This masterclass will focus on Brownell’s recent victory against Golden Veroleum, an oil palm developer, in which the Appeal Panel of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil denied the company’s appeal against complaints that Brownell and his colleagues filed in 2012 on behalf of communities and indigenous peoples in Liberia. Even though palm oil is one of the world’s most ubiquitous ingredients, it is also the source of massive deforestation, species extinctions and social conflicts.

Brownell will discuss how he, along with thousands of indigenous community clients and other civil society actors, utilized a non-judicial complaint mechanism, challenged palm oil companies and stopped the destruction of West Africa’s last remaining tropical forest, a home to indigenous people and a biodiversity hotspot that Brownell refers to as the “lungs of West and North Africa.”

A light reception sponsored by PHRGE will be held following the discussion.