

DIANE F. ORENTLICHER

**Professor of International Law
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Diane Orentlicher, Professor of International Law at the Washington College of Law, has been described by as “one of the world’s leading authorities on human rights law and war crimes tribunals” (Washington Diplomat). Professor Orentlicher has lectured and published widely on issues of transitional justice, international criminal law and other areas of public international law and policy. Her 1991 article in the Yale Law Journal, Settling Accounts, is widely considered a seminal text in the field of transitional justice. As Independent Expert on Combating Impunity on appointment by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Professor Orentlicher updated the United Nations Set of Principles on Combating Impunity, a key “soft law” instrument in the field of transitional justice.

During the first term of the Obama Administration, Professor Orentlicher served as Deputy, Office of War Crimes Issues (since renamed Office of Global Criminal Justice) in the Department of State. In that capacity, she was deeply engaged in strengthening efforts to prevent violence against women; developing the administration’s atrocities prevention initiative; and supporting international and hybrid tribunals.

Selected Professional Experience

Academic

Since June 1992 Washington College of Law, American University, Washington, DC

1989-1990
Academic Year
Yale Law School New Haven, CT: Schiefelbusch Fellow (1989); Adjunct Professor

1987-1991
Columbia University Schools of Law, Business and School of International and Public Affairs New York, NY: Adjunct Professor

Public Service

2009-2011
U.S. Department of State Deputy, Office of War Crimes Issues (since renamed Office of Global Criminal Justice) This office led the State Department's efforts to prevent atrocities and, in the aftermath of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, to support transitional justice measures.

2004-2005
United Nations Independent Expert to update the Set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action on combat impunity on appointment by then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The updated principles (UN Doc. E/CN.4/2005/102 and Addendum) were endorsed by the UN Commission on Human Rights at its final session in 2005 (CHR resolution 2005/81).

2003-2004
United Nations Expert, appointed by then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to prepare an "independent study on best practices, including recommendations to assist States in strengthening their domestic capacity to combat all aspects of impunity." (See UN Doc. E/CN.4/2004/88)

January 1999
July 1999
High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, The Hague, The Netherlands: Special Advisor to the High Commissioner, on secondment from the U.S. Department of State while on sabbatical leave from American University

Other Non-Academic Positions

August 2007-
August 2008
Special Counsel, Open Society Justice Initiative, New York, NY and Washington, DC: Senior Counsel: Served in senior management role during leave of absence of Executive Director of organization that promotes law reform and legal capacity development internationally. Served on organization's Board of Directors from 2003 until 2009, when I resigned to serve in the Department of State.

May 1983
March 1988

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (since renamed Human RightsFirst), New York, NY: Deputy Director for organization and Director of its International Human Rights Program. Directed international program of public interest law center that promotes compliance with international human rights and refugee law and procedures. Presented congressional testimony on issues of U.S. human rights policy; assisted in representation of families of U.S. churchwomen killed in El Salvador. Authored, co-authored and edited publications on human rights conditions in countries monitored by the Committee. Served on Advisory Committee of Washington Office until 2009, when I resigned to serve in Department of State.

September 1983
May 1983

Stephens & Johnson, Washington, D.C.: Associate. Practiced primarily in areas of international law and international trade.

Education

Columbia University School of Law, New York, NY: J.D. 1981
Editor, Columbia Law Review
Deborah Morse Scholar, Columbia Law School
Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, Columbia Law School
Samuel I. Rosenman Prize, Columbia Law School
Cambridge University, Cambridge, England: Graduate Research in Philosophy, Fall 1977
Yale University, New Haven, CT: B.A. 1977

Other

Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, American Society of International Law

Victim Participation and Public Messaging: Contemporary Lessons of the Eichman Trial
MINN. J. INT'L L. 35 (2022)

Ensuring Access to Accurate Information and Combatting Misinformation about Pandemics

DETERMINATION, Stephen J. Macedo and Allen Buchanan, eds. (New York University Press, 2003)

The Future of Universal Jurisdiction in the New Architecture of Transnational Justice, in UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION: NATIONAL COURTS AND THE PROSECUTION OF SERIOUS CRIMES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW 214, Stephen J. Macedo, ed. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003)

When Justice Goes to War: Prosecuting Terrorists Before Military Commissions, 25 HARVARD JOURNAL OF LAW & PUBLIC POLICY 653 (2002) (with Robert K. Goldman)

The Role of Domestic Courts and Judges in the Implementation and Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law in 4 FUNDAMENTUM 5-20 (2001)

Relativism and Religion, in HUMAN RIGHTS AS POLITICS AND IDOLATRY 141 (Princeton University Press) (Amy Gutmann, ed., 2001)

Contemporary International Law and Policy Responses to Separatist Movements, in A CONTINENT APART: KOSOVO, AFRICA AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION 151 (Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, ed., 2001)

The Imprint of Kosovo on International Law, 6 ILSA J. INT'L & COMP. L. 541 (2000)

Politics by Other Means: The Law of the International Criminal Court, 32 CORNELL JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 489 (1999)

Co-editor HUMAN RIGHTS, with Louis Henkin, Gerald L. Neuman and David W. Leebron, (Foundation Press, 1999); DOCUMENTARY SUPPLEMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS (2000); and SUPPLEMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS (2003)

Genocide in CRIMES OF WAR: WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW 153 (Roy W. Gutman and David Rieff, eds, Norton Press, 1999)

A Half Century of Silence: The Politics of Law, in WAR CRIMES: THE LEGACY OF NUREMBERG 107 (Belinda Cooper ed., 1999)

Internationalizing Civil Wars, in WAR CRIMES: THE LEGACY OF NUREMBERG 107 (Belinda Cooper ed., 1999)

Settling Accounts: The Duty to Prosecute Human Rights Violations of a Regime 100 YALE
LAW JOURNAL 2537 (1991) (excepts reproduced in INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN
CONTEXT: LAW, POLITICS AND MORALS (Henry Steiner & Philip Alston eds. 1996, University
Press)); INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: LAW, POLICY, AND PROCESS (David Weissbrodt &
Frank Newmr A1 (r A1 (r A1 (r A1 (r A1 (2 (av)1 (i)-1 (d)1 (W)i16 (I Td [(ro)2 (d)2 (t &)]-0.6143.5 Tm;

“The Case for a Putin War Crimes Trial,” NBC News Think, May 9, 2022, at <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/russia-ukraine-update-trickle-case-trying-vladimir-putin-war-crim-rcna27996>

“How States Can Prosecute Russian Aggression without or without ‘Univers

Principal contributing author, HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE, REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF ROMA AND SINTI IN THE OSCE AREA (April 2000)

Monograph, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity: The Balkan Regime (December 1998), published by United States Holocaust Memorial Council

Contribution of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the Interpretation and Development of the Substantive Law It Applies in PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WAR-CRIMES TRIALS, BELGRADE, NOV. 7-8, 1998 at 71-83 (Humanitarian Law Center, 2000)

Responsibility to Arrest TRIBUNAL (Apr./May 1997)

Should We Risk Lives to Save Lives? THE BOSTON REVIEW (November 1993)

Yugoslavia War Crimes Tribunal, FOCUS (publication of American Society of International Law) (Summer 1993) (excerpts reproduced in INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: PROBLEMS OF LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE (Richard B. Lillich & Hntern4.9 (l)-9]TJ 9.48 -0 0 9.48 2y7S (2 (B)48 -08 546.9 Trm

