
Matiangai V. S. Sirleaf

University of Maryland School of Law
(410) 706-4097

500 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201
msirleaf@law.umaryland.edu

CURRENT POSITION

**University of Maryland School of Law, (Baltimore, MD), Nathan Patz Professor of Law, July 2020
– present**

Teaching courses on criminal law, global public health law, post-conflict and transitional justice and international human rights law

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

International Interests

Public International Law, International Human Rights Law, Global Public Health Law, Post-Conflict & Transitional Justice, International Criminal Law as well as Law & Development

Domestic Interests

Criminal Law and Race, Social Justice & the Law

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT J.D., June 2008

Honors: Jerome Sayles Hess Fund Prize 2007-2008 (awarded for excellence in international law);
Reinhardt Fellow 2007-2008 (scholarship for commitment to public interest law);
Raphael Lemkin Prize 2006-2007 (best paper on international human rights law)

Research & Teaching: Research Assistant to Professor W. Michael Reisman, 2007-2008;
International Relations Teaching Assistant to Professor Jolyon Howorth, Spring 2008; Civil
Procedure Teaching Assistant to Professor Owen Fiss, Fall 2007

Activities: *Yale Journal of International Law*, Managing Editor 2007-2008; Submissions Editor 2006;
Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal, Symposium Editor 2007-2008;
Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, 2006-2008; Student Director 2007-
2008; Black Law Students Association, President, 2006-2007

University of Ghana, Legon Center for International Affairs, Accra, Ghana M.A. *summa cum laude*,
International Affairs, December 2005

Honors: Fulbright Fellow, Ghana 2004-2005

New York University, College of Arts and Science, New York, NY B.A. *magna cum laude*, Political
Science with Honors, May 2003

Honors: Harry S. Truman Scholar 2002 (national award for future leaders in public service)
Coro Fellow, New York, NY 2003-2004 (Coro Fellows learn through
interactions with private, public, and nonprofit decision-makers and work as
a group to develop critical thinking, analytical, governance and leadership
skills)

New York University Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award 2014
(presented annually to an NYU alum, faculty, or staff member who embodies
and exemplifies the characteristics promoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Constitutional Court of South Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa) Law Clerk to Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo, August 2009 – July 2010

Conducted research on constitutional, foreign, and international law. Wrote pre-hearing and new application memoranda. Conducted comparative research on the judicial enforcement of socio-economic rights and judicial governance. Assisted with the restructuring of the Office of the Chief Justice. Drafted speeches. Reviewed judgments. Participated in hearings.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh School of Law (Pittsburgh, PA) Assistant and Associate Professor of Law, July 2015 – June 2020

Taught courses on criminal law, public international law and post-conflict and transitional justice

University of Maryland School of Law, (Baltimore, MD), Visiting Associate Professor of Law, July 2019 – December 2019

Taught courses on international human rights law and post-conflict and transitional justice

University of Baltimore Law School (Baltimore, MD) Assistant Professor of Law, August 2014 to July 2015

Taught courses on criminal law (Fall 2014) and international human rights law (Spring 2015)

University of Pennsylvania Law School (Philadelphia, PA) Sharswood Fellow (visiting assistant professor), August 2012 to July 2014

Taught courses on international human rights law (Spring 2014) and transitional justice (Spring and Fall 2013)

Bard College & University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa) Lecturer, July 2010 – November 2010

Taught seminar on civic engagement with human rights for the International Human Rights Exchange, an undergraduate program

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Editor, RACE & NATIONAL SECURITY (forthcoming with OUP in 2023)

We Charge Vaccine Apartheid?, J. L. MED. & ETHICS (forthcoming 2022).

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

Covid-19 and Cooperation in Times of Disaster, in **THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF DISASTER LAW AND POLICY 221** (Susan S. Kuo, John Travis Marshall & Ryan Rowberry eds., 2022) The coronavirus pandemic has made it apparent that nation states have different capacities to detect, effectively respond to, and manage highly infectious diseases. Concomitantly, the resources necessary to support robust health systems are distributed inequitably, which inevitably places greater stress on societies with the most vulnerable health infrastructure. Every nation, even those predicted to have comparatively robust health capacities, found their health systems overwhelmed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This chapter analyzes the international obligations of capacity-building and cooperation.

It finds that international disaster law is a helpful framework for responding to complex international emergencies which span different legal regimes. It concludes that the potential utility of international disaster law for addressing issues witnessed with the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond is worth greater investigation.

Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4271806>.

***Disposable Lives: COVID-19, Vaccines & the Uprising*, 121 Colum. L. Rev. Forum 71 (2021)** This essay connects how racialized notions regarding which lives are disposable are reflected widely in the areas of health and human rights. The presumed expendability of Black lives is made manifest from systemic police violence to the devastating racially disproportionate impact of COVID-19, to historic and ongoing medical experimentation, and to inequitable vaccine access. The twin pandemics of systemic racism and COVID-19 have heightened the visibility of the disposability with which society views the lives of people of color. The cumulative effect of this disposability furthers the devaluation of subordinated groups. Through exploring the theme of disposability, this essay clarifies the roles of international human rights law, global public health, and international intellectual property law in either advancing racial justice efforts or contributing toward racial subordination. This period of racial reckoning and reform creates an opening to challenge the racial status quo in these areas and beyond. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3858686>.

***Racial Valuation of Diseases*, 67 UCLA L. REV. 1820 (2021)** Scholars have paid inadequate attention to how racial valuation influences what actors prioritize or deem worthwhile. Today, racial valuation of diseases informs the stark global health inequities seen worldwide. As a concept, racial valuation refers to how racialized societies assign differing values to an individual or group based on their racial designation and the position within the social hierarchy that their racial categorization implies. It helps to explain how laws, institutions, and society—informed by ideas about race—distribute material conditions in health, which perpetuate and reinforce existing hierarchies. This Article develops a theoretical framework for racial valuation and examines how the historical and scientific construction of race influenced the emergence of racial valuation norms. The framework of racial valuation postulates that explicit and implicit pseudoscientific distinctions that devalue the worth of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color have persisted, diffused, and morphed over time. Racial valuation is woefully undertheorized, and its applicability has been underexplored in the literature. This Article fills this gap by developing a theoretical framework for racial valuation and applying it to the racialization of the novel coronavirus. This framework captures how racial valuation reflects racialized beliefs from slavery, colonialism, and neocolonialism, which persist today and have influenced the racial valuation of diseases. Significant legal and institutional reform is necessary to shift how people, society, and laws respond to diseases depending upon the racial populations most impacted. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3840461>.

***Entry Denied: COVID-19, Race, Migration & Global Health*, in 2 FRONTIERS IN HUMAN DYNAMICS 599157 (Iris Goldner Lang and Jaya Ramji-Nogales eds., 2020)** This essay uses the novel coronavirus pandemic as an entry point to explore the intersections between race, migration, and global health. The pandemic is simultaneously reviving stereotypical colonial imaginations about disease directionality, but also challenging racialized hierarchies of diseases. This essay illuminates how the racialization of diseases is reflected in historic and ongoing United States' migration law and policy as well as the global health law regime. By demonstrating the close relationship between often separately treated areas, the essay clarifies underlying currents in global health and migration law and policy that stem from fears of the racialized other. Rendering these intersections visible creates avenues for rethinking and reshaping both theory and praxis toward anti-subordination efforts. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3753873>.

Lawrence O. Gostin, Matiangai V. S. Sirleaf and Eric Friedman, *Global Health Law: Legal Foundations for Social Justice in Public Health*, in FOUNDATION OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND

HUMAN RIGHTS (Lawrence O. Gostin and Benjamin Mason Meier eds., 2020) this chapter provides an understanding of the legal foundations of human rights, examining human rights under international law as a basis for social justice in public health. International human rights law has codified the rights first enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evolving through the politics of the Cold War to develop the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This seminal covenant and the international treaties that derived from it have framed the legal foundations of the human right to health and the evolution of health-related human rights. Yet, where challenges remain in responding to the health needs of a globalizing world, scholars and advocates have looked to a shift from international health law to global health law, facilitating collaboration between state and non-state actors in an expanding global health policy landscape. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3712551>.

***Responsibility for Epidemics*, 97 TEX. L. REV. 285 (2018)** worldwide highly infectious diseases reflect global inequities: they make up five of the top ten leading causes of death in low-income countries, while constituting only one of the top ten causes of death in high-income countries. Yet, highly infectious diseases typically do not respect borders, posing transnational challenges that require cooperation and action through law. The conventional legal paradigms are insufficient for the challenges posed by epidemics. Both the traditional framework for responsibility, as well as the emerging norm of the responsibility to protect perpetuate the fallacy that states can, on their own, cope with the increased incidence of epidemics and fail to adequately allocate responsibility. This Article argues for a new vision of responsibility. It recommends a common but differentiated framework of responsibility to: (1) recognize special situations of need in one or more countries with epidemic diseases; (2) assign greater responsibility to those who have contributed more to an epidemic; and (3) assign greater responsibility to those who have more resources or capacity to deal with an epidemic. It develops the theory underlying the norm of common but differentiated responsibility and makes the case for expansion of this framework to the challenges posed by highly infectious diseases. The framework developed in this Article is important because it better distributes responsibility and is less state-centric than the traditional principles of responsibility and the emerging norm of the responsibility to protect. Significantly, it accounts for structural inequality in ways that other frameworks do not. Further, it does not reify the false hierarchy between civil and political rights and economic and social rights that exists in other areas of the law. Notably, it recognizes and accounts for the significant role of non-state actors and provides a basis for holding such actors responsible, as opposed to pretending that only states are responsible for the increased incidence of epidemics. There is reason for cautious optimism about the prospects of success of this framework. First, it is consistent with theoretical and existing foundations of law where responsibility is tethered to an actor's conduct and relationship to the harm through culpability. However, the framework does not treat the culpability model as a legal straight-jacket and envisions a broad understanding of causation—direct, indirect, and historical. Additionally, the framework differentiates based on capacity, which is derived from human rights law and global public health law. It also has the benefit of being able to draw on extra-legal incentives, building on moral and political conceptualizations of responsibility towards those in need. The common but differentiated responsibility framework is likely to gain purchase and assist quickly with the battle against epidemics. In fact, elements of it are already reflected in state practice. In sum, the theoretical framework developed in the Article serves not only to provide useful guidance to state and international actors in the face of epidemics, but to shift extant conceptualizations of responsibility in novel ways. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3299483>.

***Not Your Dumping Ground: Criminalization of Trafficking in Hazardous Waste in Africa*, 35 WISC. J. INT'L L. 326 (2018)** (symposium issue) and ***Prosecuting Dirty Dumping in Africa, in THE AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN CONTEXT*, 553 (Charles C. Jalloh and Kamari Clarke eds., 2019)** examines how the African Union's adoption of the Malabo Protocol seeks to improve upon the limitations of the international legal framework

for regulating hazardous waste. The Malabo Protocol criminalizes trafficking in hazardous waste and envisions a regional forum for such prosecutions, which presents an opportunity for African states to alter the status quo in environmental protection. This Article examines how the troubling history of toxic colonialism in Africa helped to inform the attempt to criminalize the trafficking of hazardous waste and create a forum under the Malabo Protocol for combatting dirty dumping. It explores how the inadequate international legal framework for regulating hazardous waste, led to the attempt to create a more robust regional regime under the Bamako Convention, with the Malabo Protocol serving as the vehicle for regional enforcement. This Article evaluates whether the Protocol furthers the punitive objectives of the Bamako regime to punish and deter trafficking in hazardous waste. It does this by analyzing whether the regional prosecution of dirty dumping is consistent with the newer theories of punishment, as well as some of the more traditional goals of punishment. This Article also analyzes the implications of the regional prosecution of dirty dumping under the Malabo Protocol. It assesses the potential challenges that might arise in the attempt to regionally prosecute trafficking in hazardous waste and suggests ways these issues can be resolved through creative interpretation of the Malabo Protocol. Lastly, this Article concludes that the Malabo Protocol's provision for a regional forum for the prosecutions of traffickers of hazardous waste presents another venue for African states whose domestic judiciaries and related institutions may have limited resources. If implemented properly, the Protocol could facilitate closing the global impunity gap for dirty dumping in Africa. Available at SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3161739 or <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/african-court-of-justice-and-human-and-peoples-rights-in-context/prosecuting-dirty-dumping-in-africa/D1A8883D5EEECCD620F35161F0428753/core-readercontext/prosecuting-dirty-dumping-in-africa/D1A8883D5EEECCD620F35161F0428753/core-reader>.

Ebola Does Not Fall from the Sky: Global Structural Violence and International Responsibility, 51 **VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L.** 477 (2018), challenges the conventional understanding that international crises are limited to instances of direct physical violence. Instead, it argues that the disproportionate distribution of infectious diseases like Ebola is a form of structural violence that warrants international intervention. In the field of global public health, structural violence is a concept used to describe health inequities and to draw attention to the differential risks for infection in the Global South, and among those already infected, for adverse consequences including death, injury, and illness. This Article clarifies how the concept of structural violence can be operationalized in law. It illustrates the ways in which actors can facilitate conditions for structural violence by analyzing the international public health and peace and security regimes. This Article has several important contributions. First, the way international actors conceptualize crises should be expanded beyond merely addressing direct physical violence, but to also include remedying structural violence. Additionally, this study indicates that the complicated relationship between infectious diseases and conflict deserves more robust attention and resources. Moreover, this study examines the limits of the law governing international responsibility and concludes that shared international responsibility norms should be developed to assist in expanding the tools available for the protection of human rights. Lastly, this Article finds that the burgeoning field of international disaster law holds promise for responding to the challenges posed by infectious diseases like Ebola and the alleviation of large-scale human suffering caused by such diseases. Available at SSRN: <https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=3144899>.

The African Justice Cascade and the Malabo Protocol 11 **INT'L. J. TRANSITIONAL JUST.** 71 (2017) (peer-review) argues that the Malabo Protocol re-conceptualizes the idea of transitional justice mechanisms as varying approaches meant solely to address the legacy of abuse in one nation and proposes that transitional justice mechanisms can also encompass regional and transnational efforts to respond to mass human rights violations. It also argues that the Protocol seeks to correct for perceived biases in international criminal justice. The article illuminates the ways in which the Protocol builds on the justice cascade. It provides a brief overview of the domestic, hybrid and

international criminal trials in Africa that have informed the development of the regional court and argues that the Malabo Protocol offers the Continent an important, alternative vision of regional criminal justice. The article concludes that the regional court could tailor criminal accountability to the context, needs and aspirations of the Continent. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2901608>.

Regionalism, Regime Complexes and International Criminal Justice in Africa 54 COLUM. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 699 (2016) is the first to identify an emerging regime complex in the field of international criminal law. It analyzes the development of the regional criminal chamber to the African Court of Justice and Human Rights. A regime complex refers to the way in which two or more institutions intersect in terms of their scope and purpose. This article discusses how the International Criminal Court's institutional crisis created a space for regional innovation. It demonstrates how the development of a regional criminal tribunal in Africa is the result of intersecting factors in international criminal justice. It finds that regime complexes can form not only due to strategic inconsistencies as discussed in the literature, but also because of the influence of regional integration. It argues that the regionalization of international criminal law is a useful addition to the field of international criminal justice, which has hitherto been hampered by the limitations of both domestic and international adjudication. This article concludes that regionalization of international criminal law is a positive development. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2293988>.

The Truth About Truth Commissions: Why They Do Not Function Optimally in Post-Conflict Societies 35 CARDOZO L. REV. 2263 (2014) using insights from the legal transplant literature to analyze the transplanting of truth commissions, this paper finds that truth commissions will face more challenges carrying out their mandates in post-conflict versus post-authoritarian societies. In post-conflict societies, the combination of weak institutions to support a truth-telling process, combined with large numbers of victims and perpetrators will tend to overwhelm truth commissions. These factors concomitant with lower levels of moral consensus surrounding mass violence interact to make truth commissions function less optimally in post-conflict contexts. Truth commissions can be more successful carrying out institutional mandates in post-conflict contexts when combined with a court because of mutually reinforcing effects. It concludes that, much more experimentation needs to be done to formulate effective and contextually appropriate responses to mass violence instead of the current "one-size-fits-all" approach. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2309537>.

Beyond Truth & Punishment in Transitional Justice, 54 VA. J. INT'L L. 195, 223 (2014) argues that scholars and practitioners have misplaced confidence in the ability of truth commissions and trials to contribute towards restorative, retributive, expressive, and utilitarian goals. Many societies have reckoned with how to deal with issues of truth and punishment following a period of massive human rights violations. This Article evaluates the search for justice in the aftermath of atrocities in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia by examining each country's approach to truth-telling and punishment. It uses data gathered from field research in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to assess the contribution of truth telling and punishment mechanisms to their stated objectives from the perspectives of victims and affected societies. It argues that it is critical to limit the number of goals that truth commissions and trials can reasonably be expected to contribute to as opposed to burdening them with multiple objectives, which create unattainable expectations. It concludes that each institution should focus on its comparative advantage and that careful attention be paid to the messages sent regarding what the commission or trial can accomplish. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2293994>.

Regional Approach to Transitional Justice? Examining the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Liberia, 21 FL. J. INT'L L. 209 (2009) proposes that transitional justice mechanisms can also encompass regional and transnational efforts to

respond to mass human rights violations occurring across societies. This Article examines the court in Sierra Leone as well as the truth-seeking mechanisms in Liberia and Sierra Leone and highlights the challenges posed by the failure to take a regional approach. It demonstrates that these mechanisms encountered problems of coordination including legal primacy, information sharing, and access to detainees. The Article concludes that adopting a regional approach when designing transitional justice mechanisms in the aftermath of mass atrocity across societies is the best means for achieving long-term peace, stability, and respect for human rights within the affected region. Available at SSRN: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1502817.

ESSAYS, REFLECTIONS & OTHER COMMENTARY

Do You Have To Say That You Are Black?, 43 TWAILR, *Reflections* (June 15, 2022), <https://twailr.com/do-you-have-to-say-that-you-are-black/>.

Omicron: the Variant that Vaccine Apartheid Built, JUST SEC. (Dec. 2, 2021), <https://www.justsecurity.org/79403/omicron-the-variant-that-vaccine-apartheid-built/>

Expendable Lives and COVID-19, HARV. L. PETRIE FLOM CTR. BILL OF HEALTH (Oct. 8, 2020) <https://blog.petrieflom.law.harvard.edu/2020/10/08/expendable-lives-and-covid-19/?s=09>.

Racing National Security: Introduction to the Just Security Symposium, JUST SEC. (July 13, 2020) <https://www.justsecurity.org/71373/racing-national-security-introduction-to-the-justhttps://www.justsecurity.org/71373/racing-national-security-introduction-to-the-just-security-symposium/security-symposium/>.

Capacity-Building, International Cooperation, and COVID-19, 24 ASIL INSIGHTS 17 (July 9, 2020) <https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/24/issue/17/capacity-building-internationalhttps://www.asil.org/insights/volume/24/issue/17/capacity-building-international-cooperation-and-covid-19cooperation-and-covid-19>.

Africa, COVID-19 and Responsibility, AFRONOMICSLAW (May 12, 2020) <https://www.afronomicslaw.org/2020/05/12/africa-covid-19-and-responsibility/>.

COVID-19 and the Racialization of Diseases (Part I), OPINIO JURIS (Apr. 7, 2020) <http://opiniojuris.org/2020/04/07/covid-19-symposium-covid-19-and-the-racialization-of-diseases-parthhttp://opiniojuris.org/2020/04/07/covid-19-symposium-covid-19-and-the-racialization-of-diseases-part-i/>.

COVID-19 and the Racialization of Diseases (Part II), OPINIO JURIS (Apr. 7, 2020) <http://opiniojuris.org/2020/04/07/covid-19-symposium-covid-19-and-the-racialization-of-diseases-parthhttp://opiniojuris.org/2020/04/07/covid-19-symposium-covid-19-and-the-racialization-of-diseases-part-ii/ii/>.

COVID-19 and Allocating Responsibility for Pandemics, JURIST – COMMENTARY, (Mar. 31, 2020) <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2020/03/matiangai-sirleaf-responsibility-for-pandemics>.

Remarks, International Criminal Law: New Voices, ASIL PROCEEDINGS 2015 http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5305/procanmeetasil.109.2015.0161?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents.

Making Room for the Distributive in Transitional Justice, OPINIO JURIS (Sept. 10, 2013)
<http://opiniojuris.org/2013/08/27/emerging-voices-making-room-distributive-transitional>
<http://opiniojuris.org/2013/08/27/emerging-voices-making-room-distributive-transitional-justice/justice/>.

Reflections on Madiba's Legacy, LAW.UPENN.EDU (Dec. 6, 2013)
<https://www.law.upenn.edu/live/news/2951-sharswood-fellow-matiangai-sirleaf-reflects-on-the>.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

- **World Health Organization**, webinar (Sept. 2022), participating expert, First informal, focused consultation in relation to a new international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response on legal matters
- **University of Maryland School of Law**, webinar (Mar. 2022), panelist, Truth and Reconciliation and Anti-Lynching Commissions
- **African Institute of International Law**, webinar (Mar. 2022), International Law as a Tool for Addressing Health Challenges, invited panelist
- **UCLA Law's Promise Institute for Human Rights, Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs, Center for Immigration Law and Policy, and the Williams Institute**, Borders, the Pandemic & Human Rights symposium (Feb. 26, 2022), panelist, Race & Ethnicity
- **Centre for Ethnicity & Racism Studies, University of Leeds**, invited guest speaker (Oct. 2021), COVID-19 and the Racial Valuation of Diseases
- **Law & Society Annual Meeting**, invited speaker, opening plenary panel on crisis (May 2021)
- **University of Cambridge Lauterpacht Centre for International Law**, invited guest lecturer (Mar. 2021), Race & COVID-19
- **University of Maryland School of Law**, webinar (Nov. 2020), panelist, Consequence of the Election for Domestic and International Law
- **Indiana University McKinney School of Law**, invited virtual grand rounds speaker (Oct. 2020), COVID-19 and the Racialization of Diseases
- **American Association for the Advancement of Science's, Science Technology and Human Rights Conference**, keynote interview conversation with Angela Saini (Oct. 2020)
- **American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Conference**, Law and Bioethics Affinity Group meeting (Oct. 2020), invited panelist on Social Justice and Public Health in the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **University of Florida, Center for African Studies**, invited guest lecturer (Sept. 2020), Africa, COVID19 and Responsibility
- **City University of London, Dept. of Sociology**, online seminar (June 2020), invited panelist, Racism and COVID-19
- **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, online seminar (June 2020), invited panelist, Vulnerability in the Trade and Investment Regimes in the Age of COVID-19
- **American Society for International Law Virtual Annual Meeting**, (June 2020), invited panelist, COVID-II: Understanding the Disparate Impact on Marginalized Communities
- **University of Pittsburgh School of Law**, online seminar (May 2020), panelist, Law as a Social Determinant of Health to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **University of California Los Angeles School of Law**, Los Angeles, CA (Feb. 2020), invited participant for Expert Workshop on International Criminal Law and the Protection of the Environment, organized by the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights
- **University of Connecticut**, Storrs, CT (Apr. 2019), invited panelist, Transitional Justice and Accountability After Mass Crimes at conference on Human Rights and the Politics of Solidarity

- **University of California Los Angeles Law School**, Los Angeles, CA (Mar. 2019), invited plenary panelist, Race, Socio-economic Inequality & Human Rights at conference on Critical Perspectives on Race and Human Rights: Transnational Re-Imaginations
- **University of Dayton School of Law**, Dayton, OH (Mar. 2019), invited panelist, Global Governance – Reconstruction or Falling Through the Cracks? 2019 Gilvary Symposium, Things Fall Apart or Creative Destruction?: The Future of the Rule of Law in International Governance
- **Kenyatta University**, Nairobi, Kenya (Sept. 2018), invited keynote speaker, *Regionalizing International Criminal Law* presented at conference on 20 Years Since the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court – the Status of International Rule of Law, and Access to International Criminal Justice in Africa
- **Yale Law School**, New Haven, CT (Apr. 2018), invited panelist, The Ethics and Politics of Finding Facts and Making Truth at a conference on Solidarity: Sustaining the Struggle for Human Rights in a Fractured World
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Feb. 2018), invited lecturer, Critical Research on Africa Lecture Series sponsored by the African Studies Program, the Africana Studies Dept., Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the Global Studies Center, and the World History Center
- **Osgoode Law School**, York University Toronto, Canada (Dec. 2016), invited commentator, Canadian/Anglophone African Human Rights Engagements Conference, discussant for session focusing on Ghana
- **Duke University**, Durham, NC (Feb. 2016), invited speaker, Conversations in Human Rights Panel: Trials & Truth Commissions Responding to Violence in Africa
- **World Social Sciences Forum**, Durban, South Africa (Sept. 2015), selected panelist, The African Court and the Fight Against Gross Human Rights Abuses in Africa
- **Temple Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Mar. 2015), invited speaker, Is the Proposed African Criminal Court a Good Idea?
- **Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa**, Dakar, Senegal (July 2014), invited participant, Conference on International Criminal Justice, Reconciliation and Peace in Africa: The ICC and Beyond, panel on The ICC, International Criminal Justice and International Politics
- **Women in Public Service Project, Bryn Mawr College**, Bryn Mawr, PA (July 2013), invited panelist, The Role of the Justice System in Post-Conflict Resolution

SELECTED WORKSHOPS

We Charge Vaccine Apartheid?

- **McGill University Faculty of Law**, Montreal, Canada (Oct. 2022), Pandemics and Paradigms of Governance Workshop, presented draft
- **Howard Law School**, Washington, D.C. (Oct. 2021), invited panelist, Howard Law Journal's Symposium on Health Equity: Developments & Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, presented emerging idea
- **University of California Irvine School of Law**, Irvine, CA (Sept. 2021), invited speaker, virtual symposium on Colonialism, Capitalism, and Race in International Law, presented emerging idea

Race, Fear and Global Health Law

- **University of Georgia School of Law**, Athens, GA (Apr. 2020) invited speaker, International Law Colloquium Series, presented draft
- **University of Toronto Faculty of Law**, Toronto, CA (Feb. 2020) invited speaker, Mary & Philip Seeman Health Law Policy & Ethics Seminar Series, presented draft

Disposable Lives

- **St. John's University School of Law**, Queens, NY, (Apr. 2022), invited speaker, International Law Colloquium Series, presented paper

- **Allard School of Law, The University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, CA, (Mar. 2022), invited speaker, Transnational Law class, presented paper
- **University of Pennsylvania Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Feb. 2022), invited speaker, Plagues, Pandemics, and Public Health Law class, presented paper
- **Florida State University Law School**, Tallahassee, FL (Nov. 2021), invited to speak at faculty enrichment workshop, presented paper
- **Australia National University College of Law**, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Australia (July 2021), invited to speak at the Politics of International Law seminar, presented paper
- **Saint Louis University School of Law**, St. Louis, MO (Sept. 2019), selected speaker for Health Law Scholars Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Colorado Law School**, Boulder, CO (Aug. 2018), invited to International Law & Racial Justice Workshop, presented emerging idea

Racial Valuation of Diseases

- **The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law**, Columbus, OH (Oct. 2021), invited guest lecturer, Biotechnology Law and Policy Seminar, presented paper
- **Georgetown University Law Center**, Washington, DC (Apr. 2021), invited guest lecturer, International Law Colloquium, presented paper
- **New York University School of Law**, New York, NY (Apr. 2021), invited guest lecturer, Hauser Colloquium on Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, presented paper
- **Vanderbilt Law School**, Nashville, TN (Oct. 2020), invited speaker, faculty workshop, presented paper
- **University of Connecticut School of Law**, Hartford, CT (Oct. 2020), invited speaker, faculty workshop, presented paper
- **University of California Los Angeles School of Law**, Los Angeles, CA (Jan. 2020), invited speaker, UCLA Law Review Symposium: Transnational Legal Discourse on Race and Empire, panelists on Socio-Economic Equality and Rights, presented draft
- **Chapman University School of Law**, Orange, CA (Sept. 2019), one of eight invited participants nationally to Third Annual Junior Faculty Works-in-Progress Conference, presented draft
- **Penn State Law School**, University Park, PA (June 2019) selected for intensive workshop at 13th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, presented draft (paper selected for edit-letter review by *Yale Law Journal*)
- **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, Chicago, IL (June 2019), selected for panel at 42nd Annual Health Law Professors Conference, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2019), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2019), invited to Center for International and Comparative Law's Women in International Law Research Workshop, presented draft
- **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, Chicago, IL (Apr. 2019), invited to International Law Colloquium, presented draft
- **University of Colorado Law School**, Boulder, CO (Apr. 2019), invited to Faculty Colloquium Series, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Apr. 2019), organized Global Health Inequities & Infectious Diseases Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Apr. 2019), invited to Defining the Neglected Tropical Diseases Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Richmond Law School**, Richmond, VA (May 2018), selected for Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum, presented emerging idea

Responsibility for Epidemics

- **McGill University**, Montreal, Canada (Mar. 2019), invited to Margins of Accountability Workshop held in Toronto, Canada discussed next steps for project

- **National University of Singapore Faculty of Law**, Singapore (July 2018), selected for Third World Approaches to International Law Conference, presented draft
- **SMU Dedman School of Law**, Dallas, TX (July 2018), selected for an intensive works-in-progress workshop at Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop and Writing Retreat, presented draft (paper selected for edit-letter review by *Yale Law Journal*)
- **Stanford Law School**, Stanford, CA (June 2018), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Mar. 2018), invited to lecture by Ford Institute for Human Security & the Graduate School for Public and International Affairs, presented draft
- **University of Illinois College of Law**, Champaign, IL (Mar. 2018), invited to Women in International Law Research Workshop held at the Illinois Center, presented draft
- **University of Michigan Law School**, Ann Arbor, MI (July 2017), selected for 11th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, presented emerging idea
- **University of Richmond Law School**, Richmond, VA (May 2017), selected for Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum, presented emerging idea

Ebola Does Not Fall from the Sky

- **Australia National University College of Law**, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Australia (Nov. 2022), guest lecture Post-conflict Situations and International Law seminar, presented paper
- **Ohio State University Law School** Columbus, OH (Nov. 2017), invited for Faculty Workshop, presented draft
- **Marquette Law School**, Milwaukee, WI. (Sept. 2017), one of eight invited participants nationally for Fifth Annual Junior Faculty Works-In Progress Symposium, presented draft
- **Cleveland-Marshall College of Law**, Cleveland, OH (Sept. 2017), selected for American Society for International Law Mid-West Works in Progress Conference, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2017), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft
- **Temple University School of Law**, Philadelphia, PA. (Feb. 2017), invited to International Law Colloquium, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh Law School**, Pittsburgh, PA (Feb. 2017), CLE Workshop on Cutting-Edge Research and Applications, presented draft
- **Pennsylvania State University Law School**, University Park, PA (Jan. 2017), invited to Faculty Workshop, presented draft
- **Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting**, San Francisco, CA (Jan. 2017), selected for Human Rights Outside the West Panel, presented draft
- **University of Washington School of Law**, Seattle, WA (Nov. 2016), selected for American Society for International Law Mid-Year Research Forum, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (Sep. 2016), invited to Center for International and Comparative Law's Women in International Law Research Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Iowa College of Law**, Iowa City, IA (July 2016), selected for 10th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, presented draft
- **Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting**, Boca Raton, FL (Aug. 2015), selected panelist International Responses to Cross-Border Crises: Ebola, ISIS, and Late-Breaking Events, presented emerging idea

Not Your Dumping Ground and Prosecuting Dirty Dumping in Africa

- **University of Wisconsin Law School**, Madison, WI. (Mar. 2017), invited to *Wisconsin International Law Journal Symposium*, presented draft
- **African Court Research Initiative Conference**, Arusha, Tanzania (July 2016), presented draft

The African Justice Cascade

- **Osgoode Law School, York University** Toronto, Canada (Oct. 2016), invited to International Law in the Global South Research Seminar Series, presented draft

- **Law & Society Annual Meeting**, New Orleans, LA (June 2016), selected panelist for Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective Exploring the Role of International and Regional Courts, presented draft
- **Loyola University Chicago Law School**, Chicago, IL (Apr. 2016), invited to Workshop on Africa's International Courts, presented draft

Regionalism, Regime Complexes, & International Criminal Justice

- **Case Western Reserve University School of Law**, Cleveland, OH (Feb. 2016), invited to Faculty Workshop, presented draft
- **Georgetown University Law Center**, Washington, DC (Feb. 2016), invited to International Law Colloquium, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2015), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft
- **American Society for International Law Annual Meeting** Washington, D.C. (Apr. 2015), selected panelist International Criminal Law New Voices, presented draft
- **Northwestern Law School**, Chicago, IL (Nov. 2014), selected for American Society for International Law Mid-Year Research Forum, panel on Courts African Legal Practices and International Courts: Tensions and Prospects, presented draft
- **University of Oslo**, Oslo, Norway (Aug. 2014), invited to Conference on the Legitimacy and Effectiveness of International Criminal Tribunals, panel on Complementarity and Regionalism, presented draft

The Truth About Truth Commissions

- **University of Pittsburgh Law School**, Pittsburgh, PA (Apr. 2014), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **University of Pennsylvania Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Feb. 2014), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **University of Baltimore Law School**, (Jan. 2014), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **Emory Law School**, Atlanta, GA (Nov. 2013), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft

Beyond Truth & Punishment in Transitional Justice

- **University of Pennsylvania Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Apr. 2013) invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **Law & Society Annual Meeting**, Boston, MA (May 2013) selected panelist for Transitional Justice through International Criminal Law: Empowerment or Management through Rule of Law

ACADEMIC AWARDS & GRANTS

- Teaming Grant, University of Pittsburgh 2020
- Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, Junior Scholar Awardee, University of Pittsburgh 2019
- The American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Health Law Scholar 2019
- African Studies Program, Faculty Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2018-2019
- University Center for International Studies Faculty Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2018-2019
- Social Science Research Initiative Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2018-2019
- Ford Institute for Human Security Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2017-2018
- Diplomacy Lab, U.S. State Dept., Spring 2017 & Fall 2017

PEER REVIEWS

- Reviewer, Journal of Human Rights and the Environment, 2022
- Reviewer, Melbourne Journal of International Law, 2018
- Reviewer, Journal of African Law, 2017
- Reviewer, Routledge Books, 2017, 2016, 2015

- Reviewer, *Journal of Law & Social Inquiry*, 2017
- Reviewer, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, 2017
- Reviewer, *International Journal of Law in Context*, 2017
- Reviewer, *Africa Today*, 2016

EXTERNAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Member, AALS Africa Section Board 2022 - present
- Member, Board of Editors, *American Journal of International Law* 2022 – present
- Executive Editor, *Just Security* 2022 – present
- Member, Blacks of the American Society for International Law Task Force 2021 – present
- Editor, *Just Security*, 2020 – 2022
- Co-Chair, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Interest Group, American Society for International Law (ASIL), 2018-2021
- Member, Works in Progress Committee, Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, 2018-2020
- Member, 2019 (ASIL) Research Forum Committee, 2019 – 2020
- Member, Editorial Board, *ASIL Insights*, 2016-2020
- Vice-Chair, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Interest Group, ASIL, 2017-2018
- Member Program Committee, ASIL 110th Annual Meeting 2015-2016

INTERNAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- University of Maryland School of Law, Member, Curriculum Committee 2020-2021, 2022-present
- University of Maryland School of Law, Member, Transfer to Tenure Committee, 2022
- University of Maryland School of Law, Faculty Advisor, *Maryland Journal of International Law*, 2021-2022
- University of Maryland School of Law, Member, Diversity & Professionalism Committee 2021-2022
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Member, Writing Awards Committee 2019-2020
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Member, Teaching Committee 2018-2019
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Member, 3L Luncheon Planning Committee 2018
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Chair, Colloquium Committee 2017-2018
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Member, Curriculum Committee 2017-2018
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Member, Steering Committee 2016-2017
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Member, Appointments Committee 2016-2017
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Faculty Advisor, 2015-2020
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Member, Advisory Board Center for International Legal Education 2015-2020
- University of Pittsburgh African Studies Program, Member, Advisory Committee 2015- 2020

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC (Washington, D.C.) Human Rights Fellow (Attorney), Human Rights Practice Group, November 2010 - July 2012

Represented plaintiffs in numerous international human rights cases in federal courts, including victims of human trafficking, forced labor, torture, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing, and arbitrary detention. Conducted legal research on transnational corporate accountability under the Alien Tort Statute and Torture Victim Protection Act. Wrote legal memoranda as well as appellate, district and amici briefs. Drafted complaints alleging violations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Drafted and responded to discovery requests. Interviewed clients. Investigated potential human rights claims. Supervised law clerks and paralegals.

International Center for Transitional Justice (Cape Town, South Africa) Bernstein Fellow (fellowship for Yale Law School graduates), September 2008 – July 2009

Conducted assessment missions of transitional justice experiences in West Africa focusing on truth telling, prosecutions, and reparations. Interviewed over one hundred human rights victims relevant actors from truth commissions, courts, government agencies, and civil society groups.

Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP (New York, NY) Summer Associate, July - September 2007

Conducted research on public and private international law. Wrote legal memoranda on creeping expropriation claims and lost profit claims in international arbitration cases. Assisted with legal research on an amicus brief for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in support of the appellants in *Boumediene/Al Odah et al. v. Gates* before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Human Rights Watch, International Justice Program (New York, NY) Legal Intern, May - July 2007

Conducted international human rights law research. Wrote memorandum on the right to adequate time and facilities to prepare a defense under international law. Drafted paper analyzing peace and justice issues in Sudan. Provided research assistance for the paper “Selling Justice Short” published in July 2009. Monitored developments of international and domestic tribunals.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (Monrovia, Liberia) Law Clerk, May - August 2006

Assisted in designing the statement-taking process of human rights violations, created an aptitude test for potential statement takers, and helped with the selection and training of more than 200 statement takers. Engaged in outreach and public sensitization efforts.

ADMISSIONS

New York State Bar, Active Member, January 2009 - present

District of Columbia Bar, Active Member, September 2011 – present