

Gwynne Skinner
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Law Teaching Experience

Willamette University College of Law, Assistant Professor of Clinical Law, June 1, 2008 to present. Direct the International Human and Refugee Rights Clinic (including teaching affiliated seminar), and teach the courses Refugee Law and Human Rights. The Clinic undertakes representation in federal and international litigation and asylum cases, and engages in human rights fact-finding and other human rights advocacy projects. Designed and developed the IHRR Clinic. Among regularly engaging in asylum and deportation cases for those seeking refugee status, notable work includes representing a former Guantanamo Bay detainee in a unique civil case against current and former U.S. officials for violation of human rights under the Alien Tort Statute; representing several clients before the European Court of Human Rights; working on securing a treaty regarding the right to food; and preparing a human rights report on human trafficking.

Seattle University School of Law, Visiting Clinical Professor, August 1, 2006 to May 2008 (06-07 and 07-08 academic years); **Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence**, January 2005 to June 2006. Taught and further developed the International Human Rights Clinic, including the seminar portion of the course. Developed and taught Corporate Responsibility and International and Comparative Law on the Rights of Women. In the Clinic, initiated and supervised litigation, both federal and before international tribunals; undertook asylum cases; prepared fact-finding reports; and engaged in other advocacy projects. Notable cases include *Corrie et al v. Caterpillar*, appearing both before the U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Education

Master of International Human Rights Law (LL.M. equivalent), University of Oxford, December 2007, with Distinction*

J.D., University of Iowa College of Law, 1991 with High Distinction (top 10%)
Iowa Law Scholar, full three-year scholarship (based on top 2% LSAT score)
Founding Chair, *Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems*

M.A., University of Iowa, American Studies Department (joint degree with law), 1993

B.A., Political Science, University of Northern Iowa, 1986 with Highest Honors (*summa cum laude*)

* Distinction is the highest award given at Oxford University.

Scholarly Publications

“The Non-Justiciability of Palestine: Human Rights and the (Mis)Application of the Political Question Doctrine,” *forthcoming*

“When Customary International Law Violations Arise Under the Laws of the United States,” 36 *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, 205 (Fall 2010)

“Customary International Law, Federal Common Law, and Federal Court Jurisdiction,” 44 *Valparaiso Law Review* 825 (Spring 2010) (symposium publication)

“Reporting on Conditions of Immigrant Detention: A Clinical Model,” 7:2 *Seattle Journal for Social Justice* 649 (Summer 2009)

“Federal Question Jurisdiction for U.S. Citizens’ Claims for Human Rights Violations,” 37 *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*, Vol. 1, 53 (2008)

“Bringing International Law to Bear on the Detention of Refugees and Conditions of Immigrant Detention in the United States,” *Willamette Journal of International Law and Dispute Resolution*, Vol. 16, 2 (2008) (published 2010 for presentation in March 2009) (symposium publication)

“Nuremberg’s Legacy Continues: The Nuremberg Trials’ Influence on Human Rights Litigation in U.S. Courts under the Alien Tort Statute,” *Albany Law Review*, Volume 71 (December 2007)

“The Nuremberg Precedents and Their Impact on Civil Claims of War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in U.S. Courts under the Alien Tort Statute,” book chapter in *The Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and Their Policy Consequences Today*, (ed. Beth Griech-Poelle, Nomos, C. H. Beck, 2008)

“War Crimes and Civil Litigation in U.S. Courts: The Caterpillar Case,” The Jerusalem Fund for Education and Development, Special Publication No. 9, (August 2006)

"Intimate Association and the First Amendment," 3 *Law and Sexuality* 1 (1993)

Works-In-Progress

“When Human Rights Violations are Political Questions”

“Against the Founders’ Wishes: Increasing Barriers to Remedies for Aliens Suffering Torts at the Hands of U.S. Officials”

Other Publications/Media

“Changes Can Help Save Minors from Sex Trade,” *Oregonian*, August 21, 2010

Guest on Oregon Public Broadcasting’s Think Out Loud, regarding Human Trafficking, August 4, 2010

“Same-Sex Marriage and the State of the Law,” with Patricia Novotny, *Washington Bar News* 14 (Sept. 1998)

“Crime in the Family Tree,” *Washington Law and Politics Magazine*, 1998

Notable Appellate Briefs

Ninth Circuit Appellate Brief, *Corrie v. Caterpillar*, co-author (2006)

Ninth Circuit Amicus Brief, *Witt v. United States Department of the Air Force, et al* co-author (2006) (regarding the constitutionality of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, and other nations’ practices)

Ninth Circuit Amicus Brief, *Elvig v. Presbyterian Church*, co-author (2004) (regarding when churches are covered by Title VII)

Reported Decisions

Hamad v. Gates, et al, 2010 WL 4511142 (W.D.Wash., November 02, 2010)

Corrie, et al v. Caterpillar, 503 F.3d 974 (9th Cir. 2007)

Washington Citizens Action of Washington v. State, 162 Wash. 2d 142 (2007)

Corrie, et al v. Caterpillar, 403 F.Supp.2d 1019 (W.D.Wash. 2005)

In Re Infospace, Inc., 330 F.Supp.2d 1203 (W.D.Wash. 2004)

U.S. v. Acosta, 28 F.3d 1211 (4th Cir. 1994)

U.S. v. Briggs, 969 F.2d 689 (8th Cir. 1992)

Presentations/Panels

- “Human Rights Fact-Finding and Reporting in the Domestic Context: Holding Government’s Accountable for Domestic Human Rights Violations,” 6th Global Alliance for Justice Education Worldwide Conference, Valencia, Spain, July, 2011

- “A Treaty to Secure the Right to Food,” 6th Global Alliance for Justice Education Worldwide Conference, Valencia, Spain, July, 2011

- “Human Rights Litigation, *Hamad v. Gates et al*,” Poster Presentation, AALS Conference on Clinical Education, June 2011

- “Political Questions? Litigating Human Rights Issues in Palestine,” Litigating Palestine Conference, Hastings College of Law, March 25, 2011

- Asylum Claims, Panel Moderator, upcoming conference on Immigration, American Immigration Law Association (AILA), Oregon Chapter, March 11, 2011
- “Is There an International Human Right to Water?” Panel Moderator, Willamette University, upcoming conference on Right to Water, February 2011
- “Human Rights Litigation, *Hamad v. Gates et al.*,” Poster Presentation, AALS Annual Meeting, January 4-8, 2011
- “Federal Courts' Jurisdiction Over Claims for Violations of Customary International Law,” Conference on the Application of International Law in the Domestic Context, Valparaiso University School of Law, Valparaiso, Indiana, April 3, 2009
- “Bringing International Law to Bear on the Detention of Refugees,” American Branch of the International Law Association, West Conference, Salem, Oregon, March 6-7, 2009 (also served as a panel moderator for panel on litigation under the Alien Tort Statute)
- “Incorporating International Law into Domestic Advocacy,” Global Alliance for Justice Education, Manila, Philippines, December 2008
- “Investigating Conditions of Immigrant Detention,” Poster Presentation, AALS Clinical Law Annual Meeting, May 2008
- “The Emerging Legal Landscape of Sustainability: The Role of Corporate Compliance,” Supporting Sustainable Business Practices Through Law Conference, February 2008, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington Practices Through Law
- “What are the Applicable Legal Frameworks: International Law, U.S. Constitutional Law, Others?” panel moderator, for What is to be Done with Terrorists Conference, February, 2008, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington
- “The Nuremberg Precedents and Their Impact on Civil Claims of War Crimes Against Individuals and Corporations in U.S. Courts,” The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial and Its Policy Consequences Today, The University of Toledo College of Law, October 2006
- “War Crimes and Litigation: The Caterpillar Case,” 2005 Palestine Center Annual Conference, *Palestine and the Middle East in a Global Context*, Washington D.C., November 2005
- “The Case of *Corrie v. Caterpillar*,” Seattle University School of Law, September 27, 2005
- “Human Rights Litigation,” Washington D.C. Human Rights Seminar, University of Washington, Bothell, September 2005

- “*Corrie et al v. Caterpillar – A Civil Suit Concerning Aiding and Abetting International Human Rights Violations*,” Washington State Bar Association (CLE presentation), June 2005
- “International Fora for Practicing Human Rights: What are the Options?” ABA Section of International Law Spring Meeting (CLE Co-Chair), April 2005
- “Human Rights and Violence Against Women in Conflict and War,” Third Western Annual Regional International Health Conference, Puget Sound Partners for Global Health, February 19, 2005

Prior to entering teaching in 2005, I gave numerous presentations on issues in employment law, and engaged in a significant amount of employment law training to managers and supervisors

Other Relevant Experience

- Volunteered with Bridges Across Borders SE Asia (BABSEA) Clinical Legal Education project in Vietnam, assisting in the initial stages of establishing clinical education in Vietnam, summer 2010
- Legal observer in the trial of *Corrie v. Israel Defense Forces*, Israel, March 2010
- Conducted fact-finding report on conditions of immigrant detention at immigration facility, 2006-2007
- Conducted fact-finding involving gender violence in Swaziland with Georgetown International Women’s Human Rights Clinic, Spring 2006
- Conducted fact-finding involving genocide and other grave human rights abuses in Asia, 2003
- Worked with PeaceTrees Vietnam in working to rid Vietnam of unexploded ordnance, to aid children who have been injured through unexploded ordnance, and to begin reforestation, 2000
- Conducted domestic violence and gender discrimination training to lawyers and community activists in Russia and Siberia, 1998
- Represented numerous refugees seeking asylum

Legal Work Experience

Founding Partner, Public Interest Law Group, PLLC, Seattle, Washington, June 2003 to April 2007. Founded Seattle’s Public Interest Law Group, and served as managing partner until leaving in April 2007. Practiced public interest litigation in the areas of international law and civil rights. Collaborated and worked closely with law clinics, legal services organizations and nonprofit organizations in developing and litigating impact cases, including appellate work. While managing partner, managed all aspects of a legal office. Regularly engaged in pro bono work, especially international human rights and asylum claims. Significant litigation included successfully challenging tax initiative by Tim Eyman, including appearing before the Washington State Supreme Court; representing numerous Somali plaintiffs in large religious discrimination case

against Oberto Sausage, resulting in settlement; representation of plaintiffs in litigation matter involving conditions of immigrant detention, resulting in settlement and agreement to improve conditions in immigration facility; filing a class action and representing the class in a large wage case that settled before trial; and a trial jury verdict on behalf of a young male associate at Perkins Coie LLP against female secretary for sexual harassment.

Attorney, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Seattle, Washington, January 2000 to June 2003. Attorney in the Trial Group. Practiced extensive civil litigation, including complex litigation, in areas including employment law, securities fraud, and intellectual property. Lead counsel in all employment litigation matters, and second chair in other litigation matters. Significant matters included defending class action against Moss Adams and defending large litigation matters against Expedia and Infospace, all in federal court. Established a significant pro bono practice, including cases of asylum and wage claims for immigrants.

Attorney, Littler Mendelson, Seattle, Washington, 1998-January 2000. Engaged in significant client counseling, training, and litigation in the area of employment law. Left with other members to join Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

Attorney, Frank & Rosen, Seattle, Washington, 1995-1998. Engaged in plaintiff-side employment and civil rights litigation with small boutique firm.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, King County Prosecutor's Office, Seattle, Washington, 1994-1995 (1 ½ years). Prosecuted serious juvenile sex crimes and felonies in juvenile court. Served as Gang Liaison with Seattle Police Department.

Attorney, U.S. Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Seattle, Washington, 1992-1994. Investigated and assisted in the prosecution of fraud under the Employee Retirement Securities Act (ERISA).

Trial Attorney, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C. , Criminal Division, Honors Program, 1991-1992. Served in the Appellate Division. Wrote briefs in opposition to certiorari to the United States Supreme Court under Robert Mueller. Also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Minnesota, prosecuting crimes such as Mann Act violations, ERISA violations, social security fraud, and postal theft. Argued before the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals; appeared before the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Honors and Awards

- *Seattle Human Rights Advocate of the Year*, 2008 (awarded by Seattle University School of Law)
- *Law in Justice Award*, awarded by Hate Free Zone (now OneAmerica) for representation of Somali workers who suffered religious discrimination, April 2005
- Named one of Seattle's top civil rights lawyers by *Seattle Magazine*, January 2005

- Named a Superlawyer by *Washington Law and Politics*, 2006 and 2007

Service and Community Involvement

- Planning Co-Chair and Program Chair, Northwest Clinical Law Conference 2011 (upcoming)
- Working Group Leader, American Association of Law Schools Clinical Law Conference, International Human Rights Section, May 2010
- Program Chair, Northwest Clinical Law Conference, 2009
- Abernethy Foundation Committee Member

Membership:

American Branch of the International Law Association (ABIL)

American Society of International Law (ASIL)

The Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE)

Center for Constitutional Rights, Cooperating Attorney

Center for Justice and Accountability, Cooperating Attorney

Licensed to practice in Oregon, Washington (inactive) and Iowa (inactive), and before the United States District Courts, Western and Eastern Districts of Washington and District of Minnesota, and before the Fourth, Eighth, and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeal