Annual Report
June 2011 – May 2012
Promoting Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the United States and Around the World
Dear Friends:

We are pleased to share with you the 2011-2012 Annual Report for the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) at Northeastern University School of Law (NUSL).

Founded in 2005 by our colleague Professor Hope Lewis, PHRGE this year extended its record of important scholarship, exceptional public education and effective advocacy on economic, social and cultural rights in the United States and around the globe.

The work described in this report is a tribute to our creative and energetic staff, led by Gillian MacNaughton, as well as the many committed NUSL law students who contribute their own talents to PHRGE’s work. We hope that you will enjoy learning more about our projects and initiatives over the past year, and that you will be inspired to join us in actively supporting the global movement for economic, social and cultural rights.

Very truly yours,

PHRGE Faculty Co-Directors

Dan Danielsen                              Martha F. Davis                              Lucy A. Williams                              Margaret Y. K. Woo

Mission

The Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) at the Northeastern University School of Law was founded in 2005 to engage in the study, promotion, implementation and constructive critique of rights-based approaches to economic development and social transformation with particular attention to economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). It has a threefold mission:

(1) To promote human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, within the Northeastern community;

(2) To support cutting-edge scholarship on human rights with a particular focus on economic, social and cultural rights;

(3) To work to implement human rights norms and sound economic development approaches worldwide.

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Dear Colleagues:

This year PHRGE sponsored over twenty successful human rights events, continued several major research projects and training initiatives, expanded the Co-op Fellowship Program, and made many other impressive contributions to promoting economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR), as well as human rights-based approaches to social justice, in the USA and internationally. This report details our accomplishments from June 2011 through May 2012. Highlights include:

1. Over 120 people attended the ESCR Institute “Framing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Advocacy and Mobilization: Towards a Strategic Agenda in the United States” held on November 3-4, 2011.

2. The Northeastern University Law Journal is collaborating with PHRGE on a special issue stemming from the ESCR Institute that will be published in the summer of 2012.

3. Faculty Co-Directors Martha F. Davis and Margaret Y.K. Woo, along with Risa Kaufman of the Columbia Human Rights Institute, filed an amicus brief in Florida, et al. v. U.S. Dep’t of HHS et al. before the United States Supreme Court, arguing in support of the constitutionality of the Medicaid expansion provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

4. PHRGE played a key advisory role for the Clearinghouse Review special issue on human rights published September/October 2011, and PHRGE faculty, staff and fellows contributed several articles to the issue.

5. PHRGE sponsored two international open PHRGE fellowships this spring. Katie Beck is in Costa Rica working on an environmental and human rights project involving land disputes and indigenous people, and Nataniel Johnson Gottlieb is in Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories to do field research identifying human rights violations for possible actions.

After two years as Executive Director, I am moving on to become a Senior Fellow with the program. It has been an amazing two years working with students, staff and faculty here at NUSL and representing PHRGE to the broader ESCR domestic and international community. Together, we have made remarkable progress in building the program and contributing to ESCR, and I look forward to continuing my work with PHRGE and all of you to advance ESCR in the United States and around the world.

All the best,

Gillian MacNaughton
Executive Director
June 21, 2011: Clearinghouse Review hosted an online panel discussion “Claiming Our Rights as Human Rights Lawyers: How a Human Rights Framework Can Advance Our Advocacy” moderated by Professor Martha Davis and featuring Chandra Batnagar Senior Staff attorney with the ACLU Human Rights Project; Monique Harden, Co-Director of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights in New Orleans; Cheryl Hystad, Director of Advocacy, Maryland Legal Aid Bureau; and Sarah Paoletti, Director of the Transnational Legal Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. The panel explored using a human rights framework to support advocacy work on behalf of low-income clients.


August 3, 2011: PHRGE hosted a lively research session on international and comparative human rights law with Kyle Courtney, Manager, Resource Sharing and Faculty Information Delivery at Harvard Law School Library and PHRGE Affiliated Scholar. Professor Courtney shared his extensive knowledge of human rights and international legal research with the Northeastern Community.

September 28, 2011: Executive Director Gillian MacNaughton moderated the PHRGE showcase panel, which focused on some of PHRGE’s current research projects, including the international due diligence obligations of government to prevent violence against women (Due Diligence Project); the International Social and Economic Rights Project (iSERP); the Human Rights Law Network in India; the Boston Principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Noncitizens; and Framing ESCR for Advocacy and Mobilization.

October 12, 2011: PHRGE hosted another research session with Harvard Law Librarian “Extraordinaire” Kyle Courtney. Professor Courtney delivered another whirlwind presentation on researching international and comparative human rights law.

October 20, 2011: PHRGE Faculty Co-Director Martha Davis served as Co-Chair and PHRGE as a Participating Organization for the 2011 Armenian Heritage Foundation Najarian Lecture on Human Rights. Paul Rusesabagina, a Rwandan Humanitarian whose story inspired the Academy Award nominated film “Hotel Rwanda,” delivered the keynote address on October 20 at Faneuil Hall.

December 1-2, 2011: PHRGE co-sponsored “Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence,” a two-day symposium organized by the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University. The symposium explored the performative dimensions of justice seeking in the aftermath of violence with a focus on Cambodia, Peru and the United States. Dean Emily Spieler welcomed the audience and four current NUSL students, Jonathan Cohen, Findayawah Gbollie, Yasmeen Peer, and Kate Richardson, participated in panel discussions.


February 16, 2012: PHRGE presented an informal panel on health and human rights “Global Health and Human Rights Research Projects,” featuring panelists Professor Audrey Chapman, Joseph Healey Jr. Chair in Medical Humanities and Bioethics, Division of Public Health Law and Bioethics, University of Connecticut; Assistant Professor Lisa Forman, Director of the Comparative Program on Health and Society,
Lupina Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto; and Professor Ted Schrecker, Clinical Scientist, Institut de recherche Élisabeth-Bruyère Research Institute, Adjunct Professor Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine, University of Ottawa, Principle Scientist, Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa. Professor Brook Baker of NUSL moderated the panel.

March 2, 2012: PHRGE Fellow Asia Watson ’12, Faculty Co-Director Dan Danielsen, and Executive Director Gillian MacNaughton presented on the panel “Global Law Field Placements: Preparing Lawyers for Modern Practice” at the Externship 6 Conference hosted by NUSL and Harvard Law School.

March 13, 2012: PHRGE and the NUSL Women’s Law Caucus co-sponsored a screening and discussion of “Aku Siapa” (Who Am I?), a documentary on the politics of veiling in Malaysia and Indonesia by Norhayati Kaprawi. Adjunct Professor Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Co-Director of the Due Diligence Project, led a lively discussion following the film.

March 23, 2012: In collaboration with the Black Law Students Association, PHRGE hosted the 19th Annual Valerie Gordon Human Rights Lecture featuring Terry McGovern, founder of the HIV Law Project in New York City and currently the Senior Program Officer with the Ford Foundation Human Rights Reducing HIV/AIDS Discrimination and Exclusion Division. Ms. McGovern’s talk was entitled “What are the Human Rights of Women Living with HIV?”

March 27, 2012: Student researchers presented the work they completed over the past seven months for the Due Diligence Project in a presentation entitled “Ending Worldwide Violence Against Women.”

April 5, 2012: Student researchers presented the results of a research project they had completed for PHRGE and the NUSL Health Law Program, in preparation for the 2012 ESCR Institute on “Human Rights and the Social Determinants of Health.”

April 25, 2012: Ford Foundation Fellow Mariah McGill hosted the panel “Charter Schools and the Universal Right to Education,” exploring the impact that the charter school movement has had on the universal right to education in the United States. The panel focused on whether charter schools are unfairly excluding students with disabilities and English language learners and the impact of this exclusion on public district school funding. The panel featured Liz Sullivan, Human Right to Education Program Officer at the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative; Kathleen Boundy of the Center for Law and Education; and Marilyn Segal of Citizens for Public Schools.

May 16, 2012: Executive Director Gillian MacNaughton presented a lecture “Mainstreaming Human Rights into Impact Assessment” as part of the University of Ottawa’s Videoconference Series on Human Rights Impact Assessment.

Coming Soon: On June 6, PHRGE and the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute will co-sponsor a live web-streamed panel on ethics and domestic human rights lawyering, “UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights: What Lawyers Should Know.” The panel will take place at NUSL and feature Michael Greco, K & L Gates and the Chair of the ABA Center for Human Rights; Sarah Attschuller, Associate at Foley Hoag, LLP, and member of the Corporate Social Responsibility Practice Group; Martha Davis, PHRGE Faculty Co-Director; and John Sherman III, General Counsel at Shift and Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. Chris Jochnick, Director of the Private Sector Department, Oxfam-America, will moderate the panel.
PHRGE fellows work at leading human rights organizations in the United States and abroad. Each fellow receives a stipend to work full time for eleven weeks as a staff member at a partner organization. Most of the PHRGE fellows work at organizations with which we have an ongoing relationship and four students rotate through the position over the year. New fellows are then able to build directly on the work of prior fellows, encouraging employers to engage students in the full range of the organization’s work. This year PHRGE also offered two open fellowships, allowing students to work at a human rights organization or with a human rights attorney of their choice.

Katherine Beck ’12 was selected for an Open PHRGE Fellowship with NUSL alumna Emily Yozell in Costa Rica, representing indigenous communities in an ongoing land rights dispute with the Costa Rican government. Katie also served as a member of the National Lawyer’s Guild Taskforce on the Americas for an election monitoring and trade tribunal investigation in El Salvador.

Nataniel Johnson-Gottlieb ’12 was selected for an Open PHRGE Fellowship with attorney Jonathan Kuttab in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), where he performed legal and field research into economic, social and cultural rights violations against Palestinians living in the OPT for a report that Mr. Kuttab’s organization, al-Haq, will use in its advocacy work.

PHRGE Fellows 2011-2012

Spring 2012
HRLN: Glynis Ritchie ’12
NLCHP: Catherine Galitzine ’12
ACLU GA: Clayton Adams ’13
Open: Katie Beck ’12
Open: Nataniel Johnson-Gottlieb ’12

Winter 2011-2012
Oxfam: Kelly Smith ’13
HRLN: Jennifer Kline ’13
NLCHP: Tiffany Malcolm ’13

Fall 2011
HRLN: Déodonné Bhattarai ’11
NLCHP: Julia Lum ’13
Oxfam: Leda Tabaie ’12
PHR: Jillian Tuck ’12

Summer 2011
HRLN: Caitlin Chan ’12
PHR: Sari Long ’13
Oxfam: Carla Erskine ’13
NLCHP: Julia Butner ’13
In 2011-2012, PHRGE sponsored sixteen fellowships for Northeastern law students, including two open fellowships at organizations chosen by the fellows and fourteen at PHRGE partner organizations:

**American Civil Liberties Union in Atlanta, Georgia:** The ACLU-Georgia is part of the American Civil Liberties Union, a national non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving and defending the principles embodied in the Bill of Rights. The purpose of the ACLU-Georgia is to advance the cause of civil liberties within the state, with emphasis on the rights of free speech, free press, free assembly, freedom of religion and due process of law. Students at the ACLU-Georgia work in the workers’ rights program, which advances the human rights of immigrant detainees at a private detention center owned by a corporation in Georgia where the immigrants work for a meager $1-3 per day. Students at the ACLU-Georgia have examined the potential for filing complaints at the International Labor Organization, as well as with the UN human rights treaty bodies.

**Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) in New Delhi, India:** HRLN is a collective of lawyers and social activists dedicated to the use of the legal system to advance human rights. The organization collaborates with social movements, human rights organizations, and grass-roots development groups to enforce the rights of children, Dalits, people with disabilities, farmers, HIV positive people, the homeless, indigenous people, prisoners, refugees, religious and sexual minorities, women, and workers, among others. HRLN provides pro bono legal services, conducts public interest litigation, engages in advocacy, conducts legal awareness programs, investigates violations, publishes “know your rights” materials, and participates in campaigns. Students at HRLN work on the legal and social aspects of public interest initiatives, thereby allowing them to develop skills and an insight into how law and social activism, when combined, can achieve practical benefits for working people and the poor.

**Oxfam-America in Boston:** Oxfam-America is a leading international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 90 countries, Oxfam-America saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. It is one of the 14 affiliates in the international confederation, Oxfam. Students work in the Private Sector Engagement Unit, which addresses human rights and corporate responsibility issues. Previous NUSL student work has involved defining the human rights obligations of multinational corporations, participating in a multi-stakeholder initiative on governance and contributing to the movement on socially responsible investment.

**Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) in Boston:** Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) mobilizes health professionals to advance health, dignity, and justice, and promotes the right to health for all. PHR (1) advocates for fair treatment of asylum seekers and immigration detainees and staffs a network of 300 health professionals who conduct forensic examinations of individuals seeking asylum in the U.S.; (2) documents torture around the world including the systematic use of torture by U.S. personnel against detainees at Guantánamo Bay, Abu Ghraib and Bagram; and (3) promotes the right to health for individuals in state custody. Students provide legal support to PHR’s Asylum Program Director, for example, preparing briefing materials on torture under international human rights law for presentations at medical schools, drafting articles on immigration detention and the right to health and participating in investigations and policy work on the lack of adequate health care for immigration detainees.
On November 3-4, 2011, PHRGE hosted a two day Institute “Framing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Advocacy and Mobilization: Towards a Strategic Agenda in the United States.” The institute was co-sponsored by the Ford Foundation, PHRGE, the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, and Human Rights USA in collaboration with the ESCR Working Group of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network. The Institute brought together legal activists and academics engaged in the analysis of social movements in the United States.

Over the past several decades, the United States government has been ambivalent, and sometimes openly hostile, to ESCR. Recently, however, the Obama administration acknowledged in its reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review that it has obligations for ESCR. As a result of this new development, human rights scholars and advocates joined with social movement scholars and activists to re-examine strategies for advancing ESCR in the United States.

On November 3, Dean Emily Spieler opened the Institute and welcomed a standing-room-only audience of over 120 people. PHRGE Faculty Co-Director Martha Davis introduced the Institute and Risa Kaufman, Executive Director of the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School introduced our collaborator, the ESCR Working Group of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network. Ian Coghill, Editor-in-Chief of the Northeastern University Law Journal also spoke about the special journal issue that PHRGE and the NULJ would develop based on the Institute.

Our keynote speaker, Marshall Ganz, labor organizer and Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, galvanized the crowd. Ganz spoke about his personal experiences in union, community, issue and political organizing, providing an assessment of the role of leadership and narrative in social movements. Cathy Albisa, Executive Director of the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, then followed with remarks on current human rights advocacy and organizing in the United States.

Risa Kaufman moderated the first panel on “Strategies for building an ESCR Movement in the US” with panelists Richard Healey from the Grassroots Policy Project; Robert Raben, President and Founder of Raben Group; and Doyle Canning of smartMeme. They provided an extraordinary array of strategic tools from grassroots organizing to professional lobbying.

Larry Cox, former Executive Director of Amnesty International, USA, moderated the second panel “Frameworks for Advancing ESCR in the US.” Panelists included human rights activists James Haslam, Director of the Vermont Workers’ Center; Steve Hitov, General Counsel for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers; Maisie Chin, Co-founder and Director of CADRE; Tara Melish, Professor of Law at the University at Buffalo Law School; and Bill Kennedy, Managing Attorney at Legal Services of Northern California. These panelists presented their personal experiences using human rights frameworks to successfully advance ESCR in the United States, inspiring attendees with their stories of successful grassroots activism and human rights advocacy.

On November 4, participants attended parallel small-group closed workshops focused on specific ESCR. At these sessions, participants discussed using the tools presented the previous day to develop strategies and frameworks for advancing human rights in the United States. A report on the ESCR Institute is available on the PHRGE website and the special issue of the NULJ stemming from the Institute will be published in the summer of 2012. Additionally, through the ESCR Working Group of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network, participants continue to develop and share strategies to advance ESCR in the United States.
Bringing International Human Rights Law into Domestic Forums

Over the past several years, PHRGE has engaged in numerous projects to implement international human rights norms in the United States. These projects have included trainings on human rights for advocates, judges and legislators, amicus briefs asserting human rights norms in domestic cases and training materials for litigators.

This year PHRGE has focused in particular on using international human rights law in legal services. To this end, PHRGE Faculty Co-Director Martha Davis and Executive Director Gillian MacNaughton served on an advisory committee to recommend topics and authors for a landmark special issue of the *Clearinghouse Review* “Human Rights: A New [and Old] Way to Secure Justice” that was published in September/October 2011. PHRGE also contributed several articles to the special issue (see page 13-14). Additionally, Professor Davis participated in an online panel discussion “Claiming Our Role as Human Rights Lawyers: How a Human Rights Framework Can Advance Our Advocacy” hosted by *Clearinghouse Review* for which 220 people from all around the country registered.

PHRGE is currently engaged with Greater Boston Legal Services to develop strategies for integrating human rights into their work. The project began in the spring of 2012 with training for the GBLS human rights committee by PHRGE Visiting Scholar Maria Green on key economic and social rights concepts. Subsequent sessions will apply these concepts to specific GBLS campaigns to determine how human rights approaches could offer added value.

In February 2012, Professor Davis and Professor Margaret Y.K. Woo, along with Risa Kaufman of the Columbia Human Rights Institute, filed an amicus brief in Florida, *et al. v. U.S. Dept of HHS et al.* before the United States Supreme Court, arguing in support of the constitutionality of the Medicaid Expansion Provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Their brief argued that the Court should take into account the international human rights implications of the provision and uphold it as it addresses disparate access to health care based on racial lines. Professors Davis and Woo were particularly pleased to represent a distinguished group of organizations, led by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and including the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, the Urban Justice Center, WILD for Human Rights, the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Poverty and Race Research Action Council and others. In addition, Professor Davis consulted with several other amicus brief authors on the relevance of human rights to the issues before the Court in the health care litigation.

Professor Davis was also an advisor and presenter on human rights trainings for state supreme court justices offered by the Aspen Institute, and developed and participated in human rights trainings at the Center for Constitutional Rights. She also serves on the advisory board for a project with the American University, Washington School of Law, Center for Human Rights to integrate human rights into the daily work of legal services lawyers at Maryland Legal Aid and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid.

The International Social and Economic Rights Project (iSERP)

The International Social and Economic Rights Project (iSERP) is based at PHRGE and is convened by PHRGE Faculty Co-Director, Professor Lucy Williams and PHRGE affiliate, Professor Karl Klare. iSERP is an informal, international network of lawyers, judges, human rights advocates, and academics focusing on social and economic rights (SER). The network seeks to identify and promote legal developments in the service of social justice. iSERP works on the premise that enacting, implementing, and enforcing SER can play a significant role in making our societies more equal, just, inclusive, and caring, and in fostering human dignity and self-realization. It seeks to encourage and develop critical and transformative thinking about SER and SER-based legal strategies.

Over the long run, members of the network hope to assist practitioners and activists attempting to justify, secure, and enforce SER. They aspire to generate legal approaches that will encourage legislatures, courts, administrative agencies, regional and international commissions and agencies, and other decision makers to take a robust and creative approach to SER and anti-discrimination law. At the same time, they hope to make evident to all that social justice movements of disadvantaged and disenfranchised people claim legal rights that state and society have denied them. To the extent that SER pose novel questions that do not fit comfortably within traditional legal molds, iSERP aims to develop new legal ideas and theories supportive of SER approaches. They have particularly focused on modernizing the theory of separation-of-powers, democratic theory, and the proper scope of judicial review, devising sophisticated remedies for SER cases, facilitating grassroots and community participation in the legal process, and examining the impact of SER and transformative constitutions on questions of private law, economic democracy, and economic development.

To this end, iSERP organizes annual international workshops to share and interrogate grassroots experience, legal developments, and legal theory relative to SER. Thus far, iSERP has held annual workshops at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, USA (2009), the Faculty of Law, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia (2010), and the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa (2011). This year's workshop will be at the University College of London in the United Kingdom on June 21-24, 2012. The workshop will begin on the 21st with a panel discussion on the enforceability of SER that will be open to the public. In 2012, Professor Williams also received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to hold a closed conference at the Rockefeller Bellagio Center in Italy in April 2013. This conference is intended to finalize the chapters for a book providing a critical assessment of constitutional and treaty-based SER jurisprudence and practice.
The Due Diligence Project

The Due Diligence Project is a research and advocacy project on States’ due diligence obligations to prevent, protect, prosecute, punish, and redress acts of violence against women. Specifically the Project aims to collect good practices in the formulation, implementation and enforcement of policies, laws, procedures and processes, as well as develop due diligence standards and indicators on State compliance with its obligations.

The Project objectives are: 1) to conduct a global assessment of the practices of States in relation to their obligations to prevent, protect, investigate, punish and provide redress for victims of violence; 2) to document and share good practices of States in fulfilling the due diligence standard of State responsibility; 3) to analyze primary data and other research materials to develop due diligence standards and indicators; 4) to develop advocacy measures to promote buy-in by States of the due diligence standards and indicators, as well as to disseminate the standards and indicators to civil society as a step towards using them to develop practical tools.

The initial phase of the Project (2010-2012) has two components: (1) the global component, which was composed of a literature review and the convening of global experts to discuss the issues, and (2) the regional component, which focuses primarily on collecting information from civil society working in the field of violence against women on the question of State obligations. The findings of the Project will be compiled into a comprehensive report that will be disseminated to civil society and serve as a basis for advocacy and further standard setting. The second phase of the Project (2013-2015) will focus on implementation and dissemination of the findings through workshops and development of materials (e.g. fact sheets, briefing notes) targeted at key stakeholders. The Project is currently implementing the regional component of the Project in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, Middle East & North Africa and North America regions of the world.

The Project Directors are Janine Moussa and Zarizana Abdul Aziz. This year Co-Director Janine Moussa helped steer the Project into the regional component, including identifying and reaching out to civil society partner organizations in over 40 countries globally to participate in the study. This brought her to Bogotá, Colombia where she attended the 12th Ecuentra Feminista, a regional forum on women’s rights, and delivered a presentation on the Due Diligence Project. Also in furtherance of this goal, Ms. Moussa attended the 56th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City where she met with women’s civil society representatives from around the world.

This year Co-Director Zarizana Abdul Aziz oversaw the work of research assistants; liaised with regional experts and Project partners; and established new institutional partnerships with the Women’s Development Research Centre (University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia) and the Center for Human Rights (University of Pretoria, South Africa). As part of the regional outreach of the Project, Ms. Aziz attended the Asia feminist forum in Chang Mai, Thailand in October 2011 where she presented the Due Diligence Project to key women’s rights activists from the region.

Due Diligence Project Co-op Placements

In 2011, the Due Diligence Project began placing Northeastern students in co-ops around the globe to further their work.

**Fall 2011**
- Lara Shkordoff ’12: FIDA-Uganda, Kampala Uganda
- Lauren Garrity ’13: Gender and Justice Project (ILANUD), San Jose Costa Rica
- Nency Salamoun ’12: Kafa, Beirut Lebanon
- Jillian Sadler ’13: Women’s Aid Organization (WAO), Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

**Winter 2011**
- Patrice Dixon ’12: FIDA-Uganda, Kampala Uganda
- Nency Salamoun ’12: Kafa, Beirut Lebanon

**Spring 2012**
- Alexandra Bonazoli ’13: Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF), Sofia Bulgaria
- Christina Wahr ’12: Partners for Law and Development (PLD), Delhi India
Human Rights Frameworks, Strategies and Tools for Policymaking

Executive Director Gillian MacNaughton and Ford Foundation Fellows Angela Duger and Mariah McGill are working on several projects to develop and document the use of human rights frameworks, strategies and tools to advance economic and social rights through human rights monitoring and policy-making processes. Traditionally, human rights practitioners have relied upon a limited toolbox, including litigation and letter-writing campaigns, to address violations of human rights. Today, we are also using a variety of proactive human rights strategies and tools - including human rights impact assessment, indicators and benchmarks and budget analysis - to analyze government performance, guide legislative reforms and build social movements for economic and social justice. Over the past year, PHRGE projects in this area have included:

Project on the Vermont Workers’ Center “Health Care is a Human Right” Campaign

Mariah McGill has investigated and documented the Vermont Workers’ Center’s “Health Care is a Human Right Campaign.” This four-year campaign achieved ground-breaking results in May 2011 when the Vermont Legislature adopted a bill that provides a framework for universal, single-payer health care in Vermont based on human rights principles. The campaign continues to work to hold lawmakers accountable to ensure the success of a universal health care system. Ms. McGill has published several articles for both domestic and international audiences on the grassroots movement for universal health care, as well as on the new Vermont health care law.

Project on the Right to Health Care in the USA

Gillian MacNaughton and Mariah McGill embarked on a project examining the right to health as currently recognized in the United States. Following her presentation at the University of Connecticut in April 2011 on the human rights framework and health care in the United States, Ms. MacNaughton published an article in the Clearinghouse Review September/October 2011 issue analyzing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act from a human rights perspective. In 2012, Ms. MacNaughton and Ms. McGill are examining the potential of the right-to-health provisions in state constitutions as well as the various grassroots movements for universal health care around the United States.

Right to Food Project

Ford Foundation Fellow Angela Duger is exploring the right to food and its application in the United States. Based upon the groundbreaking report by Olivier de Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, issued in March 2012, Ms. Duger has written for the IntLawGrrls and Health and Human Rights blogs documenting the potential of the right to food framework for combating obesity and non-communicable diseases. Ms. Duger is also exploring the right to food language currently used in federal food program regulations, which will be the basis for an article she is co-authoring with Martha Davis for the Clearinghouse Review special issue on food in September/October 2012.

ESCR Implementation without Ratification Project

Although the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has not been ratified by the United States Senate, many of these rights are being implemented at the federal, state and local level in a myriad of ways. This project examines the ways in which governments at the federal, state, county and municipal level are implementing economic and social rights. Ms. MacNaughton presented the initial research for this project at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association in June 2011 in San Francisco. Following further research on local government initiatives to implement economic and social rights, Ms. McGill and Ms. MacNaughton co-authored the article “Economic and Social Rights in the United States: Implementation Without Ratification” to be published in a special issue of the Northeastern University Law Journal in the summer of 2012.

The Right to Water Project

In May 2012, PHRGE Affiliated Faculty Lee Breckenridge and Faculty Co-Director Martha Davis initiated a year-long collaboration with the NU College of Engineering addressing the interfaces between water, sanitation and human rights. Through this innovative interdisciplinary
Towards Closing the Inequitable Drug Gap: Validating and Implementing a Right to Health Impact Assessment of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights in Low and Middle Income Countries.

Gillian MacNaughton (co-investigator) is collaborating on a research project with Lisa Forman, University of Toronto (principal investigator), Aboubakry Gollock and Ronald Labonte, (co-investigators). This project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. In 2011, project investigators carried out case studies on the health impact assessments done in Thailand and Peru during their bilateral negotiations with the United States. They are currently working on an article based on these two case studies for the Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal Journal. In February 2012, PHRGE hosted an informal workshop with the project investigators to consider further collaborations on the right to health.

In 2010, PHRGE established the New England Regional Faculty Colloquia Series. Each quarter PHRGE invites a scholar, to present recent research to faculty invited from the entire New England region. The luncheon series focuses on human rights scholarship, particularly in the area of ESCR, and welcomes speakers from legal as well as interdisciplinary perspectives. This year we welcomed a wonderful array of speakers from around the world.

On July 27, 2011, Visiting Scholar Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Co-Director of the Due Diligence Project, presented her paper “Due Diligence and State Responsibility: Sampling, Standards and Indicators.” The presentation included an overview of the Due Diligence Project hosted by PHRGE as well as a discussion of the substantive content of the due diligence obligations of States with respect to violence against women. PHRGE affiliated faculty member Professor Aziza Ahmed offered insightful comments on the paper before opening the session to the full group for a lively discussion. PHRGE Faculty Co-Director Professor Martha Davis hosted this colloquium, the fourth in the series.

On February 17, 2012, John F. Sherman, III, Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School discussed the significance of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the context of counseling corporate clients. Mr. Sherman, a former corporate lawyer, served for three years on the team of Harvard Kennedy School Professor John Ruggie, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Business and Human Rights, and helped to draft and shape the Guiding Principles, which were adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on June 16, 2011. Professor Luke Bierman, Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Law here at NUSL, offered comments on Mr. Sherman’s presentation and then opened the session for an animated discussion.

To follow up, Professor Martha Davis and Mr. Sherman have organized a panel discussion “UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights: What Lawyers Should Know” to be held at Northeastern School of Law and also live streamed on June 6, 2012. The event is sponsored by PHRGE, the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights and the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute.

On May 8, 2012, Suzanne Egan, Lecturer at the School of Law, University College Dublin, and visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School, gave a presentation drawing on her recent book The United Nations Human Rights Treaty System: Law and Procedure (Bloomsbury 2011). At the colloquium, Professor Egan addressed the current treaty body reform process, and PHRGE affiliated faculty member Professor Sonia Rolland offered comments and then led a robust group discussion.
Faculty Co-Directors

Professor Dan Danielson


Professor Martha Davis


Professor Lucy A. Williams


Professor Margaret Y.K. Woo


PHRGE Staff

Executive Director Gillian MacNaughton


Ford Foundation Fellow Mariah McGill


Margaret Serrano Wins 2011 PHRGE Student Writing Competition

Margaret Serrano was the winner of the 2011 PHRGE Annual Student Writing Competition, hosted in conjunction with the PHRGE Institute on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Ms. Serrano is a law student at Pace University School of Law and is the Case Note and Comment Editor for the Pace Law Review. Her article, “Legal Services Fraud in Immigrant Communities, and the U Visa’s Potential to HelpVictimized Communities Help Themselves” will be published in the 2012 special issue of the Northeastern University Law Journal.


Ford Foundation Fellow Angela Duger


PHRGE Collaborates with Northeastern University Law Journal on ESCR Special Issue

Human rights scholars and practitioners who participated in the 2011 ESCR Institute are contributing to a special issue of the NULJ on “Framing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Advocacy and Mobilization in the United States” to be published in summer 2012. Contributing authors include: Eric Tars of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty co-authoring with PHRGE Fellow Julia Lum, Peter Sabonis of the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, Risa Kaufman of the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, Katharine Young of the Australian National University College of Law, PHRGE Research Associate Alex Bonazoli, Dorothy Thomas, Martha Davis, Gillian MacNaughton, Mariah McGill and Margaret Serrano, winner of the PHRGE Student Writing Competition.

PHRGE Affiliated Faculty

Professor Aziza Ahmed


Professor Brook K. Baker


Professor Leo Beletsky


Professor Richard A. Daynard


Professor Patricia Illingworth


Matthews Distinguished Professor Wendy Parmet


Professor Sonia Elise Rolland

Development at the World Trade Organization (Oxford University Press 2012).

PHRGE Affiliated Scholars

Visiting Scholar Zarizana Abdul Aziz


“Shifting Boundaries: Islam, Jurisprudence and Gender in Malaysia,” in Our Lived Realities: Reading Gender in Malaysia, in Cecilia Ng, Noraida Endut & Rashida Shuib eds., (Penerbit Universiti Sains, Malaysia, 2011)

Affiliated Scholar Kyle Courtney

Dean Emily Spieler is a leading expert on workers’ rights and continues to advise the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative on their workers’ compensation initiative. This year, she authored an article on occupational health and safety to be published in the *Peking University Journal on Public Interest Law*. Additionally, Dean Spieler has been involved with several PHRGE events. She delivered the welcoming remarks at the ESCR Institute on November 3, 2011, and moderated the keynote panel. In December 2011, she was the opening speaker for the keynote event at “Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence,” a PHRGE co-sponsored symposium organized by the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University.

PHRGE Faculty and Staff Notes

Faculty Co-Directors


Professor Martha F. Davis presented at the annual Massachusetts state Appellate Judges Conference in June 2011 where she spoke on the use of international and foreign law in domestic adjudication. The same month she was an invited expert at an Aspen Institute seminar for state supreme court justices, “US Courts: Learning from Other Jurisdictions.” In July 2011, Professor Davis traveled to New York City to present on the status of women in the U.S. to the staff and board of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and in October 2011, she spoke on the panel “Ensuring Economic Equality for Women in a Global Society” at the National Association of Women Judges annual conference at Rutgers-Newark on “Human Rights and the Low-Wage Workforce.”

In September 2011, Professor Davis submitted a Comment on Civil Gideon to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In March 2012, she served on an online legal opinion panel for *The Guardian* and offered her perspective and analysis of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in a series of blog posts. She also co-authored with Risa Kaufman an article for the Huffington Post entitled “A Human Rights Lens on the Affordable Care Act.” Additionally, Professor Davis posted several blogs for the American Constitution Society this year, including an entry entitled “To Promote the General Welfare” which explored economic, social and cultural rights in state constitutions.

Professor Lucy A. Williams, Convener of iSERP and Faculty Co-Director of PHRGE, initiated a project with ESCR-NET, an international organization of ESCR activists and organizations. With the help of NUSL students, she submits summaries of SER cases from around the globe to be included in the ESCR-NET database, and PHRGE/iSERP is now an Academic Partner, as well as an organizational member of ESCR-NET.
Professor Williams convened the third workshop of the International Social and Economic Rights Project (iSERP) of the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, from June 2-5, 2011 (see page 9). In April 2012, she received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to hold a three-day workshop at the Bellagio Center in Italy in April 2013 at which iSERP participants will present and finalize their chapters for an edited volume on social and economic rights.

Professor Margaret Y.K. Woo served as a member of the Fulbright Specialist Program Review Committee in 2011-2012. In 2011, Professor Woo organized an outreach trip for NUSL and accompanied Dean Emily Spieler on her travels to the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan and Suzhou. Following that trip, NUSL hosted a reciprocal delegation from Wuhan University School of Law, and then signed a memorandum of agreement for further cooperation with Wuhan University. Professor Woo presented at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association held in June 2011 in San Francisco, and at the University of Maryland’s “China, Taiwan and International Law: A Symposium in Honor of Professor Hungdah Chiu,” held in October 2011.

PHRGE Staff

Executive Director Gillian MacNaughton presented a paper “Economic and Social Rights in the USA: Implementation without Ratification” at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association in San Francisco in June 2011. She gave a talk in April 2012 at the Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut, entitled “Rediscovering the Right to Social Equality.” As part of a videoconference series on human rights impact assessment, she also presented via video link “Mainstreaming Human Rights into Impact Assessment” at the University of Ottawa on May 16, 2012.

Ms. MacNaughton returned to the University of Sarajevo again this year as a visiting lecturer in the European Regional Master’s Program on Human Rights and Democracy. She was also appointed an adjunct faculty member at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she taught human rights policy and practice. She continues as an affiliate of the Economic and Social Rights Group of the Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut, as co-coordinator of the Human Rights Thematic Group of the Human Development and Capabilities Association and as a member of the steering committee of the ESCR Working Group of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network.

Ford Foundation Fellow Mariah McGill’s research over the past year has largely focused on the right to health care, particularly on the ongoing campaign for universal health care in Vermont (see page 11). In June 2011, Ms. McGill moderated PHRGE’s first webinar to discuss the Boston Principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Noncitizens. Additionally, following a successful panel on the issue of “school pushout” in 2011, Ms. McGill organized and moderated a panel on charter schools and the universal right to education in April 2012. The panel explored whether charter schools in Massachusetts and around the country are educating all children in accordance with human rights principles (see page 11).

Ford Foundation Fellow Angela Duger has focused her research this year on the right to food, particularly on its application to obesity and non-communicable disease. Ms. Duger is a guest blogger at IntLawGrrls, a blog devoted to exploring international law and human rights issues, where she published “The Right to Food, Obesity and Food Systems” in March 2012. Ms. Duger also published “Obesity, NCD’s, and the Right to Food” in April 2012 on the blog of Health and Human Rights: An International Journal. On June 8, 2012, Ms. Duger, along with Martha Davis, will present the Boston Principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Noncitizens – which stem from PHRGE’s 2010 Institute on ESCR and Immigrant Communities – to the Massachusetts Association of Human Rights and Relations Commissions.

Senior Fellow Janine Moussa, as co-director of the Due Diligence Project, spent much of the last year furthering the project’s goals and objectives (see page 10). Ms. Moussa also continued to work in her other areas of expertise, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and women and Islam. In October 2011, she attended the 50th CEDAW session where she presented a thematic report on women and family law in Oman and Kuwait to the CEDAW Committee. In November 2011, she served as a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) consultant and trainer at a workshop in Jamaica on CEDAW and HIV/AIDS for advocates and government officials. Ms. Moussa was also a guest lecturer and sat on a number of expert panels at NUSL during this time.
**Affiliated Scholars**

**Visiting Scholar Zarizana Abdul Aziz.** As co-director of the Due Diligence Project, spent much of the 2011-2012 year furthering the goals and objectives of the project (see page 10). Beyond her work with the Due Diligence Project, Ms. Aziz continued her work on gender and law reform, and gender and Islam. On October 14-16, 2011, Ms. Aziz attended a conference on “Muslim Leaders on the Frontlines of Change” in Istanbul, and on October 20-22, 2011, on “Political Islam: Discourse on Islamism” in Berlin. Ms. Aziz also served as a consultant for the United Nations Development Fund and as a gender and law expert on a Constitutional Dialogue on the post Arab Spring Tunisian Constitution, in particular on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Constitution. During this time, she was also a guest lecturer in human rights-related courses at NUSL.

**Librarian Kyle Courtney** worked in 2011-2012 with a variety of institutes, academic clinics, and NGO’s. First, he continued his collaboration with Columbia Law School’s Human Rights Institute (HRI) by providing an overview on the human rights research framework to the entire clinic, both students and professors. Professor Courtney also worked with HRI on their members’ only online library of sample briefs, pleadings and non-litigation advocacy materials on the domestic implementation of human rights law called the “U.S. Human Rights Online database.” He was also invited by Carrie Bettinger-Lopez from University of Miami School of Law’s Human Rights Clinic to conduct a half-day workshop with her clinical students on human rights research. This unique research workshop focused both on the larger human rights research sources and the specific Miami Law clinic human rights research projects. Professor Courtney also worked with Gabor Rona and Human Rights First, delivering a staff-wide training to the N.Y. and D.C. offices, via their internal teleconference system, on electronic human rights research methods.

**Visiting Scholar Maria Green** continues to focus on human rights and development, with a particular focus on global standards for economic, social and cultural rights as well as on the practical implementation of human rights standards as part of development policy and practice. In June 2011, she and development economist Susan Randolph presented their forthcoming book chapter “Bringing Theory Into Practice: Operational Criteria for Assessing Implementation of the International Right to Development” at the Second Annual Meeting of the Network on Quantitative Methods for Human Rights and Development in New York. In March 2012, Professor Green gave a lecture, “HRIA in Context: Introduction to Rights-Based Approaches to Development” as part of the University of Ottawa’s Videoconference Series on Human Rights Impact Assessments. During the year she also gave a guest lecture on “Measuring Human Rights” at the Harvard Kennedy School; gave a presentation on human rights and development in the Kennedy School’s Study Group on Human Rights and Development in Latin America’s speaker series; took part in the PHRGE Institute on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, where she moderated a discussion of the Right to Education; and, along with Professor Davis and Ms. MacNaughton, worked on human rights with the Greater Boston Legal Services Human Rights Committee (see page 8).

Professor Green was recently selected for the 2012-2013 Fulbright-Lund Chair in Public International Law (a Fulbright Distinguished Chair) at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights at the University of Lund, Sweden.

**Affiliated Faculty**

**Professor Aziza Ahmed** has been involved in supporting a variety of issues related to human rights and health care. On World AIDS Day, Professor Ahmed participated in a panel discussion at the law school, and presented “The Role of Criminal Laws in the HIV Response.” Professor Ahmed also worked with Gillian MacNaughton and Professor Wendy Parmet to plan the 2012 PHRGE Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Institute, which will explore “Human Rights and the Social Determinants of Health.” Additionally, she authored numerous articles and blogs exploring HIV, sex work and women’s health issues. In March 2012, she posted a blog in The Guardian entitled “The Unintended Consequences of Nick Kristof’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Crusade.”

Professor Baker authored multiple analyses of Novartis’s pending lawsuit against the Government of India with respect to its strict standards for patenting medicines and Novartis’s appeal of the denial of a patent for its cancer medicine, Glivec. He also coauthored and authored analyses of U.S. intellectual property proposals in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement negotiations that will have negative impacts on access to medicines. Professor Baker continues on the Board of Health GAP, an AIDS treatment activist NGO, and serves as its policy analyst.

Professor Leo Beletsky recently joined Northeastern University as an interdisciplinary appointment at the School of Law and the Bouvé School of Health Sciences. His domestic and international work addresses prevention of HIV and other infectious diseases, health and human rights, and criminal justice policy. Over the last year, Professor Beletsky has continued to conduct NIH and USAID-sponsored research on the public health implications of the drug-related violence in the Northern Border Region of Mexico, with special focus on drug user and sex worker populations. As part of his ongoing collaboration with the Open Society Foundation, he also continues to develop programs designed to integrate policing and public health activities targeting vulnerable groups in Central Asia.

Professor Richard Daynard leads the Public Health Advocacy Institute, which organized in-country meetings, symposia and roundtables in twenty countries that brought health ministry and other relevant officials together with leading tobacco control, women's rights and children's rights activists for the first time. In 2011, Professor Daynard sponsored and spoke at meetings with human rights activists in South Africa, Bulgaria, Rumania, Lebanon and Morocco to discuss how to protect the health of women and children from the problems caused by tobacco and the tobacco industry.

PHRGE Founder, Professor Hope Lewis Honored by the ABA’s Section on International Law

PHRGE Founder, Professor Hope Lewis was selected by the ABA’s Section on International Law to receive the 2012 Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law. The award is presented to individuals “who have achieved professional excellence in international law, encouraged women to engage in international law careers, enabled women lawyers to attain international law job positions from which they were excluded historically, or advanced opportunities for women in international law.” Professor Lewis has been a scholar, teacher and advocate of international human rights for more than twenty years. The award was presented to Professor Lewis on April 20, 2012 at the ABA’s Section meeting.
**Professor Patricia Illingworth** published two books on human rights during the past year. The first, *Giving Well: The Ethics of Philanthropy*, co-edited by Thomas Pogge and Leif Wenar (Oxford University Press 2011) focuses on the most urgent moral questions arising today in the practice of philanthropy. Her newest book, *Us Before Me: Ethics and Social Capital for Global Well-Being* (Palgrave MacMillan 2012), argues that “social capital” should be an essential ethical concept guiding our actions and framing our local and global responsibilities. Professor Illingworth also presented at a conference held in Berlin to celebrate the year of Cooperatives, a UN initiative, and served as a panel member on the topic of worker’s rights, following a showing of the play *Radium Girls* at Northeastern University.

**Professor Karl E. Klare** served as co-convenor in June 2011 for the third workshop conducted by the International Social and Economic Rights Project (iSERP), a PHRGE project, hosted this year by the University of Pretoria Faculty of Law (see page 9). Professor Klare also continues his pro bono advocacy on behalf of workers’ rights. He testified before the New Hampshire Senate Committee on Commerce in opposition to proposed legislation designed to undermine workers’ collective bargaining rights. The bill passed the legislature but was vetoed by the governor. Professor Klare also testified before the City of Cambridge License Commission in favor of a regulation to bar subcontracting of housekeeping and guestroom services at hotels. The proposal aims to address the rampant problem of outsourcing low-wage service work.

**Professor Hope Lewis** continues her work as a member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law, the Co-Chair of the ASIL International Disability Rights Interest Group and member of the SALT board of governors. This year she co-organized a roundtable titled “Forgotten Sisters: Human Rights, Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Complex Identities” for the 106th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law in March 2012. That month she also authored two blog posts for the ASIL Cables entitled “Forgotten Sisters: Violence Against Women with Disabilities, Human Rights and Complex Identity Status” and “Teaching International Law while Confronting Current Events: Balancing Past and Present.” These posts were cross-posted on IntLawGrrls in April. Professor Lewis also published “Human Rights Implications of Arizona v. United States,” in SCOTUSblog on July 14, 2011, and made regular contributions over the year to IntLawGrrls.

**Professor Parmet Wins Landmark Case on Healthcare Rights for Legal Immigrants in Massachusetts**

Matthews Distinguished Professor Wendy Parmet won a landmark case on healthcare rights for immigrant plaintiffs in *Finch v. Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority* before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Parmet argued on behalf of the plaintiffs that legal immigrants, living in the state for more than five years, should not be banned from obtaining Commonwealth Care, the state program subsidizing health insurance for low-income residents. On January 5, 2012, the court ruled that the exclusion of legal immigrants from the health program was discriminatory on the basis of alienage and national origin and therefore violated the equal protection clause under the Massachusetts Constitution. Parmet commented that “Health care is an extraordinarily important human right” and that she hoped the case reinforced that “when fiscal issues arise, which they always do, states can’t make budget cuts on the backs of vulnerable populations.”

*Photo by: Mark Gabrenya*
Matthews Distinguished Professor Michael Meltsner was interviewed in October about the reissue of *Cruel and Unusual: The Supreme Court and Capital Punishment* by the Stand Down Texas Project, which was organized in 2000 to advocate for a moratorium on executions and state-sponsored review of Texas' application of the death penalty. In March 2012, Company One Theater Company held the first dramatic reading of Professor Meltsner's new play about the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center, “In Our Name: A Play of the Torture Years.” The dramatic reading was followed by a panel discussion between the audience, Professor Meltsner and four distinguished human rights lawyers and activists. The play was performed at New York's Black Box Theater in May 2012.

Matthews Distinguished Professor Wendy E. Parmet filed an amicus brief in January 2012 with the United States Supreme Court on behalf of Health Law Advocates, Health Care for All, and other Massachusetts non-profit and advocacy organizations supporting the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). In March, she spoke on a panel discussion at Northeastern University School of Law examining the constitutional implications of the PPACA. Professor Parmet was also interviewed by the Boston Globe for an article examining Massachusetts as a model for the PPACA and participated in an online panel discussion about the Supreme Court case challenging the PPACA. Professor Parmet is currently serving on a sub-committee of the ABA's AIDS Coordinating Committee looking at human rights issues arising from the use of HIV surveillance information for HIV prevention efforts.

Professor Sonia E. Rolland presented a paper on the protection of consumer interests at the World Trade Organization at the American Society of International Law's second annual Midyear Meeting and inaugural Research Forum in Los Angeles in November 2011. In the fall of 2011, Professor Rolland was awarded a research grant by the Northeastern Center for Emerging Markets (CEM). Her research will focus on the Republic of Vanuatu as a case study of a least-developed country in the process of gaining World Trade Organization membership. For the project, she will spend several weeks at the University of the South Pacific, where she will meet with governmental officials in charge of the country's trade policy and members of civil society. In 2012, Professor Rolland published *Development at the WTO* (Oxford University Press 2012).

Professor Rachel E. Rosenbloom is an individual plaintiff, along with a number of immigrant’s rights organizations (National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, ACLU, Immigrant Defense Project and the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project) in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Justice, alleging improper withholding of materials related to the return of individuals who prevail in federal court appeals after being deported from the United States. Professor Rosenbloom was recently appointed co-chair of the Immigration Committee of the Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice of the American Bar Association. In October 2011, Professor Rosenbloom spoke at a symposium at Washburn University School of Law entitled “Breaching Borders: State Encroachment into the Federal Immigration Domain?”
PHRGE Partner Organizations

Interights

ESCR-Net

PHR

Center for Women’s Global Leadership

World Organization for Human Rights USA

University of Connecticut
Economic and Social Rights Research Group
human rights institute

National Law Center
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

Columbia Law School
Human Rights Institute

International Center for
ETHICS, JUSTICE, and PUBLIC LIFE
Brandeis University

HRLN
Human Rights Law Network

ACLU

Vermont Workers’ Center

Nesri
NATIONAL ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

The Aspen Institute
Staff
Gillian MacNaughton, Executive Director
Mariah McGill ’09, Ford Foundation Fellow
Angela Duger ’11, Ford Foundation Fellow
Gil Rochbert ’11, Post JD Fellow
Jenny Bagnyuk, Program Coordinator
Nizhum Shaikh, Program Coordinator
Alexandra Bonazoli ’13, Research Associate
Stephanie Gharakhanian ’13, Research Associate
Sarah Gogel ’12, Research Associate
Sharlyn Grace ’13, Research Associate
Jazmin Kirby ’13, Research Associate
Shatilla Shera De Leon ’12, Research Associate
Elizabeth Mitro ’13, Research Associate
Sophie Dalsimer ’13, ESCR Institute Volunteer
Deena Sharuk ’12, ESCR Institute Volunteer
Paige Walker ’13, ESCR Institute Volunteer
Rick Doyon, Faculty Secretary

Affiliated Scholars
Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Visiting Scholar
Kyle Courtney, Adjunct Faculty
Maria Green, Visiting Scholar

Due Diligence Project
Janine Moussa, Senior Fellow
Lucy Britt, Due Diligence Project Intern
Alea Boul ’13, Research Associate
Melinda Bonacore ’13, Research Associate
Sophie Dalsimer ’13, Research Associate
Patrice Dixon ’12, Research Associate
Lauren Garrity ’13, Research Associate
Sonia Haerizadeh ’12, Research Associate
Jennifer Kline ’13, Research Associate
Nency Salamoun ’12, Research Associate
Christine Wahr ’12, Research Associate

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Professor Aziza Ahmed
Professor Brook K. Baker
Professor Leo Beletsky
Associate Dean Luke Bierman
Professor Lee P. Breckenridge
Professor Richard A. Daynard
Professor Rashmi Dyal-Chand
Professor Peter D. Enrich
Professor Patricia Illingworth
Professor Karl E. Klare
Clinical Professor Lois Hilfiker Kanter
Professor Sarah Hooke Lee
Professor Hope Lewis
Senior Academic Specialist
Susan Maze-Rothstein
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