Teaching Business and Human Rights Workshop
Thursday and Friday, May 30-31st, 2013
Columbia University, New York, NY

AGENDA

Thursday, May 30th, 2013

I. Opening Talk (5:00 pm)

“Teaching Human Rights in a Business School: A View from the Inside”

Michael Posner
Clinical Professor, Business & Society Program Area, NYU Stern School of Business
Former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State (2009-2013)
Founding Executive Director and Former President, Human Rights First

Dinner (6:00 pm)

Following the opening talk and discussion, participants are invited to connect over an informal dinner at a local restaurant. (Details to come.)

Friday, May 31st, 2013

Coffee (8:30 am)

Welcome/Introductions (9:00 am)

II. Crafting a Business and Human Rights Course (9:15 am – 10:45 am)

Participants will share their experiences putting together a business and human rights course for the first time, and shaping it over time. How do you select topics for inclusion? How do you manage the “sprawl” of potential course materials? How do you market your course?

Break
III. Translating “Business and Human Rights” for Managers and Policymakers (11:00 am – 12:30 pm)

Participants will address the specific challenges of teaching business and human rights outside of law schools, including schools of business, schools of public policy, and as continuing education for practicing professionals. What is the demand for in-house training on business and human rights? How can initiatives like the UN Global Compact and Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) promote business and human rights teaching? How can teachers build capacity for implementing the UN Guiding Principles?

Lunch (12:30 pm)

IV. Access to Capital (1:30– 3:00)

Participants will deep dive into the issue of access to capital. What standards are followed by capital providers – including international financial institutions and both socially responsible and traditional investors – to ensure that they are not funding human rights abuses? How has this concern evolved over time? Where does this topic fit into a business and human rights course? What materials and strategies to introduce the topic work best?

Break

V. The Future of Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (3:15- 4:45pm)

Participants will discuss the impact of the anticipated Kiobel decision in the United States and prospects for corporate accountability. What is the comparative status of extraterritorial jurisdiction over companies worldwide?

VI. Brainstorm on Forum Activities (4:45 – 5:00)

Before the close of the Workshop, participants will have the opportunity to discuss ideas for future activities of the Teaching Forum.

Close (5:00 pm)

Draft of April 4, 2013