

Sixth Annual Symposium
“Human Rights Aftershocks: HAITI”
November 5, 2010

8:15am – 9:00am

Breakfast and Registration

*Cordero Breezeway
Sponsored by the St. Thomas University
Caribbean Law Students Association*

9:00am – 9:30am

Welcome and Opening Address

Carem Corvaia

Editor In Chief
Intercultural Human Rights Law Review
St. Thomas University School of Law

Douglas Ray

Dean of the St. Thomas University School of Law

Reverend Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale

President
St. Thomas University

Erinece Saint Jean

Student
LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights

Roza Pati

Assistant Professor of Law & Executive Director
Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights
St. Thomas University School of Law

9:30 am – 10:40 am

Governance After Natural Disasters: Prospects and Proposals

Haiti has suffered a long history of political instability, outside influence, and poverty. These problems have been made worse by such tragic events as the January 2010 earthquake. How is the Haitian government dealing with the problems it has experienced since the 2010 earthquake? How has the outside influence of other nations and non-governmental organizations affected Haiti's rule of law and governance?

Moderator: **Honorable Fred Seraphin**, the first Haitian-American Judge in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Panelist 1: **James Wilets**, Professor of Law, Nova Southeastern University & Chair of the Inter-American Center for Human Rights, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Panelist 2: **Jeffery Brown**, Associate Professor, Florida A&M University College of Law, Orlando, Florida

Panelist 3: **Steven Forester**, Immigration Policy Coordinator, Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, Miami, Florida

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Trafficking Troubles: The Risk of Child Trafficking & the Exploitation of Children

Haiti's devastating earthquake in January 2010 left thousands of children orphaned and tens of thousands separated from their family. Following the earthquake, foreign militaries, non-governmental agencies, humanitarian aid workers, missionaries, and volunteers descended on the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere to help the victims, especially children, in the midst of the disaster. Unfortunately, some who volunteered to aid and save the children subjected the children to forced adoptions, trafficking, and exploited the children for their own benefit. What international and domestic laws and regulations are in place to protect the most vulnerable children within Haiti?

Moderator: **Soeurette Michel, J.D., LL.M.**, St. Thomas LL.M. Intercultural Human Rights alumna

Panelist 1: **W. Warren H. Binford**, Assistant Professor of Law & Director of the Clinical Program, Willamette University College of Law, Salem, Oregon

Panelist 2: **Jonathan Todres**, Associate Professor, Georgia State College of Law, Atlanta, Georgia

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Lunch

St. Thomas University Main Library – Convocation Hall

In Partnership with Haiti: St. Thomas University's Sustainable Development Projects in Haiti

Luncheon Speaker: Anthony P. Vinciguerra, Director, Center for Justice and Peace
St. Thomas University

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

Internally Displaced Persons: The Problem and Long-Term Solutions

Like many victims who were displaced from their homes following Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami, the 2010 earthquake left over 1.9 million Haitian people displaced from their homes and has shown the world the immense effects of natural disasters. In general, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) deal with immense poverty, weak infrastructure, and poor quality of life. For the people who are displaced within a nation affected by an environmental disaster, the problems of medical attention, nutrition, disease, and crime plague the camps. What is a durable solution to allow these people to place themselves back in their homes and communities in relation to the current status of Haitian property law? What human rights, humanitarian aid, and development and reconstruction processes need to be put into effect in order to let the displaced Haitian population rebuild and restructure their livelihoods?

Moderator: **Michael Vastine**, Assistant Professor of Law & Director of the Immigration Clinic; St. Thomas University School of Law

Panelist 1: **Dr. Saby Ghoshray**, President, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, Hamden, Connecticut

Panelist 2: **Dr. Winston Riddick**, Professor of Law, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Panelist 3: **Pierre-Michel Fontaine, Ph.D.**, former Regional Representative for the South Pacific, United Nations Commissioner for Refugees; former Chief of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo & Senior Advisor, Special Representative for Rwanda, UN Commission on Human Rights

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Rebuilding After Natural Disasters: The Role of Assistance from Abroad

As the humanitarian relief operation continues in Haiti, foreign aid is a major contributor in helping to restore the institutions needed for Haiti to function, ensure political stability, and address long-term reconstruction and development planning. How much do natural disasters actually affect the development of the country? How much can and should national governments rely on outside actors to rebuild the country? What has the United States contributed in aid to date, and what does the United States plan on contributing in the future? How can lawyers, law schools, and law clinics be first responders to natural disasters like the 2010 earthquake?

Moderator: **Juan Carlos Gomez**, Assistant Professor, Florida International University College of Law Immigration Clinic, Miami, Florida

Panelist(s) 1: **Jordan Dollar**, Director of Detention Programs, Catholic Legal Services, and **Allison Kent**, Staff Attorney, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Miami, Florida

Panelist (s) 2: **JoNel Newman**, Associate Professor of Clinical Legal Education, and **Melissa Gibson Swain**, Clinical Instructor & Supervising Attorney, University of Miami School of Law, Miami, Florida

4:00 pm

Cocktail Reception

Cordero Breezeway

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