Looking Forward
Rhonda Copelon’s Legacy in Action and the Future of International Women’s Human Rights Law

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LAW REVIEW
Scholarship for Social Justice

The City University of New York
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW
Law in the Service of Human Needs

MADRE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC
at the City University of New York School of Law

centerforconstitutionalrights
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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Lauren Dasse, Editor-in-Chief, City University of New York Law Review</td>
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<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Lisa Davis, Clinical Professor of Law, International Women’s Human Rights (IWHR) Clinic, CUNY School of Law</td>
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<td>9:15</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Yifat Susskind, Executive Director, MADRE</td>
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<td>Jessica Stern, Director of Programs, International Gay &amp; Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC)</td>
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<td>Rosa Celorio, Legal Advisor, Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights</td>
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<td>Andrea Ritchie, Director, Streetwise and Safe, Co-Author of Queer (In)Justice</td>
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<td>Ruthann Robson, Moderator, University Distinguished Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Panel 2: Reproductive Rights at Home and Abroad</td>
<td>Nancy Northup, President, Center for Reproductive Rights</td>
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<td>Monica Roa, Director of Programs, Women’s Link Worldwide</td>
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<td>Cindy Soohoo, Professor of Law and Director, International Women’s Human Rights Clinic, CUNY School of Law</td>
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<td>Marianne Møllmann, Senior Policy Advisor, Amnesty International</td>
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<td>Caitlin Borgmann, Moderator, Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law</td>
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<td>1:15</td>
<td>1:15 p.m. Dean’s Welcome</td>
<td>Michelle J. Anderson, Dean, CUNY School of Law</td>
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<td>1:20</td>
<td>1:20 p.m. Afternoon Remarks</td>
<td>Vincent Warren, Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights</td>
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<td>1:30</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Panel 3: Rape as a Form of Torture</td>
<td>Sir Nigel Rodley, Member, UN Human Rights Committee and Former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture</td>
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<td>Felice Gaer, Vice Chair, UN Committee Against Torture</td>
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<td>Blaine Bookey, Staff Attorney, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies</td>
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<td>Patricia Viseur-Sellers, Former Legal Advisor for Gender-Related Crimes, Office of the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia</td>
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<td>Penelope Andrews, Moderator, Associate Dean and Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law</td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td>3:00 p.m. Coffee break</td>
<td>Pnam Spees, Senior Staff Attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights</td>
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<td>3:15</td>
<td>3:15 p.m. Panel 4: Domestic Implementation of Human Rights Law</td>
<td>Caroline Bettinger-Lopez, Professor of Law and Director, Human Rights Clinic, University of Miami School of Law</td>
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<td>Catherine Albisa, Executive Director, National Economic &amp; Social Rights Initiative</td>
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<td>Joey Mogul, Partner, People’s Law Office and Director, Civil Rights Clinic, DePaul University College of Law</td>
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<td>Julie Goldscheid, Moderator, Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law</td>
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<td>4:45</td>
<td>4:45 p.m. Closing Remarks</td>
<td>Celina Romany, Director, Center for Human Rights, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Law</td>
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The Symposium will address the work of Rhonda Copelon, a founding faculty member at CUNY School of Law and renowned human rights lawyer with a distinguished body of work in the field of international women’s human rights, and how her work has been a foundation for the ongoing protection of human rights. Specifically, we will focus discussion on the following issues in four panels: Sexual Rights, Reproductive Rights, Rape as a Form of Torture, and Domestic Implementation of International Human Rights Law. By bringing together leading international and U.S. experts to discuss current implementations of Professor Copelon’s pioneering work, we hope to inspire even further developments of gender justice in international human rights law.

We wish to thank a few organizations and people who have helped bring this Symposium to fruition. First, we are deeply grateful to our Law Review faculty advisors, Professor Lisa Davis of the International Women’s Human Rights Clinic and Professor Andrea McArdle, for their tireless dedication to this Symposium. Without their guidance and counsel, this event would not have been possible. We wish to extend our gratitude to MADRE and the Center for Constitutional Rights for their co-sponsorship. Our sincerest gratitude goes to our speakers, many of whom traveled great distances to discuss these vital issues. We also thank CUNY School of Law Dean Michelle Anderson for supporting this Symposium, and the hardworking staff in the Technology Department at CUNY School of Law for recording this event.

Furthermore, we would like to extend a special note of appreciation to Bradley Parker, International Women’s Human Rights Clinic Fellow for designing the program and materials, in addition to assisting with countless other tasks. In addition, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Professor Franklin Siegel for volunteering his time and expertise and for his ongoing support of the CUNY Law Review.

Finally, we want to recognize Law Review members who have dedicated long hours, namely, Anthony Posada for his technical expertise with the website and program registration, and the Law Review Symposium Planning Committee for their assistance with logistics and coordination.

Welcome.

*City University of New York Law Review Editorial Board*

Today’s Symposium honors the work and legacy of Professor Rhonda Copelon and examines how advocates and lawyers have been influenced by her vision and are utilizing precedents Rhonda helped to create. Our hope is to demonstrate to attorneys who are not as familiar with Rhonda's work how powerful it is and how it might be utilized as a roadmap and inspiration for their current work.

Rhonda was a founding faculty member of CUNY School of Law, a co-founder of CUNY Law's International Women's Human Rights Clinic (IWHR), a human rights attorney and a vice-president of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR). She built on early pioneering work in the reproductive rights movement and broke new ground opening U.S. federal courts to international human rights violations and international tribunals to gender-based violence. She helped lay the conceptual foundation for some of today’s most influential case law in the field of women’s international human rights. Rhonda passed away in 2010 at age 65 leaving an astounding body of work.

Over the course of her life, her scholarship was one of her sharpest advocacy tools catalyzing major change in legal paradigms such as the notion that domestic violence should be recognized as a form of torture—a principle which in 2007 the UN Committee Against Torture affirmed by recognizing state responsibility to prevent gender based violence under the *Convention Against Torture* in its General Comment No. 2.

She worked for more than a decade at CCR where she litigated civil rights cases with a focus on women’s rights and international human rights. While at CCR, Rhonda was co-counsel on the landmark Alien Tort Statute case *Filartiga v. Pena-Irala*, 630 F.2d 876 (2d Cir. 1980), which established that victims of gross human rights abuses committed abroad had recourse to U.S. Courts.

Rhonda co-founded the Women’s Caucus for Gender Justice in the International Criminal Court (Women’s Caucus). Through her role as Secretariat of the Women’s Caucus and as the Director of IWHR, she mobilized lawyers and activists internationally to ensure that the *Rome Statute* would take gender into account with regard to the procedure, evidence and definition of crimes before the ICC, as well as in terms of the gender composition of the Court itself. Though the language of the *Rome Statute* ultimately was of “sex” rather than “gender,” the ICC subsequently codified sexual and gender crimes as within its jurisdiction.

Rhonda laid the groundwork for lawyers and activists in the movement for gender justice today. For
example, the current efforts by local advocates and international attorneys to end sexual violence in Haiti are guided by Rhonda’s legacy. In 1994, after Haiti experienced a surge in politically motivated sexual violence, Rhonda pulled together a team to file a brief with the Organization of American States arguing that the rape of Haitian women by State actors amounted to torture under international law. Nearly fifteen years later, Haiti suffered another surge in sexual violence, this time due to 2010s devastating earthquake. The same organizations that Rhonda rallied in the 1990s came together with new allies to file a petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This time, the Commission expanded on Rhonda’s work and recognized for the first time ever in a precautionary measures decision that the State has a due diligence obligation to end sexual violence committed by private actors.

Despite persistent intolerance, the idea that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a violation of human rights, related yet distinct from discrimination on the basis of sex and gender, is beginning to find acceptance. The case of Karen Atala Riffo, one Rhonda was deeply concerned with, highlights this struggle. Atala is a judge and lesbian mother who was stripped of custody of her three daughters when the Supreme Court of Chile ruled that she was an unfit mother on the basis of her sexual orientation. Judge Atala sought redress from the Inter-American system, and in 2006, her petition to the Inter-American Commission was supported by a number of amicus curiae briefs including one co-authored by the IWHR.

In a historic decision in 2006, the Commission found for Judge Atala, and the case made its way to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Again amicus curiae briefs were submitted, including a joint submission by the IWHR renewing Rhonda’s argument and calling on the Court to find that sexual orientation is a protected class. Just last week, the Court issued a landmark decision finding that Chile not only violated Atala’s right to equality and non-discrimination but affirming for the first time in its history that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected categories under the American Convention of Human Rights and that such discrimination violates international law.

We hope that this gathering, informed by international and domestic experts, scholars and practitioners, will provide an opportunity to explore international women’s human rights law in practice today. As a professor in the IWHR Clinic which she established, and an advisor to the City University of New York Law Review that made today possible, I am confident when I say that Rhonda’s strategic legal brilliance, unwavering political courage, and deep commitment to a women’s human rights vision will forever inspire and guide our work.

We thank you for coming and hope that this day will be one generative of both reflection and action.

Sincerely,

Lisa Davis
Clinical Professor of Law
International Women’s Human Rights (IWHR) Clinic
City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law
Opening Remarks

Yifat Susskind is the Executive Director of MADRE, an international women’s human rights organization. She has worked with women’s human rights activists from Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa to create programs in their communities to address women's health, violence against women, economic and environmental justice and peace building.

She has also written extensively on US foreign policy and women’s human rights and her critical analysis has appeared in online and print publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy in Focus and The W Effect: Bush’s War on Women, published by the Feminist Press. Ms. Susskind has been featured as a commentator on CNN, National Public Radio, and BBC Radio.
Sexual Rights Developments
Under International Law

This panel will explore cutting-edge developments in international law for upholding sexual rights based on gender identity, and sexual orientation, as well as ongoing challenges and obstacles to securing rights in these areas.

Scott Long is a fellow at the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School where he continues his research on international sexual rights movements and advocacy. Prior to this fellowship, Mr. Long was a fellow at Columbia Law School, Center for Gender & Sexuality Law. From 2004-2010, Mr. Long served as founding director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch. Prior to that he was the program director at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). Mr. Long holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University; he has held a Fulbright lectureship at the University of Cluj-Napoca in Romania, and has also taught at the University of Budapest. Mr. Long was a founding member of the Romanian gay and lesbian organization, ACCEPT. His work there contributed strongly to Romania’s eventual repeal of Article 200 of its penal law, which criminalized consensual homosexual acts with five years’ imprisonment. His advocacy also helped end a crackdown on homosexual conduct in Egypt that had jailed hundreds or thousands of men. Mr. Long has also co-authored or edited reports on gay, lesbian, and transgender parenting, and on sexuality-based attacks on women’s organizing.

Jessica Stern is an advocate, researcher, and trainer working for the promotion of human rights internationally. As the first researcher for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) human rights at Human Rights Watch, she conducted fact-finding investigations and advocacy on sexual orientation and gender identity in countries including Iran, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. As a Ralph Bunche Fellow at Amnesty International, she spearheaded anti-racism initiatives and documented police brutality. She was a founding collective member of Bluestockings, which was New York’s only women’s bookstore. She has campaigned extensively for women’s rights, LGBT rights, and economic justice with the Center for Constitutional Rights, Control Ciudadano, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and the Urban Justice Center. In her current position as director of programs for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, she coordinates programming in Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa. She holds a masters degree in human rights from the London School of Economics. She is a member of the board of directors of Queers for Economic Justice and an advisor to the New York Women’s Foundation.

Rosa Celorio is a Senior Human Rights Attorney and Specialist for the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In that capacity, she coordinates the execution of the legal work, projects, and the activities of the Rapporteurship. She is also an
Adjunct Professor of Law for George Washington University Law School, where she teaches courses related to human rights. She has worked in the field of human rights, discrimination and gender issues for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM—currently UN Women) in New York and Ecuador, as a lawyer in the law firms of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane in Boston and O’Neill & Borges in Puerto Rico; as well as in Greater Boston Legal Services and Centro Presente in Boston. Ms. Celorio is from Puerto Rico and studied International Politics and Law at Georgetown University, in Boston College, and in the Political Science Institute of the University of Strasbourg, in France. She is a member of the State Bars of New York and Massachusetts.

Andrea Ritchie is a police misconduct attorney and community organizer who has engaged in extensive research, writing, speaking, litigation, organizing, and advocacy on profiling, policing, and physical and sexual violence by law enforcement agents against women, girls, and LGBT people of color in the U.S. and Canada over the past two decades. She currently coordinates Streetwise & Safe (SAS), a leadership development initiative aimed at building knowledge, community and power among LGBT youth of color with experience of gender, race, sexuality and poverty-based policing and criminalization in the context of “quality of life” initiatives and the policing of sex work and trafficking.

Ms. Ritchie was an expert consultant, lead researcher and co-author for Amnesty International’s 2005 report Stonewalled: Police Abuse and Misconduct Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in the United States. She was one of the primary authors of In the Shadows of the War on Terror: Persistent Police Brutality and Abuse in the United States, a “shadow report” submitted on behalf of over 100 national and local organizations and individuals to the UN Committee Against Torture, the UN Human Rights Committee, and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. She is co-author, along with fellow symposium participant Joey Mogul, of Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States (Beacon Press 2011). Ms. Ritchie is a graduate of Cornell University, and received her J.D. from Howard University Law School.

Moderator Ruthann Robson is the Distinguished Professor of Law at the CUNY School of Law. Her work focuses on constitutional law, family law, feminist legal theory, and sexuality and the law. She has published articles in many law journals, including Harvard Women’s Law Journal, New York Law School Journal of Human Rights, Hastings Law Journal, Australian Feminist Law Journal, and Yearbook of New Zealand Jurisprudence. Additionally, Professor Robson has published several influential books on lesbian legal theory, including Sappho Goes to Law School and Lesbian (Out)Law: Survival Under the Rule of Law.

Before joining the CUNY School of Law faculty, Professor Robson served as managing attorney at Florida Rural Legal Services. She also served as a law instructor at Florida State University College of Law and was an Affiliated Scholar with the Beatrice M. Bain Research Group at the University of Berkeley in California. Professor Robson has presented on women, sexuality and the law throughout the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

Professor Robson graduated from Stetson University College of Law and holds an L.L.M. from the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable William J. Castagna for the Middle District of Florida and to the Honorable Peter T. Fay of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.
Reproductive Rights at Home and Abroad

From the struggle to end the shackling of pregnant women, to court battles to overturn anti-choice regimes, this panel will discuss current legal challenges and successes for reproductive rights domestically and internationally. Specifically, participants will discuss judicial and legislative trends and reproductive rights violations in the U.S., Latin America, Africa, and Europe.

Nancy Northrup is President of the Center for Reproductive Rights, a global human rights organization that has brought groundbreaking cases before national courts, UN Committees, and regional human rights bodies, and has built the legal capacity of women’s rights advocates in over 50 countries.

Under her leadership, the Center has continued its track-record of success in U.S. state and Federal courts and expanded its international litigation docket—including the first abortion case decided by the UN Human Rights Committee and the first case to frame preventable maternal deaths as a human rights violation. She has also led the Center to take the human rights framework into its work in the U.S., and to establish the Law School Initiative to promote legal scholarship and teaching on reproductive health and human rights. In 2011, the Center opened regional offices in Nairobi, Kenya and Bogotá, Colombia, with one to follow in Katmandu, Nepal in 2012. Before joining the Center in 2003, Ms. Northup was the founding director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, a prosecutor and Deputy Chief of Appeals in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, and a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Ms. Northup holds adjunct appointments at NYU and Columbia law schools, where she has taught courses in constitutional and human rights law.

She is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where she was a Kent Scholar and managing editor of the Columbia Law Review. A frequent public speaker, Ms. Northup is quoted widely in the national press and has appeared on ABC World News Tonight, CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, CNN, FOX News, PBS, MSNBC and NPR.

Mónica Roa is an international human rights attorney. She currently serves as Director of Programs for Women’s Link Worldwide, a clearinghouse that advances women’s rights through the implementation of international human rights standards and strategic work with the courts, including impact litigation. In 2006, Ms. Roa successfully argued before the Constitutional Court of Colombia that total criminalization of abortion violated Colombia’s obligations to international human rights treaties. The law now includes exceptions if the mother’s life or health is at risk, if the fetus is severely malformed, or if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. In 2011 she was selected by Semana magazine as one of the 10 best leaders of Colombia.

Ms. Roa previously worked with the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York. She holds an LLM from New York University School of Law as a Global Public Service Law Scholar and a law degree from the University of Los Andes, Bogotá.
Cindy Soohoo is Director of the International Women’s Rights Clinic at CUNY School of Law. Ms. Soohoo was previously Director of the U.S. Legal Program at the Center for Reproductive Rights. From 2001 to 2007 she directed Bringing Human Rights Home, the domestic human rights program of Columbia Law School’s Human Rights Institute. She also served as a supervising attorney for Columbia’s Human Rights Clinic. Professor Soohoo has brought U.S. human rights issues before UN human rights bodies, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and U.S. courts. She is a founding board member of the U.S. Human Rights Network and former co-chair of the American Constitutional Society’s Working Group on International Law and the Constitution. She has written extensively on the right to health, social justice activism, and the domestic application of human rights norms. She co-edited a three-volume book on human rights in the United States entitled Bringing Human Rights Home, which received the 2008 Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book award.

Professor Soohoo graduated from Williams College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she was a law review editor and a member of the Order of the Coif. She is a former law clerk to the Honorable Gerard L. Goettel, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Marianne Møllmann is senior policy advisor at Amnesty International’s headquarters. She joined Amnesty International after eight years with Human Rights Watch, working first as researcher on women’s rights in Latin America, and then focusing on women’s rights more globally as advocacy director. Ms. Møllmann is one of the co-organizers and authors behind the Montreal Principles on Women’s Equal Enjoyment of Economic Social and Cultural Rights and is a recognized expert on reproductive health rights. Ms. Møllmann’s opinion pieces on women’s issues have appeared in the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times, among other publications. She is frequently cited on issues related to human rights and social change in the U.S. and international media. She regularly blogs on RHRealityCheck.org and the Huffington Post.

From 2008 to 2010, Ms. Møllmann co-taught a masters course on health rights at Yale University’s School of Public Health in New Haven. She is a returning lecturer on women’s economic rights at the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa, Italy. She is currently co-teaching a Masters course on human rights advocacy and research at New York University.

Ms. Møllmann holds a M.Sc. from Ecole des Affaires de Paris in France and an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from Essex University in the United Kingdom. She is fluent in English, Spanish, and Danish.

Caitlin Borgmann is a Professor of Law at CUNY School of Law. She graduated from Yale College and earned a J.D. from New York University, where she was an executive editor of the New York University Law Review. She clerked in the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York and spent four years as a litigator at Davis Polk & Wardwell, after which she was the State Strategies Coordinator at the Reproductive Freedom Project of the ACLU for six years. In this capacity she was responsible for legislative and affiliate support, provision of legal advice, legislative strategy, and communications support. She also litigated reproductive rights cases. She has spoken and written widely about reproductive rights and given testimony before several state legislatures on this issue. She has taught at Rutgers School of Law-Newark. Professor Borgmann is the editor of the Reproductive Rights Prof Blog.

Professor Soohoo has brought U.S. human rights issues before UN human rights bodies, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and U.S. courts. She is a founding board member of the U.S. Human Rights Network and former co-chair of the American Constitutional Society’s Working Group on International Law and the Constitution. She has written extensively on the right to health, social justice activism, and the domestic application of human rights norms. She co-edited a three-volume book on human rights in the United States entitled Bringing Human Rights Home, which received the 2008 Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book award.

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Ms. Møllmann holds a M.Sc. from Ecole des Affaires de Paris in France and an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from Essex University in the United Kingdom. She is fluent in English, Spanish, and Danish.

Caitlin Borgmann is a Professor of Law at CUNY School of Law. She graduated from Yale College and earned a J.D. from New York University, where she was an executive editor of the New York University Law Review. She clerked in the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York and spent four years as a litigator at Davis Polk & Wardwell, after which she was the State Strategies Coordinator at the Reproductive Freedom Project of the ACLU for six years. In this capacity she was responsible for legislative and affiliate support, provision of legal advice, legislative strategy, and communications support. She also litigated reproductive rights cases. She has spoken and written widely about reproductive rights and given testimony before several state legislatures on this issue. She has taught at Rutgers School of Law-Newark. Professor Borgmann is the editor of the Reproductive Rights Prof Blog.
Michelle J. Anderson became Dean of CUNY School of Law in 2006. Since that time, the School has secured membership in the Association of American Law Schools; earned the “Number One Public Interest Law School” in the country ranking; continued its national, top ten ranking for “Best Clinical Training;” earned national, top ten ranking for “Best Law Professors;” developed the Pipeline to Justice Program to enhance student body diversity; and implemented the Incubator and LaunchPad programs through the School’s Community Legal Resource Network. The School will move to a new, LEED gold-certified building in a more strategic location in the summer of 2012. Dean Anderson graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Yale Law School, and clerked on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for Judge William Norris. Dean Anderson is a leading scholar on rape law and, at CUNY, she teaches Criminal Law.
Vincent Warren is the Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), a national legal and educational organization dedicated to advancing and defending the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Vince oversees CCR’s groundbreaking litigation and advocacy work which includes using international and domestic law to hold corporations and government officials accountable for human rights abuses; challenging racial, gender and LGBT injustice; and combating the illegal expansion of U.S. presidential power and policies such as illegal detention at Guantánamo Bay, rendition and torture.

Prior to his tenure at CCR, Vince was a national senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), where he litigated civil rights cases, focusing on affirmative action, racial profiling and criminal justice reform. Prior to the ACLU, Vince monitored South Africa’s historic Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings and worked as a criminal defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn.
This panel will explore groundbreaking achievements in expanding the notion of rape as a form of torture under international law, including the state’s obligation to address sexual violence committed by private actors. Panel participants will review new developments in the International Criminal Court, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and UN treaty bodies.

Professor Sir Nigel Rodley is an international lawyer specializing in human rights. He is a Professor of Law and Chair of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom. Professor Rodley has been a member of the UN Human Rights Committee since 2001 and served as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment from 1993 to 2001.

Sir Nigel Rodley

In 1973, he founded Amnesty International’s Legal Office. A former Research Fellow at New York University’s Center for International Studies, he has taught at Dalhousie University, the New School for Social Research Graduate Faculty, and the London School of Economics where he was also a Research Fellow in 1983. He served at the UN Headquarters in New York as an Assistant and, later, as Associate Economic Affairs Officer.

Professor Rodley holds various degrees including an LL.B. from the University of Leeds (1963), an LL.M. from Columbia University (1965) and New York University (1970), a Ph.D. from the University of Essex (1993), and an honorary LL.D. from Dalhousie University (2000). In 1995, he was awarded the American Society of International Law’s Goler T. Butcher Medal for Outstanding Contribution to International Human Rights Law. In 1998, he was awarded a knighthood in recognition of his services to human rights and international law, and in 2003 he was elected a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists. He has written extensively in the field of international law, particularly on human rights issues, focusing more recently on the treatment of prisoners and the prevention of torture.

Felice Gaer is Director of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights of American Jewish Committee. She is also a member and vice-chair of the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT), which monitors state compliance with the Convention Against Torture. Ms. Gaer is serving her fourth term on CAT since her nomination by the Clinton Administration in 1999. Ms. Gaer has also been a public member of many U.S. human rights delegations, including the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. After the Srebenica massacres, Gaer helped craft a joint statement arguing that rape and other gender-specific crimes during armed conflicts must be prosecuted by international war crimes tribunals. After her election to CAT, she served as the only woman on the Committee until 2006; today 3 out of 10 members are female. She was Co-Rapporteur on the Committee’s pathbreaking General Comment No. 2, and serves as the Committee’s rapporteur on follow-up to country conclusions.

Ms. Gaer is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and the advisory committee of Human Rights Watch’s Europe and Central Asia Division. She has served on the bipartisan federal U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom from 2001-2012, with her last appointment by President Barack Obama. In 2010, Ms. Gaer was appointed Regents Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Ms. Gaer has authored more than 40 articles about human rights, the United Nations, U.S. policy, non-governmental organizations, and related issues.
Blaine Bookey is a long time advocate for women’s human rights. Ms. Bookey is a Staff Attorney at Center for Gender & Refugee Studies in San Francisco. At the Center, Ms. Bookey focuses on advancing the rights of refugee women and girls in the U.S. and combating impunity for rape and other gender-based violence perpetrated against women in refugee-producing countries, including Haiti. Prior to joining the Center, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Dolores Sloviter, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (2010-11) and Legal Fellow with the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) in Haiti (2009-10), where she spearheaded the organizations’ Rape Accountability and Prevention Project and was a member of a legal team that brought a successful case on behalf of displaced Haitian women at risk of rape before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Ms. Bookey is a graduate, summa cum laude, Order of the Coif, of U.C. Hastings College of the Law where she was Editor-in-Chief of the International and Comparative Law Review. She holds an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in Social Policy and Gender Studies.

Patricia Viseur-Sellers is an expert in international criminal law and gender-based crimes. For over a decade, Ms. Sellers was the Legal Advisor for Gender-Related Crimes in the Office of the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. In that capacity, she advised and successfully tried several seminal cases including: Prosecutor v. Furundzija, in which rape and sexual torture were recognized as war crimes under the 1949 Geneva Conventions; Prosecutor v. Akayesu, the first international case to prosecute the perpetrators of the Rwanda genocide and to hold sexual violence as an act of genocide and rape as a crime against humanity; and Prosecutor v. Kunarac, the first international case that led to a conviction of enslavement as a crime against humanity, based in part on acts of sexual violence.

Ms. Sellers is currently a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, University of Oxford. Previously, Ms. Sellers worked in the Directorate General for External Relations for the European Union, Southeast Asia Division, where she oversaw and approved E.U. funded projects in Thailand, including grants to civil society associations to prevent human trafficking. Prior to that, Ms. Sellers was a public defender with the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

An alumna of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Ms. Sellers was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by CUNY School of Law in 2001. In 1999, she also received the Prominent Women in International Law award from the American Society of International Law.

Penelope Andrews is an Associate Dean and Professor of Law at CUNY School of Law. Dean Andrews initially came to CUNY Law School in 1993, where she was awarded tenure in 1998 and served on the faculty for more than a decade. In 2002, she was the Stoneman Fellow of Law and Democracy at Albany Law School and the Parsons Visitor at the University of Sydney.

In 2004, as resident at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy, she worked on a manuscript on women’s human rights law. She has written extensively on constitutional and human rights issues in the South African, Australian, and international contexts, and appears frequently on panels addressing issues of comparative constitutional law, international human rights, women, and racial minorities. She has received several awards for her human rights work, including a scholarship in her honor to benefit disadvantaged black South Africans at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. In 2010, after serving as Professor of Law and Director of International Studies at Valparaiso Law School for three years, Dean Andrews rejoined the CUNY Law School faculty in 2010.
Domestic Implementation of International Human Rights Law

This panel will examine innovative litigation regarding the implementation of an international human rights framework in a domestic context. Topics include the use of international human rights law to create change from the local level to the federal courts and innovative tactics to advance economic and social rights.

**Pam Spees** is a senior staff attorney in the international human rights program at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR). Ms. Spees has a background in international criminal and human rights law with a focus on gender and criminal trial practice. Prior to joining CCR she practiced criminal law in Louisiana where she primarily represented indigent defendants in state and federal courts.

Ms. Spees previously served as Program Director of the Women’s Caucus for Gender Justice, an international advocacy network dedicated to ensuring accountability for crimes of sexual and gender violence included in the treaty establishing the International Criminal Court. She has also worked as a consultant in international law with a focus on women’s human rights. She is currently an advisor to the Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice (formerly the Women’s Caucus), based in The Hague, which monitors the Court and advocates for accountability for gender-based violence.

**Caroline Bettinger-López** directs the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law, which focuses on transnational and international human rights litigation and advocacy. Her scholarship, advocacy, and teaching focus on international human rights law and advocacy, and include the implementation of human rights norms at the domestic level. Her main focus is the United States and Latin America, and her principal areas of interest include violence against women, gender and race discrimination, and immigrants’ rights. She was previously the Deputy Director of the Human Rights Institute and Lecturer-in-Law and Acting Director of the Human Rights Clinic at Columbia Law School. She helped to coordinate the Human Rights in the U.S. Project and Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers’ Network.

Prior to teaching at Columbia, Prof. Bettinger-López worked as a Skadden Fellow and Staff Attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union, Women’s Rights Project, where she focused on employment and housing discrimination against domestic violence victims and low-wage immigrant women workers. At the ACLU, she filed the landmark case of Jessica Lenahan (formerly Gonzales) against the United States before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Prof. Bettinger-López clerked for Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr. in the Eastern District of New York. She holds a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. She has served as a member of the International Human Rights Committee and Domestic Violence Committee of the New York City Bar Association.
Cathy Albisa is an attorney with a background on the right to health, specializing in the implementation of human rights standards in the United States. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of NESRI, the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, which promotes a human rights vision for the United States. Toward this end, NESRI works with organizers, policy advocates and legal organizations to incorporate a human rights perspective into their work. Ms. Albisa has also worked as an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union’s Reproductive Freedom Project. She later became one of the founding staff attorneys of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy. She is the former director of the Human Rights in the United States program at the Center for Economic and Social Rights. She was also the Associate Director of the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School and co-directed the International Women’s Human Rights Clinic at CUNY School of Law. Ms. Albisa is a graduate of the University of Miami, and received a J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Joey Mogul is a partner at the People’s Law Office in Chicago, Illinois and Director of the Civil Rights Clinic at DePaul University College of Law. Mogul’s practice focuses on representing individuals who have suffered from police and other governmental misconduct in civil rights cases, and defending individuals in criminal and capital cases. Mogul has worked to seek justice for Chicago Police torture survivors for the last fourteen years, which included presenting the cases to the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee in 2006.

Mogul’s practice has also included representation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in criminal and civil proceedings involving police and prisoner torture, abuse and misconduct. Mogul previously published “The Dykier, the Butcher, the Better: The State’s Use of Homophobia and Sexism to Execute Women in the United States” in the New York City Law Review, and “In the Shadows of the War on Terror: Persistent Police Brutality and Abuse of People of Color in the United States” in the DePaul Journal for Social Justice with co-author Andrea Ritchie. Mogul most recently co-authored Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States with Andrea Ritchie and Kay Whitlock. Mogul has spoken widely before both legal and popular audiences on the state’s use of homophobic, sexist and racist arguments in criminal and police misconduct cases and has devised legal training to counter such efforts. Mogul is an Oberlin College graduate, earned a J.D. from CUNY School of Law and is a proud member of the National Lawyer’s Guild.

Julie Goldscheid is a Professor of Law at the City University of New York School of Law, where she teaches subjects including contracts, civil procedure, lawyering, and gender equality. She writes and speaks widely about gender equality, with a particular focus on gender-based violence and economic equality. Before joining the CUNY School of Law faculty, she held positions including Acting Legal Director at Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund). She spearheaded that organization’s legal work to end violence against women, which included defending the constitutionality of the civil rights remedy of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act in courts nationwide, and before the U.S. Supreme Court in United States v. Morrison. She subsequently served as General Counsel of Safe Horizon, a leading victim assistance, advocacy, and violence prevention organization, where she oversaw its direct service, policy, and governance matters. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Stonewall Community Foundation and has been active in bar association committees and task forces.

Moderator

Julie Goldscheid
Professor of Law at the City University of New York School of Law
Closing Remarks

Celina Romany, who co-founded CUNY Law School’s International Women’s Human Rights Clinic in 1992 with the late Rhonda Copelon, is also the founder and director of the Center for Human Rights at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Law. She was a United Nations representative for the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women’s Rights. She was also a visiting professor at American University Washington College of Law, the University of Miami Law School, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, among others, and was a visiting scholar at Yale Law School. She litigates from her office based in San Juan, Puerto Rico and in 2006 she became the second woman President of the Puerto Rico Bar Association, founded in 1840. Romany returned to CUNY Law as the Haywood Burns Chair for the fall of 2010 to teach International Law.
On May 6, 2010, Rhonda Copelon, a CUNY School of Law Professor and Co-Founder of the International Women’s Human Rights Clinic (IWHR), human rights attorney and a Vice- President of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) died at age 65. Copelon was noted for her key role in the landmark human rights case, Filartiga v. Pena-Irala, which opened U.S. federal courts to international human rights claims. Additionally, she was a champion of women’s reproductive health and argued before the Supreme Court in Harris v. McRae, in which the Court narrowly upheld the Hyde Amendment that prohibited Medicaid reimbursement for almost all abortions. Remarkably both the Filartiga and McCrae decisions came down on June 30, 1980.

Over the course of her 12 years at CCR Copelon challenged racial discrimination, government wiretapping, and worked on several landmark cases including Filartiga. She also argued before the Supreme Court in Drew v. Andrews, in support of African-American women plaintiffs who were denied teaching jobs because of the Mississippi Drew municipal school district policy that barred parents of out-of-wedlock children from all but janitorial positions. In this challenge to this moralistic and punitive policy, young unwed mothers won their case and their jobs back at the Supreme Court based on a claim of marital discrimination.

Deeply distressed by the majority’s cruel interpretation of the Constitution in McRae, but heartened by the door opened on the same day by the Filartiga case, Copelon turned to international human rights as a basis for protection of rights of women and the poor.

In 1983, Copelon was a founding faculty member of CUNY Law. In 1992 she co-founded the Law School’s International Women’s Human Rights Clinic (IWHR). Under her leadership, CUNY Law’s IWHR Clinic enabled students and activists around the world to participate in a range of precedent-setting legal and advocacy campaigns. For example, IWHR’s amicus briefs in the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia contributed to the recognition in international law of rape as a crime of genocide and torture.

In the fall of 2009, CUNY Law Dean Michelle Anderson announced “with great sadness” Professor Copelon’s retirement and her continuation with the Law School as an emeritus faculty member. In retiring, Copelon commented that her “26 year romance with CUNY Law will never end.” Copelon, who was always humble about her leadership, credited the “cadre of activists, visionaries, and countless courageous women here and abroad who began long, deep, intersectional, and gender inclusive feminist revolutions that exposed the andro-centrism of human rights law.”
Co-Sponsors

City University of New York Law Review is edited and published by the students of the City University of New York School of Law. The Law Review is dedicated to the school’s mission of “Law in the Service of Human Needs.” It aims to inform the legal community of recent developments in public interest law and provide a forum for practitioners whose clients might otherwise lack meaningful representation in the legal system.

International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic (IWHR) engages in change-lawyering through litigation and advocacy, locally and globally. Co-founded by Professor Rhonda Copelon, the IWHR clinic is widely recognized for its expertise and contributions to gender jurisprudence and practice of human rights. With domestic or international partners, the IWHR clinic engages international and regional human rights and other law- and policy-making institutions to redefine and implement human rights to stop gender and sexualized violence, and to advance reproductive and sexual rights, economic and social rights, and women's participation generally.

City University of New York School of Law is the country’s premier public interest law school. It trains lawyers to serve the underprivileged and disempowered and to make a difference in their communities. At its founding in 1983, it pioneered the model of integrating practical lawyering with traditional doctrinal study. The school’s motto (and practice) is “Law in the Service of Human Needs.”

MADRE is an international women’s human rights organization that works in partnership with community-based women's organizations worldwide to address issues of health and reproductive rights, economic development, education and other human rights. MADRE provides resources and training to enable our sister organizations to meet these goals by addressing immediate needs in their communities and developing long-term solutions to the crises they face.

Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) is dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South, CCR is a non-profit legal and educational organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change.
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