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About the Authors

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About the Authors

COSMAS EMEZIEM

Cosmas Emeziem holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) and a Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D) from Cornell University Law School. He is also an alumnus of the Hague Academy of International Law in the Hague, Netherlands. He was awarded the Rudolf B. Schlesinger Fellowship for International and Comparative Law at Cornell Law School in 2014–2015. Before Cornell University, Cosmas obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the University of Nigeria. He is admitted to practice law in Nigeria as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. His Doctoral research explored Truth and Reconciliation Commissions as mechanisms for reckoning, accountability, healing, reconciliation, memory making, and remediation of vast human rights violations in post-conflict and other rapidly changing societies. He has taught courses in the Law of International Institutions, and Transitional Justice at Cornell Law School. Cosmas is proud of teaching and generally sharing ideas about law and human flourishing in society. His current research and writing sit at the intersection of international law, comparative law, conflict of laws, and international institutions law. His social justice and public volunteer interests include access to clean water, food security, healthcare (Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights), access to justice, environment and community development policy, corporate accountability in emerging markets, public interest lawyering, and mentoring of students.

SHIV PERSAUD

Professor Persaud has been licensed to practice in the State of Florida since 1997. Prior to teaching, he served as a state agency attorney, assistant public defender, assistant state attorney and worked in private practice. His

scholarship has sought to enhance cultural sensitivity and competency in legal education and the profession.

JOHN MITCHELL

Raised in the Midwest, Professor Mitchell moved to the West Coast to attend Stanford Law School, where he was a member of the Moot Court Board and Editor of the Law Review. He earned his J.D. in 1970. Professor Mitchell's career has included: private practice in his own law firm in San Francisco, where he specialized in criminal litigation (1970–75); consultant to public and private defense attorneys concerning trial, motions, and appellate strategies (1973–81); and Professor at Seattle University School of Law (1982–2015). At the law school, Professor Mitchell taught advocacy-related courses such as Evidence, Evidence Lab, and Expert Witnesses. He was chosen four times as graduation speaker, and in 2010, he was named the William C. Oltman Professor of Teaching Excellence. Professor Mitchell retired in 2015.

SABAH MUHAMMAD

Sabah Muhammad serves as Legislative and Policy Counsel at the Treatment Advocacy Center. Her work focuses on reforming laws that create barriers to treatment for severe mental illness, including civil commitment statutes, justice involvement, and racial and cultural barriers to treatment. She became an advocate for severe mental illness law reform when her family member was only able to receive a diagnosis and treatment through criminalization and incarceration. Prior to working for the Treatment Advocacy Center, she was a public defender in Henry and Clayton County Georgia. Sabah earned her J.D. from Florida A&M College of Law in Orlando, Florida.

MICHAEL GRAY

Michael Gray is Legislative and Policy Counsel at the Treatment Advocacy Center. His work focuses on reforming laws that create obstacles to the treatment of severe mental illness, including civil commitment statutes, the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion, and the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Prior to working at the Treatment Advocacy Center, he was a lobbyist for mental health nonprofit organizations and taught political science at Simmons College of Kentucky. Michael is a graduate of the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

STACIE COLLING

Stacie Colling is the Juvenile Defense Coordinator for the Colorado Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel. Stacie serves on Colorado's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Governor's Advisory Council, Juvenile Justice Reform Committee, Colorado Youth Detention Continuum/Interstate Compact Advisory Board, Bridges Program Statewide Steering Committee, the Southwest Juvenile Defender Center Advisory Board, and as Western Region Chair of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. She previously sat on the Improving Outcomes for Youth Task Force and the Advisory Board for CJDC and Southwest Juvenile Defender Center's Access to Juvenile Justice: Rural and Tribal Southwest project, and is a certified JTIP (NJDC's Juvenile Training Immersion Program) trainer. Stacie earned a B.A. in Sociology and Criminal Justice, and a certificate in Conflict Studies, from Hamline University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

ELIE ZWIEBEL

Elie Zwiebel runs a solo practice and serves as Education First Program Director for the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center. Elie sits on the board of Learn Your Rights in the Community (LYRIC), the Colorado Bar Association's Civil Rights Section, the Colorado Bar Association's Juvenile Law Section, and AUL Denver—a transformative justice centered and

trauma-informed alternative high school. Having spent four years as a teacher, Elie opened a law practice focused on fighting the school-to-prison pipeline and systemic racism. Since 2017, Elie has worked with juvenile defenders, social workers, case managers, guardians ad litem, community organizers, and grassroots leaders to fight against harsh school discipline policies—including the arrest and ticketing of children at school—and to promote equitable educational access via special education. Elie earned a B.A. in English from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

ELLEN EVANS

Ellen Evans is a 2022 J.D. Candidate at Seattle University School of Law. Ellen earned a master’s degree in English Literature and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Prior to entering law school, Ellen worked as an assistant professor of rhetoric and composition as well as a high school English teacher. Ellen entered law school to pursue her passion for access to justice. During her time in law school, Ellen interned with Casey Family Programs and participated in the Housing Justice Clinic. After graduation, Ellen will be clerking for Justice Susan Owens of the Washington Supreme Court.

CARSEN NIES

Carsen Nies a 2022 J.D. Candidate at Seattle University School of Law. Prior to law school, Carsen graduated from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, with a B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology. She then worked for a nonprofit called the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound, which offers a college degree program to folks incarcerated at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. During law school, Carsen was a 2020 Calhoun Family Fellow, a 2021 advocacy intern with Columbia Legal Services, a certified law clerk for the District of Oregon

Federal Public Defender, and an extern with the ACLU of Washington's legislative team. Carsen is the Editor-in-Chief of the Seattle Journal for Social Justice and is a member of the Moot Court Board. After law school, Carsen hopes to work in public defense.

VANESSA BRIMHALL

Vanessa Brimhall is a third-year law student at Seattle University School of Law. She has a B.A. in Business Administration from Seattle University, where she successfully completed the Business & Law major program. Ms. Brimhall currently serves as an Article Editor for the Seattle Journal for Social Justice. In addition, Ms. Brimhall works as a Legal Assistant for which she primarily works on Guardianship and Estate Planning matters at a local law firm.

MIKI SAITO

Miki Saito is a 2022 J.D. Candidate at Seattle University School of Law. Prior to law school, Miki earned her B.A. in Public Health at the University of Washington, where she became particularly interested in how public health outcomes could be improved by increased access to justice. She came to law school hoping to explore the relationship between the law and population health. While in law school, Miki has externed at the Community Health Plan of Washington, interned at the Northwest Consumer Law Center, and volunteered with the Moderate Means Program.

LAUREN ROMERO

Lauren E. Romero is a 2022 J.D. Candidate at Seattle University School of Law. Prior to law school, Lauren received her B.A. in psychology at The Ohio State University. Throughout law school, she was involved in various student organizations like Veterans Law Society, Cannabis Law Society, and the Seattle Journal for Social Justice. In addition, Lauren is serving on the Board of Directors for Skate Like a Girl, a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Seattle

that strives to create an inclusive community by promoting confidence, leadership, and social justice through skateboarding. In her professional pursuits, she spent a summer with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles practicing veterans' law for indigent clients, and subsequently, she spent a semester as a legal extern with Legal Aid at Work practicing plaintiff's side employment law. Lauren is deeply committed to fighting against injustice in any area of the law and is excited to continue pursuing opportunities that serve vulnerable populations.