

Curriculum Vitae
Todd Anthony Howland

Professional Experience

Visiting Professor, Environmental Justice Clinic. Vermont Law and Graduate School. 2025 – Present

- Teach graduate level courses.
- Produce scholarly articles and commentary pieces.

**Chief of Branch, Development, Economic and Social Rights Branch
Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
2019 – 2014**

- Provide motivation, management and vision to create a more strategic Branch (approximately 80 staffers and 16 million USD budget) in order to facilitate positive human rights change.
- Responsible for 50% of the thematic issues at UN Human Rights, guiding global policy development (e.g., UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly) and support for the 100+ in-country offices.

**Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in
Colombia, 2012 – 2018**

- Reorganized and restructured the office to maximize its contribution to improving the human rights situation during the peace negotiations and to position the office for contributing to the implementation of the peace accords. Directed and managed the UN human rights office with an approximately 13 million USD budget, 120 staffers and 16 satellite offices. Most of the annual budget was raised directly from Member States.
- Created a shared sense of vision and team for the UN Human Rights office in Colombia.

**Principal Officer, Field Offices and Technical Cooperation Division, United
Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Geneva
2011 – 2012**

- Helped OHCHR reevaluate its relationship to UN peace missions and laid the groundwork for a more rigorous approach to project-based work throughout the office.
- Developed additional sources of funding to improve the capacity and impact of human rights country-based work (e.g., created access to the UN Peacekeeping Support Account).

**Great Lakes Integrated Team – United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations – New York
2010 – 2011 (on assignment)**

- Conceptualized and contributed to the creation of a new global due diligence policy that required the UN to avoid the possibility of contributing to human rights violations, which became a major component of UN risk avoidance and social responsibility policies.

**Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Director of the Joint OHCHR/DPKO Human Rights Office in DRC
2008 – 2010**

- Helped achieve relevancy of the office vis a vis the UN and the international community.
- Directed and managed an office with an approximate budget of 16 million USD, 150 staffers with 22 satellite offices throughout the DRC. Provided strategic vision to maximize contribution to improving the human rights situation.

**Professor of Human Rights Law
Graduate School of International Area Studies
United Nations-mandated University for Peace Dual Degree Program
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
Seoul, Korea
2008 (two semesters)**

- Taught graduate level courses in human rights law, public international law and human rights practice.
- Advised and mentored students interested in a career in human rights and social change.

**Co-Founder/Director of Global Programs
International Rights Advocates
2007 – 2008**

- Devised ways to continue and expand the precedent-setting litigation against corporate actors for human rights violations (e.g., UNOCAL and Coca-Cola).
- Developed new theories to hold powerful actors accountable, including international organizations, for human rights violations.

**Director
Center for Human Rights, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial
2001 – 2006**

- Helped organization regain clarity, vision and purpose. Approximately 2 million USD budget and 10 staffers.
- Introduced US-based human rights work.

**Officer-in-Charge
Human Rights Division, United Nations Office in Angola
1998 – 2001**

- Established relations with the Angolan government that facilitated the creation of space for NGOs and activists as well as facilitated a change in culture to directly discuss human rights violations and ways of addressing them.
- Directed and managed an office with a budget of 4 million USD, 30 staffers with 6 satellite offices throughout Angola.

**Visiting Fellow
Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School
1997 - 1998**

- Produced five scholarly articles based on my experiences in Ethiopia and Rwanda that were designed to impact the way international interventions, especially human rights country-based activities, are conceptualized and implemented.
- Acted as a consultant for the then High Commissioner of Human Rights, Mary Robinson. Assisted the High Commissioner in placing significant attention on developing methods for country-based work.

**Consultant
Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General for Development
November 1996**

- Advocated for the idea that each UN human rights country office should develop and implement an exit strategy based on facilitating measurable change in the human rights situation in the country where they operate.

**Head of Legal and Human Rights Promotion Unit
United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR), Kigali
1994 - 1996**

- Facilitated the creation and implementation of a process that helped the Rwandan government develop a viable response to the genocide. Contributed to Rwandan government thinking on how to respond to the genocide. Facilitated development of governmental response and creation of prosecutorial strategy.
- Directed and managed a part of the office in Rwanda with approximately a budget of 3 million USD, 30 staffers with 12 satellite offices throughout Rwanda.

**United Nations Mission of Experts to Equatorial Guinea
UNDP Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
UN Centre for Human Rights, Geneva
1994**

- Performed “needs assessment” evaluating the human rights situation, and specifically examining the status of the legal system, in Equatorial Guinea. Made recommendations regarding which activities the UN could conduct to facilitate Equatorial Guinea’s compliance with its international legal obligations.

**International Legal Adviser
Office of the Special Prosecutor
Transitional Government of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa
(contracted through the Carter Center)
1993 – 1994**

- Facilitated the development of a plan and its implementation to move the Special Prosecutor’s Office (SPO) into compliance with the government’s human rights obligations.
- Directed and managed the project with a budget of approximately 1 million USD and 7 staffers.

**Directing Attorney
El Rescate
Los Angeles, CA
1987 - 1993**

- Conceptualized and created the organization’s legal/human rights response to the Salvadoran refugee flow. Directed and managed the legal office with an approximately 1 million USD budget and 6 staffers.
- Conceived and contributed to the creation of the "Index to Accountability" database project, which brought together a number of human rights tools and permitted the analysis of patterns of human rights violations in El Salvador and identification of the individuals responsible. The Index provided the factual basis to challenge impunity in El Salvador.

**Assorted Volunteer Legal Work
1985 – 1993**

- Performed advocacy work with a number of organizations related to indigenous rights, refugee assistance, capital punishment, defense of civil disobedience protesters, and "City of Sanctuary" initiatives for asylum seekers.
- Co-authored *amicus curiae* brief to the Supreme Court of Connecticut related to the federal recognition of a Native American nation.

- Prepared writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court in cases regarding Native American sovereignty.

Publications

SCHOLARLY

- “Minnesota Should Lead The U.S.’s Unfinished Journey From Slavery To Granting All U.S. Citizens The Right To Vote,” *Mitchell Hamline Law Journal of Public Policy and Practice*, The Quadriga, November 13, 2020. Co-authored with Adela Carrasco.
- “Human Rights Promoting Procurement – A Concrete Means to Build Back Better,” in *Building Back Better: A Call for Courage in the post-COVID-19 World (FES)*. Co-authored with Juan Pablo Salinas. Oct. 2020.
- “The Minnesota Method for Human Rights Change,” *Sur International Journal on Human Rights*, Issue 30 (August 2020). Co-authored with Shelby Ankrom, Gonxhe Kandri, Paul Olubayo, Hannah Shireman, Alli Strong-Martin and Amelia Shindelar.
- “Multi-State Responsibility for Extraterritorial Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in "International Human Rights Law: 60 Years After the UDHR" Mashood Baderin and Manisuli Senyonjo, eds. (2010).
- “How, El Rescate, a Small Non-governmental Organization Contributed to the Transformation of the Human Rights Situation in El Salvador,” 30 *Human Rights Quarterly* 703 (2008).
- “Multi-State Responsibility for Extraterritorial Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,” 35 *Denver Journal International Law & Policy* 389 (2007).
- “Peacekeeping and Conformity with Human Rights Law – How MINUSTAH Falls Short in Haiti,” 13(4) *International Peacekeeping* 462 (2006).
- “Evolving Practice in the Field: Informing the International Legal Obligation to ‘Protect’,” 34 *Denver Journal International Law & Policy* 29 (2006).
- “UN Human Rights Field Presence as Proactive Instrument of Peace and Social Change: Lessons from Angola,” 26(1) *Human Rights Quarterly* (2004). Reprinted in *The Human Rights Field Operation: Law, Theory and Practice* (2006).
- “Os Direitos Humanos e Paz,” *Congresso Pro Pace Documentos*, Luanda, July 18-21, 2000 at 112. (*Human Rights and Peace*, in the Pro Peace Congress Documents.)
- “Learning to Make Proactive Human Rights Interventions Effective - the Carter Center and Ethiopia’s Office of the Special Prosecutor,” 18(2) *Wisconsin Int’l Law Journal* 407 (2000).
- “Mirage, Magic, or Mixed Bag? The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’ Field Operation in Rwanda,” 21 *Human Rights Quarterly* 1 (1999).
- “The UN’s International Criminal Tribunal, Is It Justice or Jingoism For Rwanda? A Call for Transformation.” 39 *Virginia Journal of International Law* 135 (1998). Co-authored by William Calathes.
- “The Killing of UN Human Rights Workers - A Call for an Appropriate UN Response.” 5 *Human Rights Tribune* 9 (April 1998). A more extensive piece on the same subject

appears as: "Rhetoric, Regret and Reform – The Need for an Appropriate UN Response to the Killing of Human Rights Workers," 58-59 The Review of the International Commission of Jurists 124 (1997).

- "Refoulement of Rwandan Refugees - The UNHCR's Lost Opportunity to Ground Temporary Refuge in Human Rights Law," 4 U. California - Davis J. Int'l L. & Pol'y 73 (1998).
- "Rael v. Taylor and the Colorado Constitution - How Human Rights Law Ensures Constitutional Protection in the Private Sphere," 26 Denv. J. Int'l L. & Pol'y 1 (1997).
- "Spanish/Mexican Land Grants in Contemporary Court Cases - The Use of Legal Pluralism and Human Rights to Demystify the Sangre de Cristo/Taylor Case." Co-authored by Richard Garcia. 16 Chicano Law Review 39 (1995).
- "Are the Salvadoran Peace Accords Treaties? An Emerging International Legal Perspective on the Legal Nature of a Liberation Movement." Presented to the 2nd Conference of International Jurists organized by the Institute of Legal Studies of El Salvador. May 7-9, 1992. (Published in the "memoria" of the conference.)
- "Safe Haven for Salvadorans in the Context of Contemporary International Law - A Case Study in Equivocation" 29(4) San Diego Law Review 671 (Fall 1992). Co-authored by Amy Beer, Tim Everett, and Evangeline Nichols Ordaz.
- "Free Trade and the Need for Integration of International Worker Rights Protections." Presented in Mexico City in July 1991, at a conference sponsored by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. (Published in the "memoria" of the conference.)
- "Amnistía, Impunidad y Necesidad de Una Solución Negociada (Amnesty, Impunity, and the Need for a Negotiated Solution)," Año XLV Estudios Centroamericanos 279 (Abril/Mayo 1990). (A publication from El Salvador.)
- "Litigation and Social Change." Presented at the First Conference of International Jurists in December 1990 in El Salvador. (Published in the "memoria" of the conference.)
- "A Comparative Analysis of the Changing Definition of a Refugee." 5(1) New York Law School Journal of Human Rights 33 (1987).
- "The Refugee Crisis and International Law: The City of Refuge Response," in Refugee Law and Policy 185 (Ved P. Nanda ed. 1989). Co-authored by Richard Garcia.
- "Can International Law Prevent Another Bhopal Tragedy?" 15(2, 3) Denver Journal of International Law & Policy 301 (1987).
- "Chernobyl and Acid Deposition: An Overview and Analysis of the Failure of European Cooperation to Protect Their Shared Environment," 2(1) Temple Journal of International & Comparative Law 1 (1988).
- "Cuban Environmental Law: An Analysis from International Right to Development Perspective," 2 La Raza Law Journal 62 (1988). Co-authored by Richard Garcia.
- "U.S. Law as a Tool of Forced Social Change: A Contextual Examination of the Human Rights Violations by the United States Government Against Native Americans at Big Mountain," 7(1) Boston College Third World Law Journal 61 (1987).
- "International Human Rights Violations of Traditional Native Americans - The Big Mountain Controversy," 15(2-3) Denver Journal of International Law and Policy 339 (1987).

COMMENTARY PIECES

- “Interpreting Gov. Scott’s call to “legalize housing”,” Vtdigger, January 17, 2025.
- “Influential in the medical field -- and on the soccer field,” Rochester Post Bulletin, January 20, 2024.
- [The Climate Crisis: Human Rights a Solution Hiding in Plain Sight](#) , UNEP-OHCHR Environmental Rights Bulletin, Nov. 2023.
- “The Road Travelled to the Current Raoul Wallenberg Institute-UN Human Rights Partnership: Seeding Change for a Human Rights Economy” Human Righter (RWI Blog), August 12, 2021. <https://rwi.lu.se/blog/todd-howland-seeding-change-for-a-human-rights-economy/>
- “¿Quién puede detener el homicidio de defensores de derechos humanos?” Semana, December 30, 2017.
- ¿Qué pasaría si el Atrato se muere? Semana, December 15, 2017.
- “Maximizando los bienes de las FARC para las víctimas,” Semana, September 8, 2017.
- “Colombia debe hacer las transformaciones necesarias para evitar riesgos en el proceso de paz,” Semana, August 2, 2017.
- “Cómo prevenir el asesinato de defensores de derechos humanos,” Semana, June 30, 2017.
- “Esperamos que muy pronto el defensor Jorge Montes sea liberado y reparado,” Semana, June 13, 2017.
- “Víctimas y la no repetición de violaciones: el centro del proceso de paz con las FARC,” Semana, February 28, 2017.
- “El ejemplo del sargento Carlos Eduardo Mora,” Semana, August 11, 2016.
- “Right To Health, Colombia And US Congress,” Huffington Post,” July 22, 2016.
- “El compromiso de la sociedad es indispensable para la construcción de la paz,” El Espectador, May 30, 2016.
- “Apoyar la paz incide en la protección del medio ambiente” El Espectador, May 1, 2016.
- “Participar, una de las claves para construir paz,” La Opinión January 17, 2016.
- “Detener a Feliciano Valencia en la cárcel parece una ficción de Kafka,” Semana, November 22, 2015.
- “Es tiempo de reconsiderar las palabras a favor de la guerra y odio,” Semana, August 15, 2015.
- “Acuerdos del Catatumbo, una oportunidad para Colombia,” El Espectador, July 27, 2015.
- “La justicia transicional es para el beneficio de la sociedad, no de los perpetradores,” Semana, March 6, 2015.
- “El primer gran éxito del enfoque de derechos humanos en la construcción de paz: la liberación de los cuatro militares y la asesora jurídica” Semana, December 1, 2014.
- “La Constitución reconoce a las autoridades indígenas como autoridades del Estado en derecho y en la práctica,” Semana, November 24, 2014.
- “DD. HH.: el fin y el medio para alcanzar una mejor sociedad,” Semana, April 24, 2014.
- “Día de las Víctimas debe girar en torno a la transformación positiva del país,” Semana, April 9, 2014.

- “Aunque hay muchos desafíos, la paz con justicia es posible en Colombia,” Semana, November 12, 2013.
- “Fuero Militar: marketing+ideologia+lealtad vs. reputacion+virtud,” Semana, December 31, 2012.
- “Para transformar Colombia es necesario enfrentar con valentia el pasado,” Periodico de Comando, December 1, 2012.
- “Vivir con una discapacidad no significa que sea incapaz,” Semana, October 10, 2012.
- “CONSTITUCION Y FUERO PENAL MILITAR,” Revista de Universidad de Sergio Arboleda, August 30, 2012.
- “Presidente Santos, campesinos e indigenas: socios para la paz?” Semana, August 20, 2012.
- “Pueden ustedes, por favor, pelear su guerra en otra parte?” Semana, July 18, 2012.
- “Lo que exigen los derechos humanos es que los colombianos hagan la paz y no la guerra,” Semana, May 14, 2012.
- “Los derechos humanos en los procesos de paz,” Semana, February 24, 2012.
- “Droit de l’Homme et Surete de l’Etat,” La Tempete Des Tropiques (Kinshasa), December 1, 2009.
- “Koreans Still Have a Beef with US Free Trade Deal?” Huffington Post, December 25, 2008.
- “Need for Creative Peacekeeping in Haiti,” (in Korean) SISAIN, September 27, 2008.
- “Ban’s Path to Success at UN: Be More Korean?” The Korea Times, July 6, 2008.
- “Improved UN Peacekeeping,” The Korea Times, June 22, 2008.
- “Obama Can Affect Global Women’s Rights,” Huffington Post, June 18, 2008 (co-authored with Paddy Torsney).
- “A. Devereux and C. Anderson, ‘Reporting under International Human Rights Treaties: Perspective from Timor Leste’s Experience of the Reformed Process,’ (review) 1 Journal of East Asia and International Law, 201 (Spring 2008).
- “Should Guam Sue for Self-Determination,” Pacific Daily News, May 18, 2007.
- “Will Dems Wipe Out on American Samoan Misto Spot?” Huffington Post, March 12, 2007.
- “When Will Human Rights Law Be the Basis For Action at the UN,” Maxims New Network, March 8, 2007.
- “District Should Try London-Style Congestion Charge,” Washington Post March 4, 2007.
- “All US Citizens Deserve the Right to Vote,” Missoulia January 22, 2007.
- “From the RFK Memorial Poverty Tour: Fields Ripe with Injustice,” CommonDreams.org April 29, 2006.
- “Toss a Tomato at the Fair Trade Label,” Palm Beach Post, February 22, 2006.
- “Human Rights and Poverty After Katrina,” Huffington Post, February 10, 2006.
- “Sister Dorothy and Adjusting Structurally to the Rights of the Landless,” Maxims News Network February 12, 2006.
- “Voices of Most Vulnerable Most be Heard,” Naples Daily News, October 27, 2005.
- “Negotiate a Solution for Haiti,” Trinidad and Tobago Express, September, 11 2005.
- “In Haiti, Rhetoric Trumps Human Rights,” Boston Globe, August 16, 2005.

- “Senator Coleman’s UN Witchhunt,” Maxims News Network, July 20, 2005.
- “Can UN Reform Fix What is Wrong the UN Mission to Haiti,” Maxims News Network, April 6, 2005.
- “Stop Farmworker Exploitation: Vote When You Shop or Go Out to Eat,” Idaho Statesman, February 26, 2005.
- “Short Changing Haiti to Please Washington,” Toronto Globe and Mail, May 16, 2004.
- “A Plea from DC: End Our Taxation Without Representation,” Salt Lake City Tribune, July 20, 2003.
- “Clinton Should Urge Peaceful Solutions to Rwandan Problem,” Knight Rider Wireservice, April 6, 1998.
- "El Salvador Can No Longer Ignore Its International Legal Obligations," La Opinión, April 3, 1993.
- "Sanctions Mandated Against Rights Abusers," Christian Science Monitor, March 25, 1993 (co-authored by Libby Cooper).
- "No Amnesty for Massacre of Civilians in El Salvador," Los Angeles Daily Journal, December 1, 1992.
- "The State Department - New Arbiter of World Justice?" Christian Science Monitor, April 24, 1992.
- "Salvador Peace Starts with Misstep," Christian Science Monitor, February 7, 1992.
- "Laws Holding Soldiers Liable for Crimes Are Necessary for Peace in El Salvador," Los Angeles Daily Journal, January 8, 1992 (co-authored by William Calathes).
- "No Haven for the Poor and Black - Perspective on Haitian Refugees," Los Angeles Times, December 1, 1991 (co-authored by Peter Schey).
- "To Some, Refuge Looks More Like a Trap," Los Angeles Times, June 5, 1991.
- "Preferencias Inmerecidas," La Opinión, April 16, 1991.
- "End El Salvador's Trade Preference," Christian Science Monitor, April 8, 1991.
- "How International Law Could Bring Peace to Long-Suffering El Salvador," Los Angeles Daily Journal, December 6, 1990.
- "Requiem for Murdered Justice in El Salvador," Los Angeles Daily Journal, January 8, 1990.
- "Aliens Justified in Reluctance to Trust Immigration Reform," Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 16, 1988.
- "Moving Indians Off Their Land," Denver Post, October 3, 1986.
- "Sanctuary Activists Seek to Promote International Law," Rocky Mountain News, April 18, 1986 (co-authored by Richard Garcia and Jim Street).
- “Misplaced Blame – Hormel Strike,” Rochester Post Bulletin, February 18, 1986.

Boards/Advisory Committees

**University of Denver
Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law
Advisory Board, 2005 - present**

Humanitarian Law Project

Los Angeles, CA
Law Commissioner, 1993 – present

Journal of East Asia and International Law
Seoul, Korea
Board Member, 2008 – 2014

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
Washington, DC
Global Advocacy Team, 2006 – 2011

Academic Background

- Admitted to the Colorado Bar 1987.
- Juris Doctorate, University of Denver College of Law, 1986. Order of the Coif. Graduated in the top 10% of the class. Focus of study was international human rights law.
- Master of Arts in Political Economy, University of Denver, 1987. Focus of study was economics as a part of the social process/critique of neoclassical assumptions.
- Attended Hague Academy of International Law, 1985.
- Attended Inter-American Comparative Law Institute, University of Havana, Cuba, 1985.
- Dekanants Pruefung, University of Salzburg, Austria, 1983. Focus of study was German language and German literature.
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics (focus of study was comparative economic systems and economic history) and Bachelor of Business Administration (focus of study was alternative organizational structures and personnel motivation). Boise State University, 1983.
- Languages: Worked professionally in Portuguese, Spanish, and French. Some working knowledge of German.