

AMITA AGUDA

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES,

LLM in Human Rights, Conflict and Justice, June 2011

Honors: *With Merit*, Harvard Knox Traveling Fellow, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar

Activities: Contributor to the *SOAS Rag*, *London Student*, and *Spoonfed London*,
London District 1130 & Illinois District 7770 Rotary Club speaker

Thesis: "Access to Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence in West Africa"

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., *cum laude*, June 2010

Honors: International Achievement Summit Delegate (South Africa, July 2009),

Heyman Summer Fellow, Marshall Finalist

Coursework: International Human Rights, International Trade Law, Doctrine & Practice of the
Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Costa Rica, Jan 2010)

Activities: *Human Rights Journal*, Case Note Editor

Black Law Students Association Africa Summit Delegate (Kenya, March 2009),

Harvard African Law Association (HALA)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, B.A. in Political Science, Spanish Minor, *summa cum laude*, May 2007

Honors: 4.0 Medalist, Phi Beta Kappa, National Achievement Scholar, President's International
Travel Fellow (Univ. de Alcalá de Henares, Spain), Furman Honor List (Top 25 seniors)

EXPERIENCE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, Sierra Leone, Ghana & Nigeria

Harvard Satter Fellow & ASIL Helton Fellow, International Justice Project (IJP) August 2011-present

Authoring legal reports on the framework for trying international crimes in three West African countries; outlining domestic justice systems and procedures for extradition and mutual legal assistance. Organizing grassroots advocacy for necessary reforms of law and local practice. Preparing comparative analysis of regional obstacles to prosecution for use by IJP legal advisers.

FREELANCE RESEARCH & PROGRAMMING ASSISTANCE, London, UK & Chicago, IL

Representative projects: September 2010 – July 2011

- Assisted award-winning photojournalist based in the Middle East with writing for a women's empowerment media campaign, lecture series, and conference grant proposal.
- Researched literature and organized thematic syllabus for Dean Akin Akinyemi's Human Rights in the Developing World course at the School of Oriental and African Studies.
- Drafted concept papers and researched potential partners for the AIRE (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe) Centre's judicial capacity building program in Serbia and Montenegro; assisted in drafting successful proposal for full partnership for AIRE Centre and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, London, UK

Research and Campaign Assistant, Africa Programme June 2010 – September 2010

Assisted country specialists on Sudan, East Africa, and the Horn with media monitoring, public statements, report entries and online actions, mission planning, formatting and distributing publications, and communicating with human rights victims, colleagues, and partners abroad; supervised volunteer work on Sudan and Somalia. Drafted a comprehensive briefing on pre-electoral human rights concerns and an in-depth research and campaigning proposal for Sierra Leone.

HARVARD INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC (IHRC), Cambridge, MA
Student Researcher February 2009 – June 2010
Co-authored *Digging in the Dirt: Child Miners in the Diamond Mining Industry*, an advocacy report published in 2010 by the IHRC; drafted press release and publicized the report among government ministers, child protection organizations, and media (radio, television, and print) in Freetown. Researched violations of sexual and reproductive health rights in Namibia. Conducted comparative international legal research for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (Cambodia Tribunal) investigating judges.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, Washington, DC
Housing and Civil Enforcement Section, Summer Law Intern Program Clerk July 2009 – August 2009
Drafted interrogatories and conducted legal and factual research for trial attorneys enforcing U.S. fair housing and lending laws. Contributed research to a case of discriminatory mortgage lending practices in Little Rock, Arkansas, which yielded a substantial settlement for monetary and injunctive relief.

WINSTON & ELLIS, LLP, Chicago, IL
Summer Associate May 2009 – July 2009
Conducted initial legal research and writing on pro bono asylum brief in a case for which the Homeland Security Department granted asylum.

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE (CAT), Geneva, Switzerland
Intern to the Chairman for the semi-annual CAT sessions May 2008
Monitored hearings, reviewed country and shadow reports on State Parties' compliance with the Convention Against Torture; drafted questions, concluding observations, and recommendations for the CAT Chairman.

SAN FRANCISCO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM (SFVLP), San Francisco, CA
Family Justice Center Extern January 2008
Assisted staff attorneys at collaborative domestic violence center and affiliated legal clinic with case maintenance, client correspondence, and filing of temporary restraining orders.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION, Washington, DC
Government Relations Intern June 2008 – August 2008
Drafted policy memorandum analyzing relevant provisions of U.S. federal anti-trafficking law and proposed legislative changes. Composed legal memorandum for use in overseas field offices examining challenges to the PROTECT Act, a piece of federal sex tourism legislation with extraterritorial reach. Supervised a team of eight other interns on an ongoing project outlining factors contributing to modern day slavery to be used in advocacy campaigns.

LICENSURES & AFFILIATIONS

Licensed to Practice Law in Illinois
American Bar Association–Section of International Law, Africa & International Human Rights Committees
American Society of International Law (ASIL)