



INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND JUSTICE  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



**Peter Maass book presentation:**  
*Crude World: The Violent Twilight of Oil*

**PANEL DISCUSSION WITH:**

**Robert Howse: Moderator**

Rob Howse is Lloyd C. Nelson Professor of International Law and Faculty Director of the Institute for International Law and Justice (IILJ) at NYU School of Law. He has published extensively on issues related to international trade and investment law, as well as on international legal theory.

**Smita Narula: Panelist**

Smita Narula is Associate Professor and Faculty Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law. Before joining NYU in August 2003, Smita Narula spent six years at Human Rights Watch, first as the organization's India researcher and later as Senior Researcher for South Asia. In this capacity, she oversaw Human Rights Watch's work on India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, and helped coordinate the organization's response to the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. Narula has conducted numerous human rights investigations in Asia and has authored a variety of reports and articles on caste discrimination worldwide and the rise of religious nationalism in South Asia.

In 1997, Narula graduated from Harvard Law School, where she was Editor-in-chief of the Harvard Human Rights Journal. Before law school, Narula received a Masters in International Development from Brown University and worked on HIV and public health at UNICEF and the United Nations Development Fund. Narula has also taught human rights advocacy and documentation at Columbia University's Center for the Study of Human Rights. Her research interests include caste and racial discrimination, religious intolerance, human rights abuses in the "war on terror", social and economic rights, and the accountability of transnational corporations and international financial institutions for human rights violations.

**Beth Stephens: Panelist**

Beth Stephens is a Professor at Rutgers School of Law. From 1990-1995, she was in charge of the international human rights docket at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, where she litigated a series of cases addressing human rights violations in countries around the world, including Bosnia, Guatemala, Haiti, East Timor and Ethiopia.

As a cooperating attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights and a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Justice and Accountability, Prof. Stephens continues to litigate human rights cases, including cases filed against U.S.- based corporations alleging responsibility for human rights violations committed in the course of their activities abroad.

She has published a variety of articles on the relationship between international and domestic law, focusing on the enforcement of international human rights norms through domestic courts. She co-authored a book analyzing U.S. enforcement of human rights norms, *International Human Rights Litigation in U.S. Courts* (second edition, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, forthcoming 2007).

Professor Stephens graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University, received her J.D. degree from the law school of the University of California at Berkeley, and clerked for Chief Justice Rose Bird of the California Supreme Court.

**Dan Firger: Panelist**

Dan Firger is a joint J.D./Master's of Public Affairs candidate at NYU School of Law and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. His studies focus on international environmental policy and human rights. Prior to law school, Dan served as the national organizer of the Global Finance Campaign at Rainforest Action Network (RAN), a San Francisco-based NGO that focuses on corporate accountability campaigns related to deforestation, climate change, and indigenous rights.

As a law student, Dan spent his first year summer in Ecuador, where he served as part of the legal team representing 30,000 plaintiffs in a multi-billion dollar lawsuit against Chevron to seek remediation costs for widespread pollution across the Amazon basin following decades of oil drilling. The "David and Goliath" case, originally filed in 1993 in U.S. federal court and being carried on in a tiny Amazonian courtroom, was recently featured in an award-winning documentary film, "Crude." Dan continues to volunteer on the case, which is expected to reach a verdict in early 2010.

**Nikki Reisch: Panelist**

Nikki Reisch is a Root-Tilden-Kern and IILJ Scholar at NYU School of Law who has spent the decade since her graduation from Yale University working on human rights, economic, social and environmental justice in the context of international development and the global economy, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. After serving in the Peace Corps in Senegal, she was recruited to manage the Africa program of the Bank Information Center (BIC), a Washington DC-based non-profit organization that works to democratize development decision-making, safeguard rights and ensure accountability in the operations of the World Bank and other international financial institutions. She spent five years in this position and her work focused heavily on natural resources and international trade and development, with a particular emphasis on the impacts of oil, gas and mineral extraction in Africa. In this role, Nikki helped lead civil society input into the Extractive Industries Review, a three year review of the poverty impacts of World Bank

support for oil, mining and gas, and co-authored a report on the World Bank-backed Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline, called *Chad's Oil: Miracle or Mirage? Following the money in Africa's newest petro-state*.

She has traveled extensively throughout Africa, collaborating with local organizations in Ghana, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Chad, and elsewhere, to challenge the impacts of natural resource extraction and defend communities' rights in those countries. Most recently, after several months as an independent consultant, whose projects included co-authoring a report on the climate impacts of the Iraq war, Nikki moved to London where she spent the past year working as the Policy Advisor on Forests and Climate Change at the Rainforest Foundation UK.