Penn Law
Portraits on the Global Stage: Reaching a Higher Moral Ground
2015-2020 Retrospective

A mural, painted by Norwegian artist Per Krohg decorates the Security Council chamber. The mural symbolizes peace, equality and freedom.
Penn Law builds bridges with leading international organizations, legal institutions, world leaders, and policymakers that deepen our engagement with pressing global issues.

Theodore Ruger,
Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law,
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School
At a time of great geopolitical upheavals, Penn Law's engagement with transnational leaders has helped strengthen our students’ shared commitments to multilateralism, strong international institutions, and diversity in leadership. In an age of intense inquiry of equal representation of gender and race in global decision-making, these portraits and perspectives showcase a few of the global voices that have influenced Penn Law's inclusive vision of global justice.

Rangita de Silva de Alwis,
Associate Dean of International Affairs,
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

"In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called upon to shift to a new level of consciousness to reach a higher moral ground — that is where we are now."

-Mary Robinson,
President of Ireland;
Penn Law Commencement Speaker 2017
“The number of women who have come forward as a result of the #MeToo movement has been astonishing. My hope is not just that it is here to stay, but that it is as effective for the woman who works as a maid in a hotel as it is for Hollywood stars.”

-Judge Ginsburg at Penn Law
“The aim of human rights [...] is to move beyond the design and drawing-board phase, to move beyond thinking and talking about the foundation stones, to laying those foundation stones, inch by inch, together.”

-Mary Robinson at Penn Law
"It has become evident to me that the truth is both powerful and dangerous. This is because historical truth... cannot be bottled and administered as contemporary medicine of the wounds of the past."

-Justice Sisi Khampepe at Penn Law
“The late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, for whom I clerked years ago, said it best: 'We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy....We must dissent from the poverty of vision and the absence of moral leadership.'”

-Crystal Nix-Hines at Penn Law
"A state should go out of its way to broaden the right to vote."
-Maina Kiai

Maina Kiai,
UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association;
Penn Law Critical Global Conversations, 2018

Nobelist Leymah Gbowee,
Head, Women Peace, and Security Network Africa;
Penn Law Women, Peace & Security

Cynthia Arnson,
Head of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars,
Penn Law Global Women’s Leadership Forum, 2018
Irina Bokova,  
Former Director-General of UNESCO  
Penn Law Global Women’s Leadership Forum

Hina Jilani,  
Former UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights Defenders;  
Penn Law Global Women’s Leadership Forum

“ ‘I always had this feeling that if you see injustice, you have to speak out against it; otherwise you are not in a position to complain.’ ”  
-Hina Jilani

Indira Jaising,  
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India;  
Founder, Lawyers Collective;  
Penn Law Global Women’s Leadership Forum

"To the little girls, I would say that they have to dream. They have to believe. They have to believe in themselves. They have to believe that they can do anything in this world."

-Irina Bokova  
at Penn Law

Irina Bokova,  
Former Director-General of UNESCO;  
Penn Law Global Women’s Leadership Forum, 2018
Macharia Kamau, Kenyan Ambassador to the UN; Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate; Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series

Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., 46th Solicitor General of the United States; Penn Law Global Leadership and Public Policy Speaker Series

Hon. Mohamed El Orabi, Former Foreign Minister of Egypt; Penn Law Institute for Law and Diplomacy, 2018

Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court; Penn Law Global Research Seminar
Penn Law Global Institute for Human Rights
“There is no country today that can say they have no problem with gender parity.”
- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at Penn Law

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,
Former Minister of Finance of Nigeria,
Coordinating Minister for the Economy,
Penn Law Holt Lecture in International Law, 2015

“Discussions about mitigation techniques, reduction commitment, adaptation, and finance repeatedly revert to a debate about past and present economic justice.”
- Penny Wong at Penn Law

Penny Wong,
Opposition Leader in the Australian Senate;
Penn Law Critical Global Conversations, 2016

"The Institute at Penn Law fulfills the highest aspirations of the United Nations to train the next generation of advocates in partnership with leading academic institutions like Penn Law School."
- Lopa Banerjee

Lopa Banerjee,
Director, Civil Society Division for UN Women;
Penn Law Global Institute for Human Rights, 2019
Asma Jahangir, United States Rapporteur for Human Rights to Iran; Former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Belief and Religion; Former UN Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions

Penn Law Global Women’s Leadership Forum

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women;
Penn Law Global Women’s Leadership Forum

Zainab Hawa Bangura, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict;
Holt Lecture in International Law, 2015

“No amount of pressure will deter me from representing women in distress. It has been my life’s mission. Till the last breath, I will stand by them.”

-Asma Jahangir (1952- 2018)
"The rule of law is essential for establishing peoples' rights."
-Irene Khan

Irene Khan,
Director-General, International Development Law Organization;
Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on Women and Legislative Reform, 2017

Yakin Ertürk,
Former Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women;
Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on Women and Legislative Reform, 2017

Kai Sauer,
Ambassador of Finland to the United Nations; Penn Law Institute for Law and Diplomacy, 2018
Mahnaz Afkhami,
Founder and President of the
Women’s Learning Partnership;
Former Minister for Women, Iran;
Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on
Women and Legislative Reform, 2017

Lakshmi Puri,
Assistant Secretary General for
Intergovernmental Support and
Strategic Partnerships at the UN Entity for Gender
Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
Penn Law & UN Women Presents: Ending Gender
Discrimination in Law and Practice, 2016

María Emma Mejía Vélez,
Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations;
Penn Law & UN Women Presents: Ending Gender Discrimination in Law and Practice, 2016
Leta Hong Fincher, Author, Leftover Women; Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on Women and Legislative Reform

Dubravka Šimonović, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Girls and Women; Penn Law & UN Women Presents: Ending Gender Discrimination in Law and Practice

Paloma Durán, Director, UN Sustainable Development Goal Fund; Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on Women and Legislative Reform
"Real change must come from within, and it can only come from within if people are properly educated, perceive that they have choices and opportunities and accept that we are all responsible for and have a duty to each other."

-Lubna Olayan
"...without the rule of law and access to justice, we don’t have to be in this room. There’s no point, really. This is what we’re all here for."
-Sandie Okoro at Penn Law

Sandie Okoro, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the World Bank Group;
Penn Law Holt Lecture in International Law in Discussion with Assoc. Dean of Rangita de Silva de Alwis, 2019

"One of the discoveries of leadership is that leadership is not about leading ourselves. There is no leadership without followership."
-Natalie Jabangwe at Penn Law

Natalie Jabangwe, CEO, EcoCash;
Penn Law Women, Law & Leadership, 2019

Radhika Coomaraswamy, Former Under Secretary General and Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict Penn Law Bok Visiting International Professor, 2019
Maria-Pia Hope, 
CEO, Vinge; 
Penn Law Women, Law & Leadership, 2019

Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan, 
CEO & Founder, Drawbridge, Inc.; 
Penn Law Women, Law & Leadership, 2019

Chris Jochnick, 
CEO, Landesa

I hope you can see 
that there are many examples of very successful women who have overcome all these barriers 
...
Anand Grover, Leading Indian Litigator and Former Special Rapporteur for Health and Human Rights; Penn Law Critical Global Conversations

Saniye Gülser Corat, Director, UNESCO Division for Gender Equality; Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on Women and Legislative Reform

Anita McBride, Former Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush; Penn Law Critical Global Conversations

Sajan Poovayya, Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and High Court of Karnataka; Penn Law Critical Global Conversations
Begoña Lasagabaster,
Chief of Leadership & Governance, UN Women;
Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on Women and Legislative Reform

Farahnaz Ispahani,
Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars;
Former Member of Parliament and Media Advisor to the President of Pakistan;
Penn Law High-Level Roundtable on Women and Legislative Reform
Haleh Esfandiari,
Public Policy Fellow, Former and Founding Director of the Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Penn Law Global Institute for Human Rights

Hon. Mohamed El Orabi,
Former Foreign Minister of Egypt;
Law and Diplomacy Institute, 2018
Khalid Malik,
Former Director of the Human Development Report;
"Leaving No One Behind: Engaging the Law and Building Capacities to Expand the Policy Space to Sustain Development"

Michele J. Sison,
United States Deputy Representative to the United Nations; Deputy Representative of the United States to the UN Security Council

Preeta Bansal,
Solicitor General, New York

Harish Salve,
Solicitor General of India

Maya Harris,
Political Analyst;
Policy Advisor, Hillary Clinton Campaign, 2016
Meena Harris, Commissioner for the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women; Head of Strategy and Leadership, Uber

Rachel Vogelstein, Douglas Dillon Senior Fellow and Director of the Women and Foreign Policy Program at the Council on Foreign Relations; Advisor to Hillary Clinton; Penn Law Critical Global Conversations, 2017

"I want to be clear: Our country needs all the smart people they can get in to ... STEM positions [...] regardless of their ethnicity or gender."

-Craig Newmark at Penn Law

Craig Newmark, Founder, Craigslist; Penn Law Institute for Law and Diplomacy, 2018
"Policies, in and of themselves, will not do anything if you don’t have supportive leaders supporting those policies."

-Carolyn Edgar
at Penn Law
Carolyn Edgar,
Managing Counsel, Technology and Intellectual Property, BNY Mellon;
Penn Law Women, Law & Leadership, 2019

Gitanjali Swamy,
Managing Partner, IoTask; Representative to the UN Equals Leadership Coalition;
Penn Law Institute for Law and Global Development

Christopher Calabia,
Senior Advisor, Financial Services for the Poor,
Gates Foundation;
Penn Law Institute for Law and Global Development
"The right to education [is] not only a human right but a tool to achieve other human rights."

-Moushira Khattab

at Penn Law
“Practice law like a human being [...] Justice sometimes springs more from the heart than from the head [...] keep your mind sharp, but don’t ever forget to keep your heart full.”

-Preet Bharara at Penn Law
"[The ICC] is not a perfect institution...and as we go along, we go back and look at how we can improve. [...] It is important that there is protection and accountability for the kinds of horrible things that are committed in the course of conflict."
-Akua Kuenyehia

at Penn Law
Vanessa Liu,
Head, SAP.iO Foundries

Vinicius Pinheiro,
Deputy Director of the International Labour Organization Office for the UN

Žygimantas Pavilionis,
Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States,
Penn Law Critical Global Conversations, 2015
Paula Tavares, World Bank’s Editor of Women, Business and Law

Dr. Agnes Callamard, UN Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial and Arbitrary Executions

Naheed Farid, Member of the Afghanistan Parliament and the Chair of House Women Affairs Commission

Steve Crown, Deputy General Counsel of Microsoft and first IT executive to address the UN Security Council

Paula Tavares, World Bank’s Editor of Women, Business and Law
Podcasts

Follow Penn Law’s vibrant programs across the spectrum of international, transnational and foreign law.

https://pennlawintl.podbean.com/

2019

"The Impact of Women’s Leadership on the Global Economy"
Sandie Okoro, Senior VP and General Counsel for the World Bank Group

"25 Years After Apartheid: Looking to the Past, Looking to the Future"
Justice Sisi Khampepe, Constitutional Court of South Africa

"Women in Leadership on the Global Stage"

"Governing Like a Woman: A Charge Leveled Against Her by Her Opponents"
Roza Otunbayeva, Former President of Kyrgyzstan

2018

"Women's Security as National Security"
Ambassador Moushira Khattab, Egypt's Minister for Family and Population; Former Egyptian Ambassador to South Africa and Italy; Egypt’s nominee to head UNESCO, 2017

"Foreign Policy, Middle East Security, and Negotiations"
Hon. Mohamed Orabi, Egypt’s former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador to Israel

"Ethical Leadership in Diplomacy"
Ambassador Kai Sauer, Finland's Ambassador to the UN

"What's in a Name: The Naming Dispute Between Greece and Macedonia"
Matthew Nimetz, Advisory Director for General Atlantic; Former Chairperson of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Warton & Garrison LLP
2018 continued

"Democracy and Distrust: Threats to Democracy in the 21st Century"
President Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation

"Legal, Social, and Public Policy Interventions for Diversity and Inclusion: Law, Incentives, and Culture Reboots in Tech"
Gitanjali Swamy, Managing Partner at IoTask

"Women of Color in Law and Business"
Carolyn Edgar, Managing Counsel, Technology and Intellectual Property at BNY Mellon

"Inclusion in Development, Finance and Technology"
Christopher Calabia, Senior Advisor Financial Services for the Poor, Gates Foundation
Chris Jochnick, CEO, Landesa
Mark Kaplan, Partner, Eachmile Technologies
Nina Nieuwoudt, VP MasterCard

"Transforming the World through Business and Public Leadership"
Craig Newmark, Craigslist Founder

"Serving the Public in Challenging Times"
Hon. Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., 46th Solicitor General of the United States

"The Role of Women Human Rights Defenders: Challenges and Opportunities"
Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2014-2018
Hina Jilani, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan; Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders, 2000-2008
“Women Leaders in Law & Policy on the Global Stage” is a video series that presents conversations with women who, as experts in law and policy, are dealing with the critical, cutting-edge issues of our time. These situations — armed conflict, forced migration, sustainable development, climate change, and the human rights of children and the disabled — are where the voices of women are most in jeopardy of being silenced.

The women featured in this series have occupied myriad roles on the international stage over the course of their careers—legislators, judges, academics, government ministers, political activists, and pragmatic thinkers with non-governmental organizations. They have been among the few female leaders and change makers who have occupied seats at the tables where matters of import to women are discussed and decided. Their conversations with us confirm that women’s leadership of the kind they exemplify has never been more important than it is at the present moment for the achievement of equality, development and peace in the world.
“Breaking the Barriers of Apartheid to Become the First Woman Acting Chief Justice of South Africa”
Justice Sisi Khampepe

“First Woman Head of State of Central Asia and the First Woman to Lead a Peaceful Transition of Power”
Roza Otunbayeva, Former President of Kyrgyzstan

“First UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Woman: The Voice for Child Soldiers”
Radhika Coomaraswamy

“Mobilizing the Global Community to Ban Nuclear Weapons”
Beatrice Fihn

“The First Woman to Head the International Law and Development Organization”
Irene Khan

“Writing the First Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Law in the Middle East and Africa”
Moushira Khattab

“Addressing Destruction of Culture as a Crime Against Humanity”
Irina Bokova, Head of UNESCO

“The First Woman in the World to Serve as Minister of Justice and Foreign Affairs”
Tzipi Livni

“Breaking the Highest, Hardest Glass Ceiling: The First Woman President of Ireland”
Mary Robinson

“Redefining Gender Equality in Technology at UNESCO”
Gulser Corat

“The Global Human Rights Defender”
Hina Jilani

“Fighting Apartheid and Rising to Global Leadership”
Navi Pillay, ICC; High Commission for Human Rights

“Prosecuting War Crimes at the ICC”
Patricia Sellers

“Amplifying Women’s Voices in Peace and Security”
Melanne Verveer, first US Ambassador on Global Women’s Issues

“One Woman’s Intrepid Journey to Freedom From Imprisonment in Iran”
Haleh Esfandiari, Founding Director of the Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson