

JENNIFER J. SMITH

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BRIEF BIO

Jennifer Smith is an experienced criminal defense lawyer with a comprehensive knowledge of international law and extensive international development experience reforming legal aid systems. She is currently the Executive Director for the International Legal Foundation, an international nongovernmental organization that assists post-conflict countries in establishing public defender systems that provide effective, quality criminal defense services to the poor. Previously, she served as a public defender in Cambridge, Massachusetts and New York City. From 2004-2009, she worked for International Bridges to Justice, most recently as China director, based in Beijing. Earlier, she worked in Cambodia with Legal Aid of Cambodia.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The International Legal Foundation (ILF), Executive Director

January 2013 – present

New York, NY

Manage global organization with a budget of over \$3 million, 150+ staff, and offices in five countries. Provide direction on all aspects of the ILF's legal training, service delivery model, international advocacy, reporting and monitoring, outcomes evaluations, and expansion plans. Fulfill primary fundraising responsibilities, including identifying and cultivating potential funding sources, writing proposals and reports, and identifying funding needs and gaps in current and future projects. Oversee all advocacy and communications efforts, including writing and editing copy for brochures and other materials, identifying communications needs, and shaping the organization's public face and messaging strategies. Handle all contact between the Board of Directors and the organization, including facilitating Board Meetings, identifying and securing new Board members, and communicating organizational accomplishments.

The International Legal Foundation (ILF), Advocacy Director

May 2010 – January 2013

New York, NY

Developed and led the ILF's advocacy agenda, aimed at maximizing the ILF's impact and ability to effect systemic change, both at the country level and at the international level. Provided expert advice and technical assistance on legal aid and the rights of accused persons to the United Nations, World Bank and other international organizations. Most recently was a principal drafter of UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, first international instrument exclusively dedicated to legal aid. Assisted post-conflict countries in establishing effective, sustainable indigent criminal defense systems, and developing minimum professional standards and ethical guidelines for defense lawyers who represent the poor.

Open Society Justice Initiative, Consultant

October 2009 – May 2010

New York, NY

Developed policy materials on the rights of accused persons in the European Union with the aim of advocating for the establishment of minimum procedural rights for the criminally accused.

International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), China Program Director

September 2007 – February 2009

Beijing, China

As IBJ's first country director, designed legal aid training strategy and led implementation. Developed, managed and reported on IBJ's annual China program activities and budgets (over

\$1 million/year). Successfully drafted various grant proposals and managed all of IBJ's China grants, including reporting. Recruited, trained and supervised international and local staff and volunteers based in China. Represented IBJ to donors, the Chinese government, the UN, and NGOs. Responsible for administration, logistics, and finance of the country program.

Legal Director

October 2004 – August 2007

Hefei, Anhui Province, China

Opened and managed IBJ's country office and led team in the design and delivery of its legal aid training work in China. Hired and trained staff. In close consultation with the National Legal Aid Center of China's Ministry of Justice, developed IBJ's first training plan for Chinese defenders. Trained hundreds of lawyers throughout China, introducing and integrating best practices in criminal defense. Promoted a roundtable format as a means to bring together key actors in China's criminal justice system. Forged a wide array of strategic partnerships with governmental institutions, the judiciary, prosecutor bodies and prominent universities; published resource manuals and training guides and distributed to legal professionals throughout China.

Criminal Defense Division, The Legal Aid Society of New York, Staff Attorney

January 2003 – September 2004

New York, NY

Represented indigent clients in felony and misdemeanor cases at all stages of the criminal process, from arraignment to trial, in Criminal and Supreme Courts of New York County. Supervised more junior staff attorneys on their case preparation and trial performance.

Public Defender Division, Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), Staff Attorney

September 1999 – December 2002

Cambridge, MA

Represented indigent clients in felony cases in District and Superior Courts of Massachusetts. Founded immigrant rights program that would later become the Immigration Impact Unit. In capacity as CPCS's first immigration law specialist, advised defense attorneys throughout NE of the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. Drafted amicus briefs to the Supreme Judicial Court and lobbied House of Representatives regarding immigration related issues.

Criminal Appeals Bureau, The Legal Aid Society of New York, Law Clerk

May 1998 – August 1998

New York, NY

Represented criminal defendants on appeal to appellate courts and the Court of Appeals.

Legal Aid of Cambodia, Legal Consultant

September 1996 – August 1997

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Conducted first nationwide survey on the state of Cambodia's juvenile justice system, surveying prisons, police stations and courthouses. Witnessed numerous trials. Drafted report and recommendations to UNICEF suggesting reforms to Cambodia's juvenile justice system. Report culminated in UNICEF grant for Legal Aid of Cambodia to establish a specialized Juvenile Unit. Researched and reported on the use of torture to extract confessions from the criminally accused.

Intern

May 1996 – August 1996

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

EDUCATION

BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL

Newton, MA

Juris Doctor, Cum Laude

May, 1999

Awards: Owen M. Kupferschmid Holocaust/Human Rights Project Grant
1998-1999 Champy Fellow
Drinan Family Fund Award in Support of Public Interest
Lewis S. Gurwitz Award

Activities: Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project
Boston College Immigration and Asylum Project
Co-Founder, El Paso Asylum Project

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO

Buffalo, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude

May, 1995

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa
Dean's List

Study Abroad: **Instituto Internacional**, Madrid, Spain *September 1994 – May 1995*

OTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

INSEAD

Singapore

December, 2008

Received full scholarship to attend INSEAD Social Entrepreneurship Program.

BAR ADMISSION Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, December 1999
Admitted to the New York Bar, November 2002

PUBLICATIONS

Jennifer Smith, Natalie Rea, Shabir Ahmad Kamawal, *The right to counsel as a safeguard of justice in Afghanistan: the contribution of the International Legal Foundation*, International Review of the Red Cross, Vol. 92, No. 880 (December 2010).

Jennifer Smith & Michael Gompers, *Realizing Justice: The Development of Fair Trial Rights in China*, 2 Chinese Law & Policy Review 10 (2007) (jointly published in Chinese in the Peking University Law Journal, 詹妮弗·史密斯 迈克尔·冈珀斯: “实现正义——公平审判权在中国的发展”, 《北大法律评论》(第八卷第2辑), 北京: 北京大学出版社2007年, 页353-385)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Proficient in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish