



# 4<sup>o</sup> International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

SPECIAL CONVENING AMIDST COVID-19  
TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

September 14-18, 2020

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Monday, Sept 14: Meeting this Moment as Legal Aid Providers Amidst COVID-19**

**10:00 - 11:30 (GMT-3) Opening Plenary** | *Arabic, Burmese, Dari, English, French, Nepali, Spanish, Portuguese*

Master of Ceremonies:	Mr. Pedro Lenza   Professor of Constitutional Law and Civil Procedure, Largo São Francisco Faculty of Law, University of São Paulo
Welcome:	Mr. Rodrigo Pacheco   Public Defender General of the State of Rio de Janeiro
Keynote:	Ms. Gay McDougall   Senior Fellow and Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice / Center for Race, Law and Justice, Fordham University School of Law
Remarks:	Ms. Elena Abbati   Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) Brazil Ms. Katyna Argueta   Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Brazil
Discussant:	Dr. Jurema Werneck   Founder and member of the NGO CRIOLA; Director, Amnesty International - Brazil
Summation:	Ms. Jennifer Smith   Executive Director, The International Legal Foundation (ILF)

### **Speaker Bios:**

**Mr. Pedro Lenza** has been a law professor for over twenty years. During these years, in addition to teaching thousands of law students, he has also given lectures throughout Brazil, including the Supreme Court, Superior Labor Court, and for several state judges and prosecutors. He concluded his Masters (2002) and PhD (2006) in law at the University of São Paulo, one of Brazil's most prestigious universities, supervised by Professor Ada Pellegrini Grinover, a distinguished and renowned legal scholar in the country. He is also a Visiting Scholar at Boston College Law School, pursuing postdoctoral research. Author of the celebrated best seller, "Direito Constitucional Esquemático" (his Constitutional Law Treatise), Pedro Lenza is also the editor of a 22-title collection on various other areas of law.

**Mr. Rodrigo Pacheco** has been the Public Defender General of the State of Rio de Janeiro since the beginning of 2019. With more than 18 years of experience as a Public Defender, he has worked on diverse cases across the State of Rio de Janeiro. He was the Second Vice-General Public Defender from 2015 to 2018. In 2013, he was elected to become a member of the Superior Council of Public Defenders. From 2008 to 2009, Pacheco was Vice-President of the Rio de Janeiro Public Defenders' Association, and before that, from 2004 to 2005, he was Executive Director of the same organization. He holds a Bachelor's in Law degree from the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

**Ms. Gay McDougall** has spent her career working on issues of race, gender, and economic justice in the U.S. and in the global context. She has been a leader on human rights within the UN for more than three decades, holding several important positions, including 6 years as the first UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues and 8 years of service on the UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. She was Special Rapporteur on the issue of systematic rape and sexual slavery practices in armed conflict from 1995 to 1999 and played a leadership role in the UN Third World Conference against Racism held in Durban in 2001. McDougall was a member of the South African governmental body created to administer its first democratic, non-racial elections in 1994, which resulted in the historic election of President Nelson Mandela. Prior to that appointment, she served for 15 years as Director of the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, working closely with South African lawyers to secure the release of thousands of political prisoners from jail. The Government of South Africa bestowed on her their national

## ILAC2020: Speakers

medal of honor, the Order of O.R.Tambo Medal for her extraordinary contributions to ending apartheid. As Executive Director of Global Rights, she also worked with lawyers and activists in 10 countries around the world. McDougall is currently Adjunct Professor at Fordham School of Law. She received a J.D. from Yale Law School, an LL.M. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and has Honorary Degrees from nine universities.

**Elena Abbati** has been the resident representative of UNODC in Brazil since January 2020. She has more than 20 years of international professional experience in West, Central, and East Africa, the Middle East, Western and Eastern Europe, and Asia, in addition to 3 years of professional experience in Latin America. Abbati has worked for UNODC since June 2014. Between 2016 and 2020, she served as senior rule of law advisor in the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, in Senegal, where she directed the Section on Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking, which covered 22 countries, providing assistance on national priorities and promoting international cooperation. She led management of the development and implementation of a broad portfolio of programs, ranging from combating narcotics trafficking, organized crime, maritime crime, trafficking in persons, and money laundering in complex and challenging contexts. From 2014 to 2016, she coordinated one of UNODC's principal global programs, AIRCOP, which aims to strengthen the capacity of international airports in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Middle East, and Europe to detect and intercept drugs, other illicit goods, and high-risk passengers. In this role, she promoted international police cooperation that resulted in an agreement between the INTERCOPS Program of the Brazilian Federal Police and the AIRCOP Project, implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (OMA). Before joining the UNODC team, Abbati worked actively in international diplomacy and peacebuilding with the United Nations Office for Western Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) on the Cameroon-Nigeria Joint Commission for the demarcation of borders and the promotion of peace. Prior, she worked in the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments of the European Commission, as well as in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Relations, serving in various countries on four continents.

**Ms. Katyna Argueta**, a Honduran national, assumed the position of Resident Representative at UNDP Brazil in April 2019. She began her career at UNDP in 2003, first as a consultant to Honduras Country Office Representation; then, as coordinator of the HR Unit. She also worked as Deputy Country Director in Panama (2009-2012) and Haiti (2013-2015), and as Country Director to UNDP in Mexico (2016-2019). A career diplomat – holding the rank of ambassador – Katyna worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras as alternate Representative of the Honduran Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS), General Director of Foreign Policy, Chief of Staff of the Minister, Second Secretary of the Honduran Embassy in Great Britain, and Protocol Officer. In the private sector, she has held positions as director of public relations and communications, corporate planning manager, and president of a financial institution. Ms. Argueta studied Management and Administration and graduated from the Andres Bello Diplomatic Academy in Chile.

**Dr. Jurema Werneck** is the founder of the NGO CRIOLA and the director of Amnesty International in Brazil. A black feminist, physician, and author, she is also a board member of the Global Fund for Women and a member of the Brazil Human Rights Fund Council. She holds a PhD in Communication and Culture from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

**Ms. Jennifer Smith** is the executive director of the International Legal Foundation. An international expert in the field of legal aid and an experienced criminal defense lawyer, Ms. Smith has worked on legal aid reform across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. She is regularly called upon as an expert by the United Nations, governments, and organizations around the world. At the ILF, Ms. Smith has spearheaded efforts to strengthen international support for the right to quality legal representation for poor and vulnerable persons accused of crimes. She was one of the key drafters of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, the first international instrument on legal aid (adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2012), and has contributed to a number of UN guidance tools that assist governments and other stakeholders in the implementation of the right to legal aid for the criminally accused. She was also the driving force behind the first-ever international legal aid conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2014, now a biennial event. She holds a law degree from Boston College and received the institution's Hon. David S. Nelson Public Interest Law Award in 2019.

### **Tuesday, Sept 15: Advocating for Release & Protecting the Rights of People Deprived of Liberty**

**02:30 - 04:00 (GMT-3) Panel #1 (Asia) | Translation: Burmese, Dari, English, Nepali**

Panelists: Hon. Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla | Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal  
Mr. Hussain Ramoz | Advisor to the Attorney General on National Affairs, Office of the Attorney

## ILAC2020: Speakers

General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ms. Madhurima Dhanuka | Program Head, Prison Reforms Program,  
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)  
Mr. Cedric Foussard | Global Learning Senior Advisor, Terre des hommes  
Ms. Maïté De Rue | Policy Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative  
Moderator: Ms. Holly Hobart | Senior Program Director, ILF

### Speaker Bios:

**Honorable Sapana Pradhan Malla** Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nepal, elevated as a Justice in the Supreme Court of Nepal in 2016. She has served as a member of the Access to Justice Commission of the Supreme Court of Nepal from 2016 to 2020. She has been a member of the First Constituent Assembly of Nepal. She has also served as a member of the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT). Honorable Malla is a renowned women's rights activist in Nepal, who has made significant contributions in legal reform on women's rights, especially equal rights to property for women, including in the areas of reproductive health rights. She was one of the leading lawyers working for the decriminalization of abortion in Nepal and the criminalization of marital rape, who further challenged the non-implementation of the abortion law in ensuring access to abortion services to women (2007) and led to a positive legal jurisprudence from the Nepal Supreme Court (2009) in Laxmi Dhikta case. She is a founder and President of the Forum for Women, Law & Development. After joining the bench, she has extensively contributed in environmental justice and in gender justice. Some of her landmark judgments during the pandemic include a pandemic preparedness, response, and recovery system to be made women centric. Among these, the case of Advocate Roshani Paudel and Saroj Krishna Ghimire Vs Government of Nepal 076-WO-0962 to maintain the privacy of infected persons and their families to protect from stigma and discrimination, and the case of Gopal Shivakoti (Chintan) et. vs Government of Nepal 076-WO-0939 to reduce overcrowded prisons with an alternative to prison, must be highlighted. She has already contributed extensively in individual cases to release juveniles from Children Reform Home.

Born in Nawalparasi district, western Region of Nepal, Pradhan has a Bachelor in Law from Tribhuvan University, Master's Degree in Comparative Law from the University of Delhi and also has a Mid-Career Master's in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

**Mr. Hussain Ramoz** has been advisor to the Afghanistan Attorney General since 2018. He has lived most of his life in Afghanistan, however he left for Canada in 2009 to pursue his MA and PHD. Mr. Ramoz has extensive experience in areas of democracy building, human rights, and justice reform in Afghanistan. He was Country senior program manager/deputy country director for the National Democratic Institute for International affairs for three years to promote democracy in Afghanistan and later he worked as Executive Director of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission for five years. He is a well known civil society activist and has founded several civil society organizations in Afghanistan to promote the rule of law and rights including but not limited to, the Free and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA). Mr. Ramoz's current mission is to bring reform to the judiciary system in the country.

**Ms. Madhurima Dhanuka** is the Programme Head of the Prison Reforms Programme. In this capacity, she leads, manages, and develops initiatives of the team in order to improve prison conditions; strengthen prison oversight mechanisms; strengthen pre-trial decision making; ensure access to prompt and effective legal aid for persons in custody; and protect the rights of foreign nationals, asylum seekers and refugees in custody in India. She is a lawyer with an LL.M. in Criminal Justice from the University of Nottingham, UK. Prior to joining the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), she was practicing in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. She has been associated with CHRI since 2008, and has published numerous studies, reports, and resource materials on issues relating to prisoners, legal aid, and the criminal justice system.

**Mr. Cédric Foussard** is an expert on justice for children, working at the international level. Foussard is currently the coordinator of the Global Initiative on Justice with Children and is the Advocacy and Global Learning Senior Advisor for Terre des Hommes Foundation. For more than a decade, he was the Director of The International Juvenile Justice Observatory, an international not-for-profit organisation that promotes a global approach to children's rights, especially for children in conflict with the law. He has contributed to several international and European publications on access to justice for children.

**Ms. Maïté De Rue** works with the litigation team of the Open Society Justice Initiative. Maite has more than 20 years of experience working as a lawyer specializing in human rights, criminal justice, and detention. Prior to joining the Justice

## ILAC2020: Speakers

Initiative, she was deputy to the prosecutor-general in Belgium. De Rue was also a member and the first vice-president of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, an independent body of the Council of Europe that visits places of detention in Council of Europe member states to see how persons deprived of their liberty are treated. Previously, Maite served for five years as an advisor to the Belgian Government on justice and migration issues. From 2001 to 2003, she was the director of the Belgian Association for Human Rights. Maite studied law at the Université de Louvain in Belgium and has worked at the university as a lecturer in criminal law.

**Ms. Holly Hobart** is the Senior Program Director at The International Legal Foundation. Holly is a former public defender with experience in international and domestic law and political research. She joined the ILF following her graduation cum laude with an LL.M. in International Crime and Justice from the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). She brings four years of experience as a trial-level public defender from her time at the Nassau County Legal Aid Society, and experience arguing appeals and interning for a Federal Magistrate Judge. She received her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law, after obtaining a B.A. with honors in East Asian Studies from Yale University and completing a Fulbright scholarship on women's political participation in Turkey. Holly joined the ILF in 2016 as a Deputy Program Director and has worked extensively with the local lawyers in all five ILF country program offices (Afghanistan, Nepal, Palestine, Tunisia and Myanmar) to ensure proactive, client-centered, rights-based, quality criminal defense representation. She has been an integral part of developing the ILF's strategic litigation efforts, which includes the introduction of a robust pretrial litigation practice to address systematic rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and detention, failure to provide early access to counsel, and other fundamental fair trial issues.

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### **07:00 - 08:30 (GMT-3) Panel #2** (Africa, Europe, Middle East) | *Translation: Arabic, English, French*

Panelists: Ms. Olivia Rope | Director of Policy and International Advocacy, Penal Reform International  
Dr. Ammar Dwaik | Director General, Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) Palestine  
Mr. M. Mabrouk Khoualdi | General Directorate of Prisons and Rehabilitation, Tunisia  
Mr. Bruno Langhendries | Access to Justice & Detention Expert, Avocats Sans Frontières  
Ms. Joëlle Riziki | Project Coordinator, Avocats Sans Frontières DRC  
Ms. Nathalie Fragoso | Human Rights Lawyers Collective (CADHU)

Moderator: Ms. Anika Holterhof, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC

### **Speaker Bios:**

**Ms. Olivia Rope** is the Director of Policy and International Advocacy at Penal Reform International, where she leads on policy-setting and advocacy with international and regional bodies on a range of human rights and criminal justice issues, acting as spokesperson for the organisation internationally. Olivia has authored key publications and training materials for PRI and worked extensively with the UN and other institutional actors and partners. Previously, Olivia worked at Amnesty International in their European Union office in Brussels and in their New Zealand section. She completed her LL. M in International and European Human Rights Law at the University of Amsterdam in 2008 and was admitted to the High Court of New Zealand as a Barrister and Solicitor in 2009.

**Dr. Ammar Dwaik** is the Director General of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), an "A" status National Human Rights Organization (NHRO). Ammar holds a PhD in Social Policy and Management from Brandeis University in the USA, Masters in Law and Government from American University in Washington, DC, and a Bachelor in Law from Al-Yarmouk University in Jordan, and Diploma in Police Science from the Police Academy of Cairo. Before joining ICHR in 2015, he taught courses in public policy, public administration, and public law at the faculty of Law and Public Administration at Birzeit University. He has a long and diverse national and regional experience in elections management, human rights, good governance, and access to justice. He served as the Chief Electoral Officer of the Palestinian Elections Commission from 2004-2006, during which he managed the Palestinian Presidential elections of 2005 and the Parliamentary elections of 2006. Dr. Dwaik is an author and co-author of numerous legal studies and reports, and policy papers. Additionally, he was involved in drafting and co-drafting many draft laws, and by-laws, including the Palestinian Local Elections Law, the Palestinian Public Assembly Law, and the Palestinian NGOs and Public Associations Bylaw.

## ILAC2020: Speakers

**Mr Khoualdi Mabrouk** is a 25-years career lawyer within the Tunisian General Committee for Prisons and Rehabilitation. In this committee, he has held many different positions. As Deputy Director in charge of recruitment, he was responsible for the preparation of the detainee release, and since the end of 2018 he has held the position of Director of Criminal Affairs and Human Rights where he supervises the legality of documents leading to imprisonment in prisons and rehabilitation centers, and additional sentences. In addition, he ensures the respect and application of human rights standards in prisons and rehabilitation centers.

**Mr. Bruno Langhendries** previously worked as a lawyer (member of the Brussels Bar Association). He is now the Head of the Knowledge & Learning department at Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF – Lawyers Without Borders) where he mainly focuses on access to justice and detention issues. Bruno was president of the legal coordination committee for the Belgian section of Amnesty International for six years. He joined ASF in 2014, and since then has developed expertise in North-Africa, Central Africa and South-East Asia, conducting field research, supporting local teams and partners in project implementation, and coordinating international communities of practitioners to combat human rights violations in prisons.

**Ms. Joëlle Riziki** is a lawyer and works in the Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF - Lawyers Without Borders) office in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. She implements projects aimed at protecting the rights of detainees and human rights defenders, through actions in Kinshasa, Kasai, Katanga, and the eastern regions of the country. She facilitates partnerships with civil society organisations and bar associations. More recently, she coordinates a team of lawyers advocating for the effectiveness of human rights in prison, in particular during the time of the pandemic crisis.

**Ms. Nathalie Fragoso** holds a PhD in Law from Faculdade de Direito Universidade de São Paulo and a degree in law from the same institution. She holds a Zertifikat in den Grundzügen des Deutschen Rechts and a LL.M. (Master of Laws) at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. She has held positions including head of research on Privacy and Surveillance at InternetLab. Coordinator of the Luiz Gama Human Rights Clinic for the years 2013-2014. Advocacy Advisor at the Institute for the Defense of the Right to Defense between the years 2017-2018. She has been a member of the Human Rights Lawyers Collective - CADHU since 2015.

**Ms. Anika Holterhof**, LL.M., is a qualified lawyer from Germany, specialized in international and domestic criminal law and human rights. She joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2012 with the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, working on cybercrime and international cooperation, and currently holds the position of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer in the UNODC Justice Section/ Division for Operations, where she is focusing on access to justice and legal aid. Prior to joining UNODC, Anika has worked with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Defence Counsel before international and domestic courts, the Organized Crime Department of the Office of Public Prosecution in Bonn, and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. She holds a law degree from the University of Bonn (GER), and an LL.M. degree from the University of Amsterdam (NL).

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**10:00 - 11:30 (GMT-3) Panel #3 (Americas) | Translation: English, Spanish, Portuguese**

Panelists: Ms. Caroline Tassara | Public Defender & Custody Hearings Coordinator,  
Public Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro  
Mr. Luis Lanfredi | National Council of Justice, Brazil  
Mr. Mariano Patricio Maciel | Federal Public Defender, Argentina &  
Inter-American Public Defender  
Ms. Jo-Ann Wallace | President and CEO, National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA)  
Ms. Glenda Carolina Ayala Mejía | Head of the National Committee for the Prevention of  
Torture - Comité Nacional de Prevención contra la Tortura, Tratos Cruelos, Inhumanos  
y Degradantes (CONAPREV), Honduras

Moderator: Mr. Andre Castro, Public Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro

**Speaker Bios:**

## ILAC2020: Speakers

**Ms. Caroline Tassara** is a Public Defender of the State of Rio de Janeiro and the Coordinator of the Center for Custody Hearings since December 2017. She will present the experience of the Public Defender's Office in monitoring custody hearings under the light of the Office's institutional protocol to prevent and combat torture. She will also address Rio de Janeiro's successful experience of resuming custody hearings amidst the pandemic, after an initial period of suspension by federal authorities.

**Mr. Luis Lanfrendi** is a judge at the State Courts of São Paulo. He has been the Assistant Judge of the Presidency and Coordinator of the Department of Monitoring and Inspection of the Prison System and Compliance with Juvenile Socio-Educational Measures at the Brazilian National Council of Justice from 2014-2016 and 2018-2020. He was Vice-President of the Brazilian National Council for Criminal and Penitentiary Policies for the Ministry of Justice from 2013-2014. He acted as Legal Expert Associate and Representative of the Judiciary at the Organization of American States (OAS) from 2016-2018. He holds a Master's degree in Criminal Procedure from the University of São Paulo and holds a Master's and PhD degree in Criminology and Criminal Legal Sociology at the University of Barcelona, Spain. He holds a Specialist title in "Prison and Penitentiary Law" from the University of Barcelona (UB), Spain.

**Mr. Mariano Patricio Maciel** is an Argentinian Public Defender before the National Cassation Criminal Court since its creation in 2015. He serves as an Inter-American Public Defender of AIDEF until 2022 when his three year mandate will end. He was a Public Defender before the Trial Criminal Courts of Buenos Aires for 27 years, with intervention in more than 1000 trials. He is the Co-Chair of the Program for the Prevention of Torture and ill-treatment in Detention Facilities. He was also appointed by the General Public Defender to give the opinions of the Public Defender's Office of Argentina at the "Program for the Application of Human Rights Treaties." He holds a masters degree in International Human Rights Law at the University of Buenos Aires' Law School.

**Ms. Jo-Ann Wallace** is the President and CEO of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the United States' oldest and largest nonprofit association devoted to excellence in the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford counsel. Previously, Ms. Wallace was the Director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, widely regarded as the nation's model defender agency. She is a founder of the American Council of Chief Defenders, a leadership council of the top defender executives from across the United States, and the District of Columbia Appellate Practice Institute. Ms. Wallace will be sharing the experience of public defenders in the United States as they work to reduce the spread of the virus by decreasing unnecessary incarceration in overcrowded jails with inadequate sanitary and social distancing measures. She will describe public defenders during this time and the ongoing efforts to advocate for defenders as they advocate for their clients. She will also touch on the ways that video conferencing impacts client representation.

**Ms. Glenda Carolina Ayala Mejía** is a human rights lawyer. She currently serves as the National Commissioner for Civil Society of the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the National Preventive Mechanism of Honduras (MNP-CONAPREV). She formerly served as a Prosecutor for the Public Ministry and Sentence Enforcement Judge. She also teaches at the University for Peace of Costa Rica, and specializes in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure at the Autonomous University of Honduras. She has more than 24 years of experience in the justice system, with extensive knowledge of the National Penitentiary System.

**Mr. André Castro** has been a Public Defender since 1998 and holds a masters degree in Civil-Constitutional Law from the State University of Rio de Janeiro – UERJ. He was president of the Association of Public Defenders of the State of Rio de Janeiro, General Coordinator for the Modernization of the Judiciary of the Ministry of Justice, and he was elected president of the National Association of Public Defenders of Brazil – ANADEP in 2009. During this period, he also assumed the General Coordination of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders - AIDEF, participating in the implementation of an agreement between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Organization of American States - OAS. In 2015, he was elected and appointed to General Public Defender of the State of Rio de Janeiro, until 2018. As Public Defender of the State of Rio de Janeiro, he has collaborated with the Public Defender's Office before international human rights bodies on multiple cases.

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**Wed Sept 16: Holistic Representation & Access to Justice for Vulnerable & Marginalized Groups**

**02:30 - 04:00 (GMT-3) Panel #4 (Asia) | Translation: Burmese, English, Dari, Nepali**

Panelists: Mr. Jose Manuel I. Diokno | Founding Dean, De La Salle University (DLSU) College of Law & Chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) - Philippines  
Mr. Shahin R. Ali | Acting Director, Legal Aid Commission - Fiji  
Ms. Rea Abada Chiongson | Senior Legal Advisor on Gender, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)  
Mr. M. Nabi Waqar | Country Director, ILF Afghanistan  
Mr. Febi Yonesta | Head of Organizational Development, Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI)

Moderator: Ms. Sara Hossain | Hon. Executive Director, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Advisory Board Member, Open Society Justice Initiative

**Speaker Bios:**

**Mr. Jose Manuel I. Diokno** is the founding dean of the De La Salle University (DLSU) College of Law and Chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG). He practiced law for 30 years and gained prominence as a human rights lawyer and litigator. He was short-listed for the position of Associate Justice by the Judicial and Bar Council of the Supreme Court of the Philippines in 2012. Diokno served as a member of the Supreme Court Core Committee of the National Conference for the Revision of the Rules of Civil Procedure and chaired the Post-Trial Cluster Technical Working Group (TWG) in 2013. He also served as a member of the TWG under the Supreme Court Committee on Continuing Legal Education and Bar Matters and the Philippine Association of Law Schools in 2017, where he headed the Cluster on Networking and Coordination and participated in the 1st National Summit for Legal Aid in Law Schools. Though already well-established in legal and human rights circles, Dean Diokno gained wider public prominence when he ran for a Senate seat on a platform of justice and judicial reform during the 2019 midterm elections. He emerged as one of the leading opposition to Senatorial candidates largely due to an outpour of support from young voters, who dubbed him as their “WOKE LOLO” because of his progressive views and his advocacy for empowering the youth.

**Mr. Shahin Ali** is the longest-serving employee of the Legal Aid Commission (the “Commission”), having worked for the Commission for over 15 years. He started his career at the Commission in March 2004 as a Paralegal Clerk. In April 2006, he was appointed as the Office Manager. In September 2009, he was promoted to Business Operations Manager, and in 2012 Mr. Shahin was given the added responsibility of Secretary to the Legal Aid Commission Board. In 2016 he was appointed as the Acting Director of the Legal Aid Commission, a position he holds to date. In addition to this, he still holds his substantive post of Business Operations Manager and Secretary to the Legal Aid Commission Board. Shahin has over 15 years of operational, management, and administration experience and has focused most of his work towards the improvement and expansion of legal aid services around the country, ensuring Fijians have easy and quality access to justice. He graduated with a Law Degree in 2013, and on 7th February 2014, he was admitted to the Fijian Bar as a Barrister and Solicitor. His preferred area of practice is Family Law, whilst he also undertakes both Criminal and Civil law matters. Shahin enjoys the work done by the Legal Aid Commission in providing greater access to justice to all Fijians and feels privileged to be able to serve his fellow Fijians.

**Ms. Rea Abada Chiongson** is the Senior Legal Advisor on Gender at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). She leads IDLO’s work on justice for women and spearheads the integration of gender in the organization’s justice and rule of law programming. Rea has more than 20 years of experience in rule of law and gender and development, having worked across regions and themes. Before joining IDLO in 2014, she was a Gender and Justice Advisor at the World Bank for the Justice for the Poor and the Gender, Conflict, and Fragility programs. She also worked as a gender and law specialist with the Asian Development Bank, UN Women, UNDP, and UNFPA, building technical capacities of governments, CSOs, and academia on legal assessments and gender-responsive legal reforms. In her earlier years, she worked with the International Women’s Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific, strengthening global, regional, and national capacities on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in at least 30 countries. From 1996-2001, she was a staff attorney at the Ateneo Human Rights Center in the Philippines working on legal reform and providing legal aid and empowerment to marginalized segments of society. As Deputy Secretary-General of the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism in this period, she was instrumental in the creation of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children.

## ILAC2020: Speakers

**Mr. M. Nabi Waqar** is the International Legal Foundations's Country Director in Afghanistan. He joined the ILF in 2013 and is responsible for strategic planning, operations, and project management. Mr. Waqar is an Afghan justice reform expert and a key drafter of the government's recently adopted Legal Aid Policy. He holds a Master's degree in Executive Leadership and Management from Portland State University in addition to a Bachelor's degree in Law and Political Science from Aryana University in Nangarhar. Mr. Waqar has over a decade of professional experience, working with organizations including Mercy Corps International and Pajhwok News Agency. He also has a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Kateb University, Kabul, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Himachal Pradesh University, in Shimla, India. He speaks fluent English, Pashto, Dari, and Urdu.

**Mr. Febi Yonesta** started his law career with LBH Jakarta in 2005. He was officially admitted as a lawyer with the Indonesian Lawyer Association (PERADI) in 2007. He has been involved in various legal advocacy, research, and strategic litigation. His work is focused on advocacy or research on freedom of religion or belief, anti-torture, refugee protection, and fair trials, among others. He also has experience in conducting community legal empowerment and developing paralegal initiatives. After ending his term as director of LBH Jakarta in August 2015, Yonesta became the Chairperson of Suaka (the Indonesian Civil Society Network for Refugee Protection). He was also active in coordinating a religious diversity program with Yayasan Cahaya Guru and was working as a consultant for The Asia Foundation's project on Human Rights Defender with the Indonesia Human Rights Institution (Komnasham) and promoting religious tolerance through the Indonesia Members of Parliament Caucus (Kaukus Pancasila). He also coordinated a Pro Bono movement project with the Indonesian Lawyer Association (PERADI). He is currently joining the Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI) as the co-chair for organizational development.

**Ms. Sara Hossain** is a barrister practicing in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, mainly in the areas of constitutional, public interest, and family law. She is a partner at the law firm of Dr. Kamal Hossain and Associates and serves pro bono as the Honorary Executive Director of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. She is a member of the Board of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and is associated with several international civil society initiatives (the Advisory Board of the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Advisory Committee of the Women's International Coalition on Gender Justice (WICG), the Bureau of South Asians for Human Rights, and as the International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts). She was a member of the Group of Experts on Accountability in the DPRK and was part of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Gaza Protests of 2018. Sara ran the South Asia Programme at INTERIGHTS from 1997 to 2003. She was a founding board member of the South Asia Women's Fund (now the Women's Fund Asia) and served as a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists. She has vast experience in public interest law, human rights, and women's rights and access to justice, having authored articles, held presentations, and represented several cases in these areas. Sara was educated at Wadham College, Oxford (MA (Hons) 1988), called to the Bar from Middle Temple (1989), enrolled in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh (1992) and then in the Appellate Division in 2008. She has received awards from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First), the US State Department (Women of Courage), 'Ananya' magazine, and been selected as a World Economic Forum Fellow and an Asia 21 Fellow.

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### **07:00 - 08:30 (GMT-3) Panel #5** (Africa, Europe, Middle East) | *Translation: Arabic, English, French*

Panelists: Ms Valeriia Kolomiets | Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine  
Ms. Ilze Tralmaka | Legal Aid Policy Officer, Fair Trials  
Ms. Chinelo Elizabeth Uchendu | Lawyer and National Coordinator of Legal Advocacy and Response To Drugs Initiative (LARDI), Nigeria  
Mr. Ghadanfar Kamanji | Country Director, ILF Palestine  
Ms. Nadia Carine Fornel Poutou | President, Association des Femmes Juristes Centrafricaines

Moderator: Mr. D. Christopher Decker | Joint Programme Manager, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, UNDP

### **Speaker Bios:**

## ILAC2020: Speakers

**Ms Valeriia Kolomiets** is the Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine. Prior to her appointment, Valeriia was a practicing criminal defense lawyer and a Lecturer in the Master's Program in Human Rights at the Ukrainian Catholic University. With the Department of Special Proceedings of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, she participated in public investigations of human rights violations by law enforcement agencies of Lviv Oblast, Ukraine. She also served as Regional Coordinator of the Team for Combating Violations of Vulnerable Groups in Lviv Oblast and was a member of the Public Council at the Prosecutor's Office of Lviv Oblast. With vast experience in criminal legal defense, she has trained and facilitated important exchange between lawyers who provide free legal aid.

**Ms. Ilze Tralmaka** is the Legal Aid Policy Officer at Fair Trials.

**Ms. Chinelo Elizabeth Uchendu** is a lawyer, project consultant, and humanitarian worker with over 12 years of work experience. She has a passion for International Development, Criminal Justice Sector Reforms, and Good Governance. She is a servant leader whose volunteer activities have taken her around eight African countries on humanitarian missions. Her private law firm (Dei Solicitors and Legal Practitioners) renders 80% pro bono services to prisoners, and this earned her the Mandela Washington Fellowship – (For Young African Leaders – YALI), a US Government Sponsored program for young leaders making a positive impact within their communities in Africa. In 2018, she assisted the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) under its “Response to Drugs and Related Organized Crime project” funded by the European Union. At the UNODC, she mapped out pro bono lawyers who would be willing and available to render legal aid services to indigent drug arrestees. This mapping exercise led to the creation of a new network of pro bono lawyers for assisting drug arrestees in Nigeria called the “Legal Advocacy Response to Drugs Initiative – LARDI.” This organization has recorded over 128 case interventions for indigent drug arrestees. She currently serves as the pioneer National Coordinator and first Board Chairperson of this pro bono network. It remains her desire to work with more development partners to promote the emergence of a more humane, just, and secured society that corrects and empowers her citizens for a crime-free world.

**Mr. Ghadanfar Kamanji** is the International Legal Foundation's Country Director in Palestine. Promoted to Country Director in 2019, after seven years with the ILF, Mr. Kamanji manages legal aid teams serving all of the West Bank. He is passionate about positive youth development and an expert on juvenile defense within Palestine's complex legal system. After obtaining his law degree from the Arab American University of Jenin and post-graduate certificate in law from Birzeit, Mr. Kamanji worked as a legal consultant for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Ramallah. Mr. Kamanji joined the ILF in 2012 as a criminal defense lawyer in Jenin and then served as an office director. He became the ILF's legal director for Palestine in 2016, leading a holistic representation of juveniles across the West Bank, mentoring attorneys, and training staff in strategic litigation. He has also served on the Palestinian Bar Association's Legal Aid Committee. Mr. Kamanji has trained legal professionals across the Middle East and North Africa, from Tunisia to Jordan.

**Ms. Fornel Poutou** is a jurist specialised in human rights and an active member of the Association of Central African Women Jurists since 2001. She has been the President of the Association of Central African Women Jurists (AFJC by its French acronym) since 2017, one of the biggest NGOs in CAR, having provided legal aid services to more than 13 500 Central Africans since their establishment in 2017. She is a renowned activist in CAR for access to justice and women's human rights, regularly liaising with national authorities, the Special Criminal Court and the ICC.

**Mr. D. Christopher Decker** is the Joint Programme Manager for a “One-UN” rule of law programme entitled Sawasya in Palestine, which focuses on women and children. He previously served as Chief Technical Adviser for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Nepal's Rule of Law and Human Rights Project and was the Programme Coordinator of the Democratic Governance Programme of UNDP in Kosovo. He was also the Director of the Department of Human Rights and Communities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Mission in Kosovo. He also served as OSCE Mission in Kosovo's legal adviser on policing and human rights, Chief of its Security Issues Section, and Head of the Human Rights/Rule of Law Division. Mr. Decker was formerly a Senior Researcher at the European Centre for Minority Issues where he served as a legal adviser assisting the Romanian Deputy Prime Minister and the Department of Inter-Ethnic Relations on the drafting of a law on the status of National Minorities. In this position he also provided legal advice to the government in Northern Cyprus during the Annan Plan negotiations. Mr. Decker has a B.A. in Political Science and History from Purdue University, a J.D. with a Certificate in International Law from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, England.

## ILAC2020: Speakers

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**10:00 - 11:30 (GMT-3) Panel #6 (Americas) | Translation: English Spanish, Portuguese**

Panelists: Ms. Rosana Leite | Public Defender of the State of Mato Grosso, Brazil & Coordinator, Public Defender's National Commission on Women's Rights  
Ms. Raquel Asensio | Coordinator, Commission on Gender Issues of the Federal Public Defenders' Office of Argentina  
Mr. Gilles Trudeau | Corporate Secretary, Montreal Community Legal Center (CCJM)  
Ms. Isabel Erreguerena | Coordinator, EQUIS Justice for Women  
Ms. Fran Sherman | Professor and Director, Juvenile Rights Advocacy Program at Boston College Law School

Moderator: Ms. Gloria Manzotti | Rule of Law, Citizen Security & Human Rights Specialist, UNDP

### Speaker Bios:

**Ms. Rosana Leite** is a Public Defender at the State of Mato Grosso. She is the Coordinator of the Special Commission for the Promotion and Defense of Women's Rights at CONDEGE and the Coordinator of NUDEM/MT. She is a master's degree candidate in Sociology at the Federal University of the State of Mato Grosso. She is a writer for a weekly column about women's rights in *Gazeta*, a Brazilian newspaper. She is also a member of the Thematic Chamber of Violence Against Women of the Public Security Secretary of the State of Mato Grosso. She was the former President of the Council for the Rights of Women of the State of Mato Grosso and was the creator and now the rapporteur of the Thematic Chamber of Legislative Assembly of the State of Mato Grosso. Public Defender Rosana Leite will address violence against women in the Brazilian context amidst the pandemic.

**Ms. Raquel Asensio** is an Argentinian lawyer with a law degree from the University of Buenos Aires. She is the Coordinator of the Commission on Gender Issues of the Federal Public Defender's Office of Argentina. She holds a Specialization in Public Law (University of Palermo) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Women's Human Rights: Theory and Practice (University of Chile). She has lectured at international and national conferences and has authored and co-authored publications on issues related to access to justice, human rights, and gender.

**Mr. Gilles Trudeau** has been employed by the Center Communautaire Juridique de Montréal (CCJM) since 1990. He was appointed director of the Bureau of Criminal and Penal Affairs (BACP) in 2001. Since October 2011, he is now the corporate secretary of the CCJM. A graduate of the Faculty of Law of the University of Sherbrooke in 1986, he did his CCJM internship in criminal law in 1988. Admitted to the Bar in 1988, he joined the firm Derôme Rouiller Trudeau and Brossoit S.E.N.C where he was a partner from 1988 to 1990. He returned to CCJM in September 1990, where he practiced in the criminal and penal affairs office, and from 2001 took on a management position. In addition to his duties as litigator and director, he was involved with the Barreau du Québec and the Barreau de Montréal and in the committees of the Court of Quebec: Committee of the Barreau du Québec for liaison with municipal courts; Quebec Bar working committee on replacement measures for adults; Committee on the administration of criminal justice of the Bar of Montreal; Sub-committee on the modification of hearing rooms; Ad hoc committee of the Bar of Montreal on video appearances; Committee on the management of Court of Quebec files; Committee on the development of the drug addiction treatment program of the Court of Quebec. Mr. Trudeau has also been actively involved in the profession by being a member of the Montreal Defense Lawyers Association since 1988; he was elected to the Board of Directors from 1995 to 2010. He successively held the positions of treasurer, secretary, vice-president, and was president from 2005 to 2008. He represented this Association and the Barreau du Québec in parliamentary committee, before the Senate and the Parliament during work on the reforms of legal aid (1995, 1996, 1997, 2004), and of the Criminal Code (2007 and 2010). He has interviewed the media on a variety of criminal justice issues and has lectured for the CCJM, the SCJ, and the AADM. He was also a member of a community organization helping itinerant women and men in Longueuil, of which he was president in 2008 and 2009. He is now president of the board of directors of the Société Élizabeth Fry du Québec and member of the ASRSQ political committee. He also sits on the board of directors of the Société de criminologie du Québec.

**Ms. Isabel Erreguerena** is the coordinator of EQUIS Justice for Women.

**Ms. Francine Sherman** is a Clinical Professor at Boston College Law School, where she has been teaching Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights & Public Policy for the past thirty years and where she founded and directs the Juvenile

## ILAC2020: Speakers

Rights Advocacy Program. She speaks and writes widely about the juvenile justice system and, in particular, about girls and young women in the justice system. She has spoken before Congress and at the White House, served on the U.S. Department of Justice National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women focusing on children and teens victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault, and as consultant to OJJDP's National Girls Initiative. Her report, *Gender Injustice: System-Level Juvenile Justice Reforms for Girls*, provides a comprehensive overview of the needs and pathways of girls into and through the justice system and details a developmental approach to current juvenile justice reforms. She is also the author of *Gender, Justice and Youth Development in the Oxford Handbook of Children and the Law*, *Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy and Practice* (Wiley & Sons), and "Justice for Girls: Are we Making Progress?" (UCLA Law Review). She regularly consults with national and local foundations and systems on issues related to gender and youth justice systems. She consults with the International Legal Foundation, where she has worked in the West Bank and written an assessment of Myanmar's juvenile justice system. She is currently working with a collaborative of young women and gender expansive young activists on I Am Why ([iamwhy.org](http://iamwhy.org) @iamwhyjustice), which expands young activist collective power to influence justice system policy and practice. Her current research includes a comparative study of girl-focused specialty courts and a book based on one young woman's experience growing up in child-serving systems in the United States.

**Ms. Gloria Manzotti** has more than 12 years of experience working with UNDP in different country contexts in the Latin American Region. Since 2006, she participated in field missions providing technical assistance on demand for UNDP Country Offices and governments of the region in the area of citizen security, access to justice and human rights. She has contributed to the design of new knowledge and tools for action, as well as providing technical support for global initiatives, UNDP regional projects, national and local governments, NGOs and other UN agencies (2006-2018). In particular, she has provided advice to governments in designing public policies of citizen security, she has supported transformations of the justice system in Latin America and promoted the human rights agenda. In her country, Gloria has combined her academic experience with the public service. She has been part of the management team of the Airport Security Police of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Argentina, she has led the design of the Police Training Institute and was a parliamentary advisor on the rule of law in the Senate in Argentina. Prior to this, Gloria was the Justice, Security and Human Rights Specialist for UNDP in Panama. She strengthened strategic alliances and mobilized resources for new alliances, she actively promoted innovation, linking the 2030 Agenda with human rights, and contributed to generating new knowledge and tools for action for rule of law and gender. Gloria can be reached out at [gloria.manzotti@undp.org](mailto:gloria.manzotti@undp.org)

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**Thursday, Sept 17: Combating Systemic Racial & Ethnic Discrimination**

**02:30 - 04:00 (GMT-3) Panel #7 (Asia) | Translation: Burmese, English, Dari, Nepali**

Panelists: Mr. Ajay Shankar Jha Rupesh | Executive Director, Public Defender Society of Nepal  
Mr. David Woodroffe | Principal Legal Officer, Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA)  
Mrs. Pornpen Khongkachonkiet (Noinoi) | CrCF, Thailand  
Ms. Preeti Pratishruti Dash | Associate, Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi  
Mr. Patrick Burgess | Co-founder and President, Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)

Moderator: Ms. Shikha Pandey | Program Manager, ILF

**Speaker Bios:**

**Mr. Ajay Shankar Jha “Rupesh”** is the Executive Director of the Public Defender Society of Nepal (PDS-Nepal). Mr. Jha joined the ILF in Nepal in 2008 after working for eight years as a private advocate. Besides providing direct legal representation, Mr. Jha is actively involved in defense lawyers and advocating for expanded access to justice. As a legal expert, Mr. Jha provided input for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime handbook on Early access to legal aid in criminal justice processes as well as UNODC’s draft Model Law on Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System. Mr. Jha has served as the Chairman of the Janakpur Youth Club and was a founding member of the Mithila People Service Council. He obtained his Bachelor’s in Law from Tribhuvan University, holds an LLM degree in Criminal Law and Justice, and is a member of the Nepal Bar Association.

**Mr. David Woodroffe** is the Principal Legal Officer for NAAJA (North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency) in the Northern Territory of Australia with over 20 years’ experience in criminal law and advocacy for Indigenous Australians. He became interested in the law because he felt passionately about justice for the Stolen Generation of past practices of Indigenous child removal and has since established a reputation for protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous people. He was awarded the National Australian Indigenous Legal Practitioner of the Year in 2013, and the Australian Human Rights Award Lawyer of the Year in 2018. He is also the President of the Aboriginal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory ‘Winkuku Rrambanji.

**Mrs. Pornpen Khongkachonkiet** is a human rights defender and the director of the Cross Cultural Foundation – an organization which monitors and documents cases of torture and ill-treatment in Thailand. She has been involved in various Human Rights issues both in Thailand and the region, including women’s rights, indigenous rights, and preventing forced disappearances. Her work serves the public interest by ensuring that authorities are held accountable and pressuring authorities to unconditionally respect the Human Rights of all. She has questioned the systemic racial and ethnic discrimination towards counter insurgency in Southern Thailand for more than 15 years. Pornpen Khongkachonkiet was a Fellow with the Asia Pacific programme for six months, working on prevention of torture issues, particularly in the ASEAN region in 2014. In February 2016, Cross-Cultural Foundation and Duay Jai (Hearty Support) Group published a joint report documenting 54 cases of torture and other ill-treatment by the Royal Thai Police and Royal Thai Army in Thailand’s southern provinces. On 17 May 2016, the Internal Security Operations Command Region Four, which is responsible for security operations in the area, initiated criminal defamation and computer crimes charges against the three human rights defenders, who edited the report. In March 2017, after significant campaigning by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations, military officials stated that they would withdraw the charges. However, only the criminal defamation charges were withdrawn at that time. In recent years, Thai authorities have targeted many activists, human rights defenders, journalists, and other members of Thailand’s civil society as part of a systematic crackdown on government critics. She has continued to monitor the human rights situation in Southern Thailand which is now experiencing a lack of media freedom.

**Ms. Preeti Pratishruti Dash** is a Research Associate with Project 39A, a pro-bono initiative on criminal justice located within the National Law University in Delhi, India. Preeti graduated in law in 2014 as a gold medalist, and she completed her LL.M. from Harvard Law School, where she was a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Master’s Fellowship. At Project 39A, Preeti researches on issues of sentencing, sexual violence, and the death penalty.

**Mr. Patrick Burgess**, an Australian barrister, is the President of Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), an international human rights non-profit based in Jakarta and Sydney. He was previously the Senior Member and Acting Principal Member (Head

## ILAC2020: Speakers

of the Australian Refugee Tribunal, Director of Human Rights for two United Nations Peacekeeping Missions to Timor Leste, Principal Legal Counsel to the Timor Leste Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CAVR), and Asia Director for the International Centre for Transitional Justice. Patrick was a member of the team of experts that drafted the UN Model Criminal Procedure Code and the UN Model Law on Legal Aid. He was the co-creator of two highly successful TV series using pro bono and legal aid themes in Myanmar (The Sun, the Moon, and the Truth) seen by over eight million viewers and 'Waves of Justice' (Laloran Justisa) in Timor Leste. Patrick was Senior Advisor on Australian government justice support projects in Jakarta, team leader of large humanitarian emergency projects in post-genocide Rwanda, Yemen, DRC, Uganda, and Indonesia. Patrick Burgess is an international expert on transitional justice, access to justice, legal aid, human rights, and using mass media for change. He is also a professional musician and recording artist.

**Ms. Shikha Pandey** is currently serving as a program management consultant with the International Legal Foundation in Myanmar. Prior to her current position, she was the David W. Leebron Human Rights Fellow hosted by the Jagdalpur Legal Aid Group in India, where she provided legal representation to the indigenous Adivasi community in conflict-affected areas and researched the operation of anti-terrorism courts in southern Chhattisgarh. A criminal lawyer, she has represented clients before the trial courts and high courts in India. Ms. Pandey has also served as an ILF International Fellow facilitating a multi-week training for Afghan defense lawyers. She holds a law degree from the University of Delhi, as well as a Master's degree in Social Work from the same institution. She also obtained an LLM from Columbia Law School in New York.

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**07:00 - 08:30 (GMT-3) Panel #8** (Africa, Europe, Middle East) | *Translation: Arabic, English, French*

Panelists: Hon. Mr. Dunstan Mlambo | Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa  
Mr. Bruno Min | Legal Director, Fair Trials  
Mr. Hussein Khalid | Executive Director, HAKI Africa  
Ms. Hanen Fathallah | Legal Director, ILF Tunisia  
Ms. Sabrina Mahtani | Co-Founder & Board Member, AdvocAid  
Moderator: Mr. Zaza Namoradze | Director, Open Society Justice Initiative—Berlin Office

### Speaker Bios:

**The Honourable Justice Dunstan Mlambo** is currently Judge President of the [Gauteng Division](#) of the [High Court of South Africa](#). He has three decades of experience as a distinguished lawyer and judge, and served as the chairperson of Legal Aid South Africa from 2002 to 2019. Justice Mlambo has played a pivotal role in expanding access to justice around the world, chairing the UNODC Expert Group that approved the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems in 2011. He also chaired the UNODC expert group that revised the Nelson Mandela Rules, setting United Nations standards for the treatment of prisoners. Justice Mlambo holds a law degree from the University of the North and is a trustee of the Legal Resources Centre in South Africa.

**Mr. Bruno Min** is a Legal Director at Fair Trials, a global criminal justice watchdog that works to improve respect for the right to a fair trial. He leads on the organisation's UK and International legal and policy work, and focuses on discrimination, cross-border justice, and the impact of technological developments on criminal justice systems.

**Mr. Hussein Khalid** is currently the Executive Director of HAKI Africa. For the last 15 years, Mr. Khalid has been at the forefront of agitating for the rights of community members at the grassroots level in Kenya and the general East African region. Mr. Khalid has worked with and served as a member of numerous civil rights groups and institutions, including Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), Government Taskforce on Grievances of Coast People, the Centre for Law and Research International (CLARION) and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC). He has been involved in various national and international processes to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms of the people including giving testimonies to numerous taskforces. Mr. Khalid is a lawyer by profession and has also undertaken other courses including Fundamentals of Social Accountability at Rhodes University (South Africa), International Human Rights Conventions at the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) and Crime Prevention in Kenya with the United States International University (Kenya)

## ILAC2020: Speakers

**Ms. Hanen Fathallah** is the legal director of ILF's Tunisia program. A nationally and internationally recognized authority in Tunisian legal aid, she has pioneered early access to counsel and effective pretrial advocacy in courts throughout Tunisia. She obtained her Master's in Law from the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Tunis. An expert in a wide variety of specialty issues including human trafficking and advocacy at police stations, she is frequently called upon to train lawyers on best practices.

**Ms. Sabrina Mahtani** is a human rights lawyer from Zambia/UK. She has over 15 years of experience working in the human rights field and is a specialist in women in the criminal justice system. She has prepared cases before domestic, regional, and international courts. Sabrina was the Wasserstein fellow in residence at Harvard Law School's Human Rights Program, where she spent a semester conducting human rights research as well as advising students about public interest career paths. She previously worked at Amnesty International, leading the organization's research and advocacy work on Anglophone West Africa. Sabrina is also the co-founder of the award-winning NGO, AdvocAid, which is the only holistic organization in West Africa providing access to justice, education, and empowerment for women in criminal justice in Sierra Leone. The organization has freed six women on death row and provided legal aid to over 4000 women. She has previously worked at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Sabrina is a regular writer and commentator on human rights issues and has written for a variety of publications, including Al Jazeera, The Africa Portal, and New Internationalist. She has worked on a number of human rights documentaries and created the first legal education TV series in Sierra Leone. She holds a BA in Law and History from University College London and an LL.M. from New York University.

**Mr. Zaza Namoradze** is the director of the Open Society Justice Initiative's Berlin office where he oversees legal aid and defendants' rights and legal empowerment and capacity. Since 2016, he also leads the implementation of the OSFs' Legal Empowerment Shared Framework. Mr. Namoradze previously served as a staff attorney and, later, Deputy Director of the Open Society Institute's Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, where he designed and oversaw projects in constitutional and judicial reforms, in student law clinics and human rights litigation, and capacity building in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Mr. Namoradze has worked for the Center for the Study of Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia, and was a member of the State Constitutional Commission of Georgia. Mr. Namoradze earned a degree in law from Tbilisi State University, studied in the comparative constitutionalism program at Central European University, and earned an LL.M from the University of Chicago Law School.

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### 10:00 - 11:30 (GMT-3) Panel #9 (Americas) | *Translation: English Spanish, Portuguese*

Panelists: Ms. Ana Paula de Oliveira | NGO Mães de Manguinhos, Brazil  
Ms. Masha Lisitsyna | Senior Managing Legal Officer, Criminal Justice Cluster,  
Open Society Justice Initiative  
Ms. April Frazier Camara | Co-Founder & Chair, Black Public Defender Association  
Dr. Raymund E Narag | Associate Professor, Southern Illinois University School of Justice and  
Public Safety  
Moderator: Mr. Nicolás Laino | Public Defender, Federal Public Defender's Office of Argentina & Member of  
ILF Board of Directors

### Speaker Bios:

**Ms. Ana Paula Oliveira** was born and raised in the favela of Manguinhos, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). She is a 43 years old black woman, graduated in pedagogy, and is the mother of Johnatha de Oliveira Lima, murdered at the age of 19 with a shot in the back by a military policeman from the Peacekeeping Police Unit. Founder of the Mothers of Manguinhos Movement, Ana Paula fights for memory, truth, and justice alongside other mothers in the National Network of Mothers and Family Members of Victims of Terrorism in the State. The Movement Mothers of Manguinhos serves relatives of victims and develops a project to welcome mothers in partnership with the Center for Psychosocial Care of People Affected by State Violence (Napave). She also acts as a youth counselor in the project "Se Liga no Território," a partnership between Mothers Manguinhos and the Federation of Bodies for Social and Educational Assistance - FASE.

## ILAC2020: Speakers

She is a member of the Social Forum of Manguinhos and has participated in projects in partnership with Amnesty International and Fiocruz.

**Ms. Masha Lisitsyna** is a senior managing legal officer with the accountability division at the Open Society Justice Initiative based in New York. With over 25 years of experience in the human rights field, Lisitsyna focuses on prevention, accountability, and reparations for torture within criminal justice systems and in a national security context. She works with the Open Society Foundations' partners in Eurasia, Asia, and Latin America to research, litigate, and advocate against the abuses by police and security services. Prior to joining the Justice Initiative, Lisitsyna served as a Central Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch, and co-founded and served as the executive director of the Youth Human Rights Group, a human rights NGO in Kyrgyzstan. In 2005, Lisitsyna served as a member of Kyrgyzstan's Constitutional Council; the body convened to work on constitutional amendments.

**Ms. April Frazier Camara** is the Chief of Lifelong Learning at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association ("NLADA"). She is a nationally recognized trainer in the area of leadership, racial equity, diversity and inclusion, and criminal justice reform. Prior to joining NLADA, April worked as a community public defender at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, which is widely recognized as the national model for quality public defense. She later served as the Special Assistant in the Juvenile Defender Unit at the Law Office of the Shelby County Public Defender, where she was responsible for implementing Department of Justice reforms and helping to build the first-ever holistic and team-based juvenile defense practice in Shelby County that employed both social workers and attorneys. She also has experience working on national policy reform at the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C., and Legal Action Center in N.Y. She is a leader within the American Bar Association, currently serving as chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section and member of the ABA Women in Criminal Justice Taskforce. As a former co-chair of the ABA CJS Diversity and Inclusion Committee, she was responsible for the creation and implementation of the CJS Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship Program. She is also the co-founder of the new Black Public Defender Association, which is a membership section of the NLADA. April is a graduate of Tennessee State University and Howard University School of Law. Her most recent publication is "Save Black Lives: A Call for Racially-responsive Strategies and Resources for the Black Community during the COVID-19 Pandemic," a comprehensive report that details why public health responses and strategies to address COVID-19, must be centered around race and the criminal legal system.

**Dr. Raymund E. Narag** is an associate professor at the School of Justice and Public Safety at Southern Illinois University. He obtained his doctorate degree from Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice as a United States Fulbright Scholar from the Philippines. Prior to his stint in academia, Dr. Narag was falsely accused of a crime he did not commit. He languished in Quezon City Jail, the Philippines' most crowded jail for almost seven years. He was eventually declared innocent and cleared of all charges. The profound personal experience propelled him to study criminal justice systems. Dr. Narag's research interest delves into understanding community-based processes that mitigate the proliferation of crime and delinquency including the notions of collective efficacy and community culture. His other research includes criminal victimization, youth violence, correctional administration, and qualitative research particularly in cross cultural settings. He currently implements the Community Bail Bond program in the Philippines, where the program bails out low risk offenders and supports them in their reintegration to society as responsible members.

**Mr. Nicolás Laino** is an Argentinian lawyer who serves as a Public Defender at the Federal Public Defender's Office of Argentina, where he has held several positions after joining in 2009. Within the Office, he specializes in criminal defenses, litigation before the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights, and he is the Co-Chair of the Program for the Prevention of Torture and ill-treatment in Detention Facilities. He is also responsible for the institutional relations with international organizations regarding the promotion of UN standards on access to legal aid, which he has been advocating for in different global and regional forums since 2014. Nicolás holds a Magister in Criminal Justice Systems from the University of Barcelona, and his writings have been published in local Argentinian newspapers as well as in several edited volumes in his areas of expertise. Since early 2020, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Legal Foundation (ILF).

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**Friday, September 18:**

**Closing Session & Call to Action**

**10:00 - 11:30 (GMT-3) Closing Plenary** | *Translation: Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese*

Mr. André Castro | Public Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro  
Mr. Diego García-Sayán | UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers  
Mr. Zaza Namoradze | Director, Open Society Justice Initiative—Berlin Office  
Hon. Mr. Dunstan Mlambo | Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa  
Ms. Jennifer Smith | Executive Director, The International Legal Foundation (ILF)  
Dr. Stella Maris Martinez | Public Defender General of Argentina  
Concluding Remarks: TBC | United Nations

**Speaker Bios:**

**Mr. André Castro** has been a Public Defender since 1998 and holds a masters degree in Civil-Constitutional Law from the State University of Rio de Janeiro – UERJ. He was president of the Association of Public Defenders of the State of Rio de Janeiro, General Coordinator for the Modernization of the Judiciary of the Ministry of Justice, and he was elected president of the National Association of Public Defenders of Brazil – ANADEP in 2009. During this period, he also assumed the General Coordination of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders - AIDEF, participating in the implementation of an agreement between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Organization of American States - OAS. In 2015, he was elected and appointed to General Public Defender of the State of Rio de Janeiro, until 2018. As Public Defender of the State of Rio de Janeiro, he has collaborated with the Public Defender's Office before international human rights bodies on multiple cases.

**Mr. Diego García-Sayán** was appointed as Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers in December 2016. He served as a judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for two consecutive terms (2008-2013). Some of the significant achievements of his 4-year Presidency include having increased the Court's efficiency, boosting the organization's income by over 50% to fund its budget, and holding the first public hearing of the Court in a CARICOM Country (Barbados). During this period, the Court issued several landmark rulings related to women's rights in contexts of violence, discrimination, and access to public information, among others. Mr. García-Sayán has broad experience working for multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States. He served as Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Peace Agreements in El Salvador and for the subsequent verification of the agreements reporting directly to the Security Council; member and Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances during several years; member of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations System of Administration of Justice, appointed by the UN Secretary-General in 2006; Head of the Electoral Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guatemala during the general elections (2007). In Peru, Mr. García-Sayán served as Minister of Justice during the democratic transition in Peru and as Minister of Foreign Affairs, proposing and promoting the Inter-American Democratic Charter adopted on September 11, 2001, by the General Assembly of the OAS, which he presided. He was also President of the High-Level Commission to design and implement the Museum of Memory, Tolerance and Social Inclusion in Peru, inaugurated in December 2015.

**Mr. Zaza Namoradze** is the director of the Open Society Justice Initiative's Berlin office where he oversees legal aid and defendants' rights and legal empowerment and capacity. Since 2016, he also leads the implementation of the OSFs' Legal Empowerment Shared Framework. Mr. Namoradze previously served as a staff attorney and, later, Deputy Director of the Open Society Institute's Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, where he designed and oversaw projects in constitutional and judicial reforms, in student law clinics and human rights litigation, and capacity building in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Mr. Namoradze has worked for the Center for the Study of Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia, and was a member of the State Constitutional Commission of Georgia. Mr. Namoradze earned a degree in law from Tbilisi State University, studied in the comparative constitutionalism program at Central European University, and earned an LL.M from the University of Chicago Law School.

**Ms. Jennifer Smith** is the executive director of the International Legal Foundation. An international expert in the field of legal aid and an experienced criminal defense lawyer, Ms. Smith has worked on legal aid reform across Asia, the Middle

## ILAC2020: Speakers

East, and Africa. She is regularly called upon as an expert by the United Nations, governments, and organizations around the world. At the ILF, Ms. Smith has spearheaded efforts to strengthen international support for the right to quality legal representation for poor and vulnerable persons accused of crimes. She was one of the key drafters of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, the first international instrument on legal aid (adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2012), and has contributed to a number of UN guidance tools that assist governments and other stakeholders in the implementation of the right to legal aid for the criminally accused. She was also the driving force behind the first-ever international legal aid conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2014, now a biennial event. She holds a law degree from Boston College and received the institution's Hon. David S. Nelson Public Interest Law Award in 2019.

**The Honourable Justice Dunstan Mlambo** is currently Judge President of the [Gauteng Division](#) of the [High Court of South Africa](#). He has three decades of experience as a distinguished lawyer and judge, and served as the chairperson of Legal Aid South Africa from 2002 to 2019. Justice Mlambo has played a pivotal role in expanding access to justice around the world, chairing the UNODC Expert Group that approved the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems in 2011. He also chaired the UNODC expert group that revised the Nelson Mandela Rules, setting United Nations standards for the treatment of prisoners. Justice Mlambo holds a law degree from the University of the North and is a trustee of the Legal Resources Centre in South Africa.

**Dr. Stella Maris Martinez** has been the Public Defender General of Argentina since July 2006. Before that, she served as Public Defender before the Supreme Court of Argentina (2001-2006). She graduated with a law degree from the University of Buenos Aires and also holds a degree in Criminology from the University. Ms. Martínez is a Doctor of Law from the University of Salamanca, Kingdom of Spain. Ms. Martínez currently holds the pro tempore Presidency of the Specialized Meeting of Public Defenders of MERCOSUR (REDPO). She served as the General Coordinator of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDDEF). She also served as the General Coordinator of the Bloque de Defensores Públicos Oficiales del MERCOSUR (BLODEPM) for two periods. In Argentina, she is the Secretary General of the Federal Council of General Defenders and General Advisers of the country. She was the Director of the Master in Criminology at the National University of Lomas de Zamora, and she is an undergraduate and postgraduate professor at the Universities of Buenos Aires, Lomas de Zamora, Belgrano, and of the Argentine Social Museum. Ms. Martínez is the author of numerous articles on Bioethics (the subject on which she wrote her doctoral thesis, published under the title "Genetic manipulation and Criminal Law" by Editorial Universidad). She was also a member of the Monitoring Committee of the "Brasilia Rules on Access to Justice for People in Vulnerable Conditions" of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit. She has given numerous conferences, both locally and internationally.

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