Framing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Advocacy and Mobilization: Towards a Strategic Agenda in the United States

NOVEMBER 3–4, 2011
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

SPONSORED BY
The Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy
Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute
The National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
Human Rights USA

IN COLLABORATION WITH
The ESCR Working Group of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network

Northeastern University
School of Law
Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy
Framing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Advocacy and Mobilization: Towards a Strategic Agenda in the United States is the latest in a six-year series of institutes on cutting-edge social justice issues sponsored by the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) at Northeastern University School of Law.

This year’s Institute is a collaborative effort among PHRGE, the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute, the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, Human Rights USA and the ESC Rights Working Group of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network. The Institute will bring together legal activists in the Working Group and academics engaged in sophisticated social movement analysis to think through strategies for moving an economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights agenda forward in the United States. The Institute is made possible through the vision and generosity of the Ford Foundation.

Over the past several decades, the United States government has been ambivalent, and sometimes openly hostile, to ESC rights. This past year, however, the Obama administration acknowledged that it has obligations for ESC rights, both in its reports to the UN Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review, as well as in a speech by Michael Posner, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, before the American Society of International Law in March 2011. As a result of this new development, it is timely for human rights scholars and advocates to re-examine strategies for advancing ESC rights in the United States.

In particular, the Institute will focus on the role that lawyers can play in strategic and effective framing of ESC rights. Considering such diverse topics as housing, health and decent work, Institute participants will begin to develop effective frames for the multiple forums in which ESC rights are shaped and contested, such as media, grassroots organizing, legislative advocacy and litigation.

We look forward to this gathering as another step in building a sustainable human rights culture at home and transnationally. Thank you for your participation in this important work!

– The Institute Organizing Committee

Cathy Albisa, Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
Martha Davis, Professor of Law and Faculty Co-Director of PHRGE, Northeastern University School of Law
Theresa Harris, Executive Director, Human Rights USA
Risa Kaufman, Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School
Gillian MacNaughton, Executive Director, PHRGE, Northeastern University School of Law
11:00 - 12:00 a.m.
Registration and Reception
Foyer and Second Floor Commons, Dockser Hall
(box lunch available for registered attendees)

12:00 - 12:15 p.m.
Framing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Advocacy and Mobilization: Towards a Strategic Agenda in the United States
240 Dockser Hall

WELCOME
Emily Spieler
Dean, Northeastern University School of Law

INTRODUCTION
Martha Davis
Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law

Risa Kaufman
Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School

Ian Coghill
Editor-in-Chief, Northeastern University Law Journal

12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
MODERATOR
Emily Spieler
Dean, Northeastern University School of Law

KEYNOTE
Marshall Ganz
Senior Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

DISCUSSANT
Cathy Albisa
Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.
BREAK

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
PANEL 1
Strategies for Building an ESCR Social Movement in the United States

MODERATOR
Risa Kaufman
Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School

PANELISTS
Doyle Canning
Co-Director, smartMeme

Richard Healey
Executive Director, Grassroots Policy Project

Robert Raben
President and Founder, Raben Group

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.
BREAK

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
PANEL 2
Frameworks for Advancing ESCR in the US

MODERATOR
Larry Cox
Former Executive Director, Amnesty International USA

PANELISTS
Maisie Chin
Co-Founder and Director, CADRE

James Haslam
Director and Lead Organizer, Vermont Workers’ Center

Bill Kennedy
Managing Attorney, Legal Services of Northern California

Steve Hitov
General Counsel, Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Tara Melish
Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Buffalo Human Rights Center, University at Buffalo Law School

BY INVITATION ONLY
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Dinner for ESCR Working Group Members

SPEAKER
Kenneth Bailey
Founder, Design Studio for Social Intervention
Friday, November 4, 2011  WORKSHOPS – BY INVITATION ONLY

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
First Floor Commons, Dockser Hall

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Framing Workshop
Moot Court Room, Dockser Hall
William Gamson
Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Media Research Action Project, Boston College
Charlotte Ryan
Professor of Sociology, UMass Lowell, and Co-Director of the Media Research Action Project, Boston College

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

(1) Right to Housing
42 Dockser Hall
FACILITATORS AND RAPPORTEURS
Maria Foscarinis
Founder and Executive Director, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
Gil Rochbert
Post-JD Fellow, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, Northeastern University School of Law

(2) Right to Health
44 Dockser Hall
FACILITATORS AND RAPPORTEURS
Maria Green
Visiting Scholar, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, Northeastern University School of Law
Katrina Anderson
Human Rights Counsel, US Legal Program, Center for Reproductive Rights

(3) Right to Adequate Standard of Living/ Social Security
46 Dockser Hall
FACILITATORS AND RAPPORTEURS
Wendy Pollack
Director, Women’s Law and Policy Project, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Lucy Williams
Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law

(4) Civil Gideon
Moot Courtroom, Dockser Hall
FACILITATORS AND RAPPORTEURS
Martha Davis
Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law
Theresa Harris
Executive Director, Human Rights USA

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Lunch
(box lunch available for registered attendees)

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

(1) Right to Decent Work
42 Dockser Hall
FACILITATORS AND RAPPORTEURS
Sarah Paoletti
Practice Associate Professor of Law and Director, Transnational Legal Clinic, University of Pennsylvania Law School
Catherine Norris
Staff Attorney, Harlem Community Law Office

(2) Right to Education
44 Dockser Hall
FACILITATORS AND RAPPORTEURS
Liz Sullivan
Human Right to Education Program Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
Gillian MacNaughton
Executive Director, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, Northeastern University School of Law

(3) Race Discrimination & ESC Rights
46 Dockser Hall
FACILITATORS AND RAPPORTEURS
Bill Kennedy
Managing Attorney, Northern California Legal Services
Ejim Dike
Director of Human Rights Project, Urban Justice Center

2:00 - 2:30 p.m.
BREAK

(continued on next page)
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Plenary Session
Moot Courtroom, Dockser Hall

MODERATORS

Cathy Albisa
Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Martha Davis
Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law

ADDITIONAL EXPERT PARTICIPANTS

Lauren Bartlett
Project Director, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law

Timothy Casey
Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Momentum

Brian Flynn
Senior Staff Attorney, Greater Boston Legal Services

Alicia Frisby
Staff Attorney, Maryland Legal Aid

Heather Gomes
Staff Attorney, Maryland Legal Aid

Cheryl Hystad
Director of Advocacy, Maryland Legal Aid

Lenora Lapidus
Director, American Civil Liberties Union Women’s Rights Project

Jeanne Mirer
Co-Chair, International Committee, National Lawyers Guild

Ann Piccard
Professor of Law, Stetson University College of Law

Margaret Serrano
Case Note and Comment Editor, Pace Law Review, Pace University School of Law

Eleanor Smiley
Volunteer, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Dorothy Thomas
Human Rights Consultant

Phil Wider
Communications Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Seri Wilpone
Chief Attorney, Maryland Legal Aid

Nahal Zamani
Education and Outreach Associate, Center for Constitutional Rights
Acknowledgments

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The Institute organizing committee also thanks the many individuals and organizations that made this gathering possible, including, but not limited to:

**INSTITUTE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**
- Cathy Albisa, Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
- Martha Davis, Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law
- Theresa Harris, Executive Director, Human Rights USA
- Risa Kaufman, Executive Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School
- Gillian MacNaughton, Executive Director, PHRGE, Northeastern University School of Law

**INSTITUTE PLANNING GROUP**
- Spectra Asala, Events Planner
- Jenny Bagnyuk, PHRGE Program Coordinator
- Angela Duger, PHRGE Ford Foundation Fellow
- Stephen Evans, Administrative Assistant to the Deans
- Deborah Feldman, Director, Office of Communications
- Janis Galligan, Director, Administrative Operations and Personnel
- Greta Moseson, Program Coordinator, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute
- Cyndie Nivens, Officer, Administrative Operations and Personnel
- Gil Rochbert, PHRGE Post-JD Fellow

**FACULTY CO-DIRECTORS, PROGRAM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**
- Dan Danielsen, Professor of Law
- Martha Davis, Professor of Law
- Lucy Williams, Professor of Law
- Margaret Woo, Professor of Law

**INSTITUTE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**
- Katherine Beck ’12
- Sarah Gogel ’13
- Jazmin Kirby ’13
- Robert Ley ’13
- Elizabeth Mitro ’13

**AFFILIATED NORTHEASTERN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**
- ACLU – Northeastern Chapter
- American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
- Human Rights Caucus
- International Law Society
- National Lawyers Guild – Northeastern Chapter
- Northeastern University Law Journal

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION**
- President Joseph Aoun and the Office of the President
- Emily Spieler, Dean, Northeastern University School of Law
- Bettye Freeman ’91, Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
- Bill Greene, Director, Office of Academic and Student Affairs
- Richard Doyon, Faculty Administrative Assistant
- Mielle Marquis, Senior Associate Director, Office of Development and Alumni/ae Relations
- David McNeil, Director, Office of Computer Services
- Michael Calabrese and Bradley Whitmarsh, Office of Computer Services
- Jan McNew, Faculty Administrative Assistant
- Susan Verity, Faculty Administrative Assistant

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