) (with Esteban Hoyos-Ceballos & Melissa del Aguila Talvadkar).

The Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health: Establishing international processes for state reporting to an independent monitoring body, HARV. HEALTH & HUM. RTS. INT'L J. (2011) (with Benjamin Mason Meier).

FROM PROTECTION TO PUNISHMENT: POST-CONVICTION BARRIERS TO JUSTICE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR-DEFENDANTS IN NEW YORK STATE (2011) (with Tamar Kraft-Stolar, Elizabeth Brundige & Sital Kalantry).

COMBATING ACID VIOLENCE IN BANGLADESH, INDIA, AND CAMBODIA (2011) (with Sital Kalantry).

Rights-Based Approaches to Public Health Systems, in RIGHTS BASED APPROACHES TO PUBLIC HEALTH (2010) (with Benjamin Mason Meier, Lance Gable & Leslie London).

Enhancing Enforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Using Indicators: A Focus on the Right to Education in the ICESCR, 32 HUM. RTS. Q. 253 (2010) (with Sital Kalantry & Steven Arrigg Koh).

Ratification of Human Rights Treaties: The Beginning not the End, 374 LANCET 447 (2009) (with Benjamin Mason Meier).

Untold Truths: The Exclusion of Enforced Sterilizations from the Peruvian Truth Commission's Report, 29 B. C. THIRD WORLD L. J. 1 (2009).

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION OF AFRO-DESCENDANTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE AMERICAS (2009).

Note, *Reproductive Injustice: An Analysis of Nicaragua's Complete Abortion Ban*, 41 CORNELL INT'L L. J. 143 (2008).

LICENSES/AFFILIATIONS

AALS Pro Bono Honor Roll Award, 2023

Advisory Board, Lenape Center, 2020 – Present

International Advisory Board, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, 2016 – Present

Institute for the Study of Genocide, Advisory Board & Lemkin Award Committee, 2015 – Present

New York State Bar, Admitted May 2008

African Affairs Committee, NYC Bar Association, 2011 – 2014

International Human Rights Committee, NYC Bar Association, 2008 – 2011

Inter-American Moot Court Competition Judge, 2009 – 2015
Pace ICC Moot Court Competition Judge, 2012 – 2016
South Asian Center for Legal Studies, Advisory Board, 2015 – Present
CITI Human Subjects Research Certification, 2007 – Present

AWARDS

Fulbright Award, Fulbright Specialist Program, 2026
Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award, 2025
Sheri Rosenberg Faculty INSPIRE! Award, Cardozo Center for Public Interest Law, 2017
Cornell University Award for Outstanding Work for the Advancement of Women, 2009

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish; Proficient in Portuguese; Conversant in Quechua; and Native English speaker.