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Symposium: Corporate Social Responsibility in the Extractive Industries

Panelist Bios

Paul Collier

Paul Collier is Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University. He researches the causes and consequences of civil war, the effects of aid and the problems of democracy in low-income and natural-resource-rich societies. From April 1998 to April 2003, he was the director of development research at the World Bank and has been the advisor to the British government's Commission on Africa. Mr. Collier is one of the world's leading experts on African economies and is the author of "The Bottom Billion," among other books. Mr. Collier is a Professor Associate of CERDI, Université d'Auvergne and a Fellow of the CEPR, London. He holds a Distinction Award from Oxford University and has won the Edgar Graham Prize.

Sarah Pray

Sarah Pray, Publish What You Pay U.S. Coordinator, is responsible for the facilitation of all advocacy work of the U.S. Publish What Your Pay campaign, which lobbies for government and corporate accountability in the oil, gas and mining industries. Her work for the coalition of human rights, development, and environmental NGOs focuses on strategic planning and implementation, including legislation, shareholder resolutions, litigation, public outreach and participation in global transparency initiatives. Previous to PWYP US, Sarah worked at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights as a human right attorney focusing on achieving cultural and economic rights for the Chadian people, and guaranteeing corporate social responsibility and World Bank accountability in the dispersion of oil revenues. Sarah received a B.A. cum laude from the University of Michigan with a double major in History and Political Science. She received her law degree from Boston College Law School.

Lisa LaPlante

Lisa J. Laplante obtained her law degree from New York University School of Law where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern merit scholar. Her human rights experience arises out of over ten years of work with organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now, Human Rights First), Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), REDRESS, among others. She has participated in Peru's



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political transition in various capacities for the last six years. With funding from the Notre Dame University Transitional Justice Program, she first worked as a researcher in 2002 with the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She later served as legal consultant to local victims groups seeking redress through the Inter-American System for Human Rights. She has also carried out research with funding from the United States Institute for Peace and the Ford Foundation resulting in publications in national and international scholarly journals. She co-founded and is Deputy Director of Praxis Institute for Social Justice. Currently she is a member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Studies/Princeton.

Sara Seck

Sara Seck joined the Faculty of Law, University of Western Ontario as an assistant professor in July 2007. She recently completed a PhD at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. Her PhD research concerns home state obligations to regulate transnational mining companies under international environmental and human rights law. Sara's research interests more generally include corporate social responsibility, international sustainable development law and third world approaches to international law. Sara has been an invited participant in two experts meetings with the Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights, most recently in Copenhagen on the scope of the state duty to protect human rights. Sara's publications include a 1999 article in the Canadian Yearbook on International Law which examines the public and private international law dimensions of home state obligations in the mining and environment context.

Adam McBeth

Dr Adam McBeth is a Deputy Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, where he specializes in international law and human rights subjects. His PhD thesis was on the topic of the application of international human rights law to international economic entities, and he has published a number of academic articles on topics related to the role of human rights law in the context of economic globalization. Adam has made submissions to a range of governmental and international bodies on human rights issues and has given evidence before parliamentary inquiries. He has been part of a team delivering human rights training courses to staff from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission of Victoria, the Iraqi Human Rights Ministry, and to government and civil society representatives from Indonesia. Adam has previously worked as a solicitor, a research fellow at the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and a lecturer at Deakin University.



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Matt Genasci

Matt Genasci is Legal Analyst at the Revenue Watch Institute, an independent, not-for-profit policy institute devoted to helping oil, gas and mining dependent countries avoid the "resource curse." His work focuses primarily on the design of fiscal systems in the extractive industries. Matt previously served as international tax counsel on the Democratic staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance and worked as an associate in a Washington, D.C. law firm. Matt has also worked as a consultant at the International Energy Agency, where he conducted research on climate change policy. He has a J.D. from Stanford Law School and a Masters degree in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University, SAIS.

Naing Htoo

Naing Htoo is a Program Coordinator with the Burma Project of EarthRights International. He is a Karen man and a graduate from the EarthRights School-Burma. He has worked with ERI Southeast Asia for over ten years, coordinating ERI's field research and documentation of human rights abuses in Burma, particularly surrounding development projects. Naing Htoo provides trainings to human rights advocates on fact finding and documentation of human rights abuses, and his research and fact-finding has reached key policymakers at the International Labour Organization, the United Nations, and various governments around the world. He coordinated much of the fact finding that formed the basis of the lawsuit *Doe v. Unocal Corporation*. Naing Htoo speaks Skaw Karen, Thai, Burmese, and English.

Matthew Smith

Matthew F. Smith is a Project Coordinator of the Burma Project of EarthRights International. He focuses on human rights and environmental issues connected to the oil, gas, and mining sectors in Burma, and conducts research and international advocacy with local activists from Burma. Prior to ERI, he worked with Kerry Kennedy on *Speak Truth To Power*, a project of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights. He received a B.A. from Le Moyne College and a M.A. from Columbia University.

Hannibal Travis

Hannibal Travis has served as an Assistant Professor of Law at Florida International University College of Law since 2005, teaching International and Comparative Law, Computer and Internet Law, Intellectual Property, and Antitrust Law. He conducts research primarily in the areas of Internet law, intellectual property, freedom of expression, and international human rights law. He graduated magna cum laude from



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Harvard Law School in 1999, where he served as a member of the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology and the Harvard Human Rights Journal. After law school, Professor Travis clerked for the Honorable William Matthew Byrne, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, and practiced intellectual property and Internet law at O'Melveny & Myers in San Francisco, California. Thereafter, he was an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York. He has published articles on intellectual property and Internet law in American University Law Review, Hofstra Law Review, Pepperdine Law Review, and the University of Miami Law Review.

Christiana Ochoa

Christiana Ochoa received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. Before joining the Indiana University School of Law faculty in 2003, Professor Ochoa was an associate in the Banking and Finance Group at the New York office of the global law firm, Clifford Chance, where she contributed to the completion of capital markets and asset-backed finance cross-border transactions. Professor Ochoa has also worked for a number of human rights and nongovernmental organizations in Colombia, Brazil, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Professor Ochoa teaches in the areas of human rights, corporate finance, international business transactions, and contracts. Her research largely asks questions related to complex and global governance and includes explorations of the interrelationship of international economic activity and the protection of human rights as well as inquiries into the role of the individual in customary international law formation.

Suzanne Spears

Suzanne A. Spears practices International Arbitration and Litigation at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in London. She represents European and American companies before international arbitration tribunals, including World Bank ICSID tribunals. In recent years, her clients have been predominantly energy companies with investments in Latin America, Africa and Russia. Earlier in her career, she held positions with the Council on Foreign Relations, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and Amnesty International. She has also served as a legal consultant to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia and to UNIFEM. She received a J.D. from Columbia Law School, an M.I.A. from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and a B.A. in International Relations from Tufts University. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Spain.



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Chris Deri

Chris Deri advises Fortune 500 companies across various sectors on issues and strategies related to the environmental and social impacts of their activities. He also works with NGOs that focus on sustainability, ethical conduct and global public health. Mr. Deri provides counsel and support around communications strategy & programming, issues management, public affairs, CSR reporting, management training, public-private partnerships and stakeholder engagement. Select key clients include: Starbucks, Avaya, Merck, AIG and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. Before joining Edelman, Chris served as Vice President Al Gore's Regional Business Outreach & Finance Director in the Northeast for three years. He was responsible for finance, as well as acting as the Vice President's liaison to elected officials and business leaders in the region. Prior to that, Chris served as the Director of Institutional Affairs for the National Minority AIDS Council's (NMAC) – a national training & lobbying organization representing 3000 + community-based organizations.

Richard L. Herz, Esq.

Richard Herz is litigation coordinator at EarthRights International. Mr. Herz is a 1993 Order of the Coif graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served on the Virginia Law Review. In 1994, he clerked for the Hon. Raymond A. Jackson, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. Rick was the 1997-1998 Natural Resources Law Institute Fellow at Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College. At EarthRights, Rick directs litigation against multinational corporations for international human rights and environmental abuses. As such he is co-counsel for the plaintiffs in *Doe v. Unocal*, *Bowoto v. Chevron*, *Sahu v. Union Carbide* and *Wiwa v. Royal Dutch Petroleum*. He has also filed amicus briefs in various U.S. Circuit and District courts on behalf of NGOs and law professors in important human rights cases, and he advises human rights and environmental activists and lawyers on international law.



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