

PERSONAL DETAILS

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License: Admitted to the State Bar of Illinois, USA 2007



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Results oriented and dedicated manager with 15 years of education and professional experience in international law with strong demonstrated experience in international and multicultural environments. Longstanding history of advising on humanitarian assistance, rule of law, development, international human rights law and transitional justice particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings. Significant experience in project management and strategy while being passionate about employees to help them achieve personal and professional goals. Experience with program design, life cycles, budgets, compliance, monitoring and evaluation, supervision and implementation. Proven experience with high-level stakeholders including government officials, I/NGOs, academics and private sector. Academic excellence through receipt of the Sir Thomas Dixon Scholarship, Sullivan Human Rights Fellowship and completion of a Masters of Studies with the University of Oxford

EXPERIENCE

2020-PRESENT
2017-2019

Advisor to the Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General – Dr. Ahmed Al Meraikhi
Advisor to the UN Secretary-General’s Humanitarian Envoy – Dr. Ahmed Al Meraikhi
Doha, Qatar

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for all office functions, staff training and supervision of the office.
- Developed and implemented yearly strategies based on UN and stakeholder interests.
- Held accountability in overseeing and directing all activities in Dr. Al Meraikhi’s Office including speechwriting, scheduling, allocating tasks and designating workload.
- Liaising with UN agencies, government, non-governmental organisation and private sector counterparts.
- Support the SASG’s and UNSG’s Humanitarian Envoy strategic objectives of advocacy and awareness, resource mobilisation, policy development and leadership role.

Achievements:

- Manage all aspects of public appearances of the SASG and UNSG’s Humanitarian Envoy.
- Develop the Global Humanitarian Action Executive Council which fosters strategic partnerships between 15 large multinational corporations and UN humanitarian agencies to effectuate change in the delivery of humanitarian assistance including high-level meetings taking place alongside the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and the UN General Assembly in New York, USA.
- Facilitate the signing of more than 40 agreements and memoranda of understandings between UN agencies and donor countries.
- Support UNSG’s Humanitarian Envoy’s participation at four ministerial level pledging conferences including Syria, Yemen and UNRWA.
- Manage nine Syria Top Donors’ Group meetings two involving field visits to Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan for Director level representatives of the top 15 donor countries to Syria as well as four similar meetings on Yemen.
- Coordinate partnership missions to the Horn of Africa, Whole of Syria and more than 15 member states including head of state and ministerial level meetings.

2014-2016

**Legal Counsel, Office of the General Counsel - Qatar University
Doha, Qatar**

Responsibilities:

- Perform legal reviews of a variety of documents including contract review, memoranda of understanding, construction works, partnership and collaboration agreements, licensing, employment contracts, procurement/tender documents and internal policies and procedures.
- Negotiate, draft and execute all English non-research related contracts with both local and international stakeholders including government bodies, private entities and other institutions of higher education.
- Corporate counsel with active participation in daily office management.
- Application and understanding of Qatari law to a government entity.

Achievements:

- Strategically positioned centralised provision of legal services in the newly established Office of the General Counsel.
- Developed 2014-2018 Strategy for the Office of the General Counsel.
- Enhanced the provision of legal services to the University through the review of all English language legal documents at Qatar University.
- Served as focal point for over 300 legal documents including negotiating, drafting and executing agreements.
- Developed and prepared specific policies to protect the University including confidentiality, conflict of interest and risk management.
- Enhanced cooperative environment, provided for smoother operations and heightened awareness between the Office of the General Counsel and Qatar University employees.

2014-2014

**Human Rights Independent Consultant, UNDP Libya
Tripoli, Libya**

Responsibilities:

- Responsible as Team Leader of the Human Rights Scoping Exercise involving three-person team of consultants to conduct an assessment of the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights (NCCLHR) in Libya.
- Performed capabilities assessment of the NCCLHR in terms of technical capacity and institutional development.
- Consult with other multi/bilateral stakeholders to the NCCLHR.
- Identify UNDP entry points for human rights within the Libyan context.
- Facilitate an international conference on the comparative experiences of national human rights institutions followed by a Libyan national stakeholder roundtable.

Achievements:

- Developed UNDP Libya's five-year strategy of support for the Libyan national human rights institution.
- Developed UNDP Libya's 2014-2015 strategy of support to the Government of Libya for the country's May 2015 Universal Periodic Review.
- Developed a Libyan national action plan for the NCCLHR verified by the roundtable event.
- Mainstreamed human rights activities into UNDP Libya's projects.

2012-2013

**Independent Contractor, Darfur Joint Assessment Mission UNDP Sudan
Khartoum, Sudan**

Responsibilities:

- Assisted in creation of six-year sustainable development plan for Darfur based on needs assessment.
- Performed data compilation of needs assessment; research, analysis, writing and assist in management of *Developing Darfur: A Recovery and Reconstruction Strategy*.
- Assisted in managing the International Donor's Conference for Darfur in April 2013 with over 450 delegates representing, more than 50 governments, bilateral and multilateral partners, development banks and agencies, the governments of Qatar and Sudan, UN agencies along with Sudanese and international civil society organizations where contributions pledged totalled US\$3,701,659,100.00.
- Expertise in governance, human rights, rule of law as well as the managerial and substantive abilities to write, present and disseminate a six-year development plan involving a variety of stakeholders.

- Achievements:**
- Responsible for oversight of Governance, Justice and Reconciliation pillar of the development strategy totalling \$845million and 11 objectives to support recovery.
 - Compiled and analysed the data using Excel from an on-the-ground needs assessment based on 10 thematic working groups in each of the 5 Darfur States to aid in determining the objectives and priorities of Darfur.
 - Routine participation in meetings between donors, UN and other agencies, the Governments of Qatar and Sudan.
 - Improved and motivated all team members and consultants towards meeting deadlines and utilized lateral thinking to aid in meeting tight strict deadlines.
- 2010-2013**
- Doctorate Researcher, Queen’s University Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland**
- Responsibilities:**
- Responsible for conducting research, fieldwork and analysing the use of transitional justice strategies in post-conflict environment as part of a doctoral studies program.
 - Tasks included extensive research and writing, data gathering, coding and analysis as well as strategic thinking.
- Achievements:**
- Developed and pursued a methodology involving over 60 qualitative interviews, conferences, workshops and training seminars.
 - Interacted with government officials, UN agencies (including UNDP, UNAMID, OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR), IO/NGO individuals, academics and representatives of the ICC. Presented at three international conferences on topics ranging from transitional justice generally to the individual contexts of Darfur, Sierra Leone, East Timor, Kosovo, the former Yugoslavia, Cambodia and Liberia amongst others.
- 2009-2010**
- Guest Researcher, Max-Planck-Institut Für Ausländisches und Internationales
Strafrecht
Freiburg, Germany**
- Responsibilities:**
- As the recipient of a research fellowship, I was responsible for developing my knowledge of human rights, transitional justice, governance and the rule of law.
- Achievements:**
- Performed extensive research regarding the interaction between United Nations peacekeeping operations and the implementation of various transitional justice strategies.
 - Conducted data analysis of UN and NGO documents regarding UNAMSIL, Special Court for Sierra Leone, Sierra Leonean Truth and Reconciliation Commission and numerous international and national reparations schemes.
 - Produced a 20,000 word masters thesis towards completion of a Masters of Sciences in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford.
- 2007-2009**
- Program Officer, Istituto Superiore Internazionale de Scienze Criminali
Siracusa, Italy**
- Responsibilities:**
- Responsible for the oversight of a global program designed to strengthen the international commitment to justice; increase institutional efforts to forge a general framework for promoting accountability, reconciliation and rehabilitation; and support national institutions in countries emerging from conflict
- Achievements:**
- Performed extensive research regarding the interaction between United Nations peacekeeping operations and the implementation of various transitional justice strategies.
 - Project Coordinator for the “Fighting Impunity and Promoting International Justice” project, for 46 experts, whose research along complementary geographic and thematic tracks became the most comprehensive survey of conflicts, victimization and post-conflict justice modalities.
 - Assisted in technical assistance programs, including drafting reports, regarding rule of law, due process, criminal procedure issues, post conflict justice, human rights in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - Coordinated the planning and organisation of three preparatory meetings, one preparatory conference involving 73 representatives in Geneva, five regional conferences (382 participants) and one final international conference held in the Peace Palace in the Hague with over 300 participants as well as a considerable number of presidents, vice presidents, prosecutors, and judges of international tribunals.

- 2005-2006** **Research Associate, DePaul University – College of Law
Chicago, Illinois USA**
- Responsibilities:**
- Responsible for preparing bio-weapons and terrorism training materials currently used by Interpol and European police forces in training programmes
- Achievements:**
- Prepared bio-weapons and terrorism training materials for use by Interpol and European national police forces under the guidance of Professor Barry Kellman.
 - Administratively responsible for all speaking engagements and other research assistants.
 - Provided both technical and substantive content for the website for the International Consortium on Law and Strategic Systems under the supervision of Professor Kellman.

EDUCATION

- 2010-present** **PhD in Law, Queen’s University Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland UK**
- Dissertation: *Protracted Conflict and the Pursuit of Justice: Transitional Justice in Darfur*
 - Sir Thomas Dixon Scholarship Recipient
- 2008-2010** **Masters of Studies in International Human Rights Law, University of Oxford
Oxford, England UK**
- Dissertation: *How does the mandate of a UN peacekeeping operation support from post-conflict justice? A strategy for future implementation analysing the case of Sierra Leone*
- 2004-2007** **Juris Doctor, DePaul University – College of Law
Chicago, Illinois USA**
- *Certificate in International and Comparative Law*, focus in international human rights and humanitarian law
 - Dean’s List: 2006, 2007
 - Sullivan Human Rights Fellow: 205-2006
 - Seminar Thesis: *From State Courts to the ICTY and Back Again: The Dangerous Rule 11bis*
 - Seminar Thesis: *Holding Corporation’s Liable in a Globalised World*
- 1998-2002** **Bachelors of Arts, *cum laude* (Art History), John Cabot University
Rome, Italy**
- Dean’s List: 2000, 2001, 2002
 - *Spring 2002: Outstanding Service Award in Art History*

ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK

- 2008** Humanitarian Policy Conflict and Research International, Core Course in International Humanitarian Law; Brussels, Belgium
- 2008** Istituto Superiore Internazionale de Scienze Criminali, Specialization Course in The Shari’a and International Criminal Law; Siracusa, Italy
- 2008** Marie Curie Network Conference, International Criminal Law: Present and Future Perspectives; The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2007** Istituto Superiore Internazionale de Scienze Criminali, Specialization Course in Cooperation in European Criminal Matters; Siracusa, Italy
- 2007** American Society of International Law, Annual Meeting Panel; Washington D.C., USA
- 2006** Sullivan Human Rights Law in the America’s with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Human Rights law and the Inter-American System; Heredia, Costa Rica
- 2006** Istituto Superiore Internazionale de Scienze Criminali, Specialization Course in Doctrinal Basis and Characteristics of International Criminal Law; Siracusa, Italy

PUBLICATIONS & TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- 2018** Qatar Leadership Conference, Invited Speaker; Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance; Doha, Qatar
- 2013** Durham University, Invited Speaker; Legal Research Sudan and the Durham Archive – Transitional Justice in Darfur; Durham, UK
- 2013** DEVELOPING DARFUR: A RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION STRATEGY, *contributing author* (UNDP, 2013).
- 2012** International Center for Transitional Justice, Invited Lecturer; Transitional Justice Mechanisms in Action: Experiences in Sierra Leone & Liberia; Khartoum, Sudan
- 2013** University of Khartoum, Invited Lecturer; Transitional Justice and Substantive International Criminal Law; Khartoum, Sudan
- 2012** Sudan University, Invited Lecturer; Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Justice; Khartoum, Sudan
- 2011** Association Internationale de Droit Pénal, Presentation: La Rochelle; France
- 2011** University of Oxford, Lecturer on Transitional Justice for the Masters in International Human Rights Law Program; Oxford, UK
- 2010** *Regional Conference and Regional Report Overview, in FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE* (Intersentia 2010).
- 2010** *Survey of Conflict Victimization and Post-Conflict Justice 1948 – 2008, contributed portions, in FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE* (Intersentia 2010).
- 2010** *Africa, Asia, Europe and International Regional Conference Report, in FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE* (Intersentia 2010).
- 2009-2013** American Society of International Law, International Criminal Law Interest Group Newsletter Editor
- 2009** International Concluding Conference on Fighting Impunity and Promoting International Justice – Speaker regarding Regional Conference and Cultural Aspects of Post-Conflict Justice Mechanisms; The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2009** Istituto Superiore Internazionale de Scienze Criminali, Specialization Course on The Legal Status and Responsibilities of Nonstate Actors under International Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law and International Human Rights Law – Lecture on Private Military Contractors: International Accountability; Siracusa, Italy
- 2009** Asia Regional Conference - Fighting Impunity and Justice – Project Speaker; Bangkok, Thailand

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- National Association of College & University Attorneys
Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Humanitarian Practice Network
International Criminal Law Network
American Society of International Law
Association Internationale de Droit Pénal
- Illinois State Bar Association
Chicago Bar Association
American Bar Association, Section of International Law
International Visitors Center of Chicago
Acting Together: Law, Advice, Support Network

LANGUAGES

- English – native speaker
Italian – intermediate comprehension, reading, speaking and writing