

BRIAN CONCANNON JR., ESQ.

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KEY EXPERIENCE

- 24 years' full-time experience working on human rights in Haiti; nine years living in Haiti;
- brief members of the U.S. Congress, immigration officials from the U.S. and Canada, and State Department officials;
- extensive writing and speaking about human rights in Haiti in academic settings and mainstream media;
- qualified as an expert in over 40 cases in the U.S. and Canada, including for the U.S. government;
- expertise in political violence, violence against women, journalists and LGBT persons, and violence related to land conflicts, police and gangs;
- fluency in Haitian Creole and French; and
- excellent references.

REFERENCES

- Ira Kurzban, author of *Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook*;
- references from immigration lawyers in private, non-profit and academic practices available on request.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC, J.D. *cum laude*, 1989

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, B.A. *cum laude*, History and French, 1985

Université de Paris X, Nanterre, France: Exchange Student, 1983 - 1984

PROFESSIONAL

Member of Massachusetts Bar, 1989-present

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), Boston, MA

Founder and Executive Director, 2004 – 2019

Board Member and Advisor, 2019-present

Lead human rights non-profit that:

- investigates human rights conditions in Haiti, prepares reports for the general public and the United Nations and Inter-American Human Rights systems;
- prepares briefings on human rights conditions in Haiti to members of the U.S. Congress, U.S. Executive Branch officials, and immigration officials in the U.S. and Canada;
- monitors elections; and
- represents political prisoners and victims of human rights violations in Haitian, U.S. and international courts.

Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Director and Lawyer, 1996 – 2004

Managed law office that helped the Haitian judiciary prosecute human rights cases. Responsibilities included:

- Working with victims, judges, prosecutors, police and local and international NGOs to advance human rights cases. Involved at every stage of cases from pre-trial investigation through post-trial Supreme Court appeals;
- drafting pleadings and research under Haitian and international human rights law;
- investigating human rights violations;
- briefing members of the international community on human rights issues, including UN and U.S. State Department personnel and visiting U.S. Congressional delegations; and
- consulting for Ministers of Justice, Presidents and other national officials regarding judicial policies and practices.

**United Nations/Organization of American States Civilian Mission to Haiti,
Human Rights Observer, Elections Observer, May 1995- February 1996**

- Investigated human rights violations, especially politically-motivated violence, prison conditions, violence against women and land conflicts;
- consulted with local judicial, police and elected officials on human rights issues; and
- provided training on Haiti's constitution and human rights to community groups.

FELLOWSHIPS/TEACHING

Whitman College, Walla Walla Washington, Visiting Scholar, January 2016

Taught interdisciplinary course on human rights advocacy.

Wasserstein Public Interest Fellows Program, Harvard Law School, Cambridge MA.
Fellow, 2005-2006.

Brandeis Institute For International Judges, Salzburg, Austria, June-July 2004, Guest Faculty Member.
Created and led two seminars for international judges.

Brandeis International Fellowships in Human Rights, Intervention and International Law,
International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
Fellow, 2001-03. Participated in series of institutes with activists, international judges, lawyers and diplomats.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Legal Losses, Moral Wins: How Advocates Forced UN Accountability for Cholera, in **PRIVILEGES & IMPUNITY: ACCOUNTABILITY AND CRISIS IN GLOBAL HEALTH** (Salmaan Keshavjee & Aaron Shako eds., forthcoming 2020, co-author).

Lave Men, Swiye Atè: *Taking Human Rights Seriously*, in Melinda Miles and Eugenia Charles, eds. **LET HAITI LIVE, UNJUST U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS ITS OLDEST NEIGHBOR** (June 2004).

Paddling on Both Sides of the Boat: Cooperation Between International and National Justice, in BOTH SIDES OF THE BENCH: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS, (International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University, Symposium Projects, March 2004).

The Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, a Victim-Centered Approach, in David Barnhizer, editor, EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS (London, Ashgate Press, December 2001).

Legal Journals

Land Conflict in Haiti: Avenues for Asylum Protection, IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS (June 2018, co-author).

Cholera, Accountability and the UN in Haiti, JOURNAL OF INTERVENTION AND STATEBUILDING (January 2018).

Democracy and Sustainability in Reconstructing Haiti: A Possibility or a Mirage?, INTER-AMERICAN LAW REVIEW, Vol. 4, Issue 1 (2013).

Cheaper, Better, Longer Lasting: A Human Rights Approach to Disaster Response, EMORY LAW REVIEW, Vol. 25, Issue 3 (2012, co-author).

Haiti: The Human Rights Struggle in a Land Without Oil, GUILD PRACTITIONER, v. 61, n. 3, (Summer 2004) (issue editor).

Libete, A Haitian Anthology (book review), JOURNAL OF HAITIAN STUDIES, v.8, n. 1, p. 170 (Spring 2002).

Justice for Haiti: The Raboteau Trial, 35 INTERNATIONAL LAWYER 641(2001).

NO RECONCILIATION WITHOUT JUSTICE: *Significant Developments in Haiti's Criminal Justice System*, 44 CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS 22, July 2001.

Beyond Complementarity: The International Criminal Court and National Prosecutions, a View from Haiti, 32 COLUMBIA HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW 201 (2000).

Justice in Haiti: The Raboteau Trial, 7 HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNE, No. 4 (Dec. 2000).

Newspapers

"If Haiti's Government Does Not Confront Poverty, Corruption, More Unrest Will Follow," *Miami Herald*, July 17, 2018.

"Instill Integrity in Haiti's Election," *Miami Herald*, October 5, 2015

"U.S. Will Pay for Fraud in Haitian Elections," *Boston Globe*, December 15, 2010

"Don't Honor Tainted Elections," *Miami Herald*, December 11, 2009 (co-authored with Ira Kurzban)

"Change Haiti Can Believe In," *Boston Globe*, January 25, 2009 (co-authored with Dr. Paul Farmer)

Boston Haitian Reporter (regular column on justice in Haiti, 2004-2010, available at www.ijdh.org).

“The Question Not Asked,” *The Guardian* (UK) (Op-Ed), May 21, 2007

“Justice, Not Charity for Haiti,” *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (Op-Ed), July 24, 2006

“International Justice’s Prodigal Parent,” *Business Day* (South Africa) August 12, 2004 and *The Vanguard* (Nigeria) August 6, 2004.

“Let Voters Choose,” *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (Op-Ed), September 22, 2003.

“*La PNH en danger*” *Le Bureau des avocats internationaux (BAI) repond...*, *Le Matin* (Haitian daily newspaper), coauthored with Mario Joseph, May 3, 2001.

“A Step in the Right Direction for Democratic Haiti,” *Miami Herald* (Op-Ed), February 6, 2001.

Online

Extensive writing for websites, including *World Politics Review* (2015), the Council on Foreign Relations (January 2011), *New York Times* (January 2010), Foreign Policy in Focus, and Center for International Policy

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Interviewed regularly in print and television for North American, European and Haitian press, radio and television reports on human rights and justice in Haiti, including: the BBC, NPR, Washington Post, New York Times, Boston Globe, Miami Herald, CNN, and Al Jazeera, among others. Speak often to audiences at law schools, universities and other groups interested in human rights in Haiti.

AWARDS:

Salem Human Rights Award, 2014 (shared with Mario Joseph)
Canisius College, Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causae* 2013
Rochester Coalition on Latin America “White Dove Award” 2012
Center for Justice & Accountability Judith Lee Stronach Human Rights Award, March 2009 (shared by *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* and Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti)
Haiti Solidarity Network of the Northeast “Friend of Haiti Award,” April 2005
Boston College High School St. Ignatius Award (for lifetime achievement), April 2004

LANGUAGES

Fluent in French and Haitian Creole