

Mr. Prasanna Ranganathan
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EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2006-2007 **Master of Laws, Columbia University – School of Law (New York, NY)**

- James Kent Scholar, Columbia University, School of Law (2006-07) (Top 1-3%)
- Canada – U.S. Fulbright Scholar (2006-07)
- Law Foundation of British Columbia Graduate Fellowship (2006-07)
- Thesis: "Survivors of Torture, Victims of Law: Reforming State Immunity in Canada by Developing Exceptions for Terrorism and Torture" (2008) 71 Sask. L. Rev. 343
 - Cited by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Kazemi Estate v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 2014 SCC 62

2006 **Admitted to the Law Society of Saskatchewan**

2002-2005 **Juris Doctor, University of Victoria (Victoria, BC)**

- The University of Victoria Blue and Gold Circle Award (2005)
 - Awarded in recognition of academics and University involvement/leadership
- The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Edward K. Rowan-Legg Award (2004)
 - National award in recognition of student service to the CBA
- Member of the Laskin Moot Competition (French Mooter – University of Victoria Team) (2004)

1999-2002 **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), University of Saskatchewan (with Great Distinction) - Major: Political Studies, Minor: French**

- Dean's Honor Roll, University of Saskatchewan, College of Arts and Science (2000, 2001)
- Golden Key International Honor Society Lifetime Membership (academic achievement) (2001)
- Chancellors' Scholarship, University of Saskatchewan (full scholarship) (1999-2002)

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in French (oral and written; Government of Canada Levels: EEC) and Tamil (oral)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Legal, International Development and Program Management

2017-Present: **Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), Innovation and Energy Technology Sector (Mission Innovation¹ (MI)), Policy Advisor (Ottawa, ON)**

- Respond to various NRCAN and Government of Canada requests related to MI, including drafting briefing notes, decks, charts and other visuals
- Prepare briefing materials, communications tools, logistics notes, and research for the Minister of Natural Resources for his participation in the MI Ministerial in Beijing in June 2017
- Provide policy analysis and operational support to the international MI Secretariat, including to the Chairs of the MI Steering Committee and to leads of each of the sub-groups
- Support the participation of Canada's representative in the MI Steering Committee
- Represent Canada on the Working Group for the *Mission Innovation Champions* program, which seeks to

¹ Mission Innovation (MI) is an international initiative, which aims to reinvigorate and accelerate global clean energy innovation with the objective to make clean energy widely affordable. Through MI, 22 countries and the European Union are taking action to double their public clean energy R&D investment over 5 years. MI members are also furthering collaboration among partner countries, sharing information, and coordinating with businesses and investors.

award 36 awards annually (of \$100,000 each) to recognize leaders and innovators in clean energy research, development and demonstration

- Develop pitch and outreach materials to raise funds for the *Mission Innovation Champions* program and to recruit judges and nominators for the prestigious prize
- Support Canada's leadership of the *Analysis and Joint Research sub-group* by providing timely briefing material to Canada's executive lead, engaging and co-ordinating with federal research communities, and working with international partners to identify and advance joint R&D projects and priorities

2012-2017: Federal Judicial Affairs Canada, International Programs, Manager and Senior Special Advisor (Judicial-Legal) (Ottawa, ON)

- Managed and implemented justice sector reform projects in Jamaica, Ukraine, Ghana and Peru on matters including judicial ethics, communications, case management, judicial discipline, judicial appointments, media relations, court governance, training, manuals, and role of judges in the justice system
- Worked closely with and provided policy support, research, and analysis to Canadian judges and judicial experts on international development programming and justice sector reform internationally
- Represented FJA at international meetings and delegations; coordinated stakeholder engagement in international programs and initiatives; and built relationships with foreign partners, judges, institutions, and agencies
- Organized official visits of international judges and ministers to Canada, dealing with substantive program development, logistics, and complex protocol arrangements for high-level officials
- Prepared briefing notes, reports, proposals and project implementation plans for donors, partners, senior management and Global Affairs Canada
- Conducted research and writing for the Commissioner and undertook communications and outreach with members of the Canadian judiciary
- Wrote reports, briefing materials, talking points, organized meetings, and prepared minutes for the Chair and members of the Independent Advisory Board on Supreme Court of Canada Judicial Appointments
- Prepared speeches, speaking notes, forms, and information materials on the new process for judicial appointments in Canada and more specifically the work of the Judicial Advisory Committees

2009-2012: Department of Justice, International Legal Programs, Legal Counsel (Ottawa, ON)

- Worked on justice sector reform projects in Jamaica, Mexico, and Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), conducting comparative research and writing on legal profession regulation and criminal law reform
- Represented the Department of Justice at international meetings and delegations
- Prepared reports, proposals, briefing notes, policies and implementation plans for Global Affairs Canada (then CIDA and DFAIT) and other partners
- Liaised with government officials, foreign dignitaries, and donors on project implementation
- Worked closely with the National Judicial Institute, the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs, and Canadian judges on a range of project implementation activities in Mexico related to judicial training, judicial ethics, and court administration
- Organized Canadian and international meetings/missions for Canadian and international delegations
- Prepared briefing materials for ministerial delegations, senior government officials and stakeholders

Summer 2009/2004/2003: Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Investigator/Mediator (2009) and Summer Intern (2003 and 2004) (Saskatoon, SK)

- Conducted in-depth investigations of complaints lodged under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*
- Screened complaints for early resolution and conducted shuttle mediations
- Interviewed complainants and witnesses, collected evidence, prepared legal documents, and made recommendations to the Chief Commissioner on the resolution, dismissal or furtherance of complaints
- Conducted research on equity programs, provincial human rights statutes, and First Nations jurisdiction issues

2008-2009: Canadian International Development Agency/Canadian Bar Association, Young Professionals International Program, Ethiopian Bar Association, Advisor - Intern (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

- Selected as 1 of 11 Canadian lawyers to serve in international human rights law placements
- Suggested regulatory framework for Ethiopian lawyers through international comparative analysis
- Worked on developing Access to Justice Project and pro bono services for marginalized populations; delivered community legal education programs; and prepared funding/grant applications

2008-2009: United Nations Development Programme (Democratic Institutions Programme (DIP)), Disability Advisor and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Advisor (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

- Assisted the DIP with institutions such as the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and Ombudsman
- Studied disability rights in Ethiopian law; analyzed workforce barriers to persons with disabilities; implemented equity programs; analyzed the use of ADR strategies; and assisted the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission under a multi-donor project framework

2008: MacPherson, Leslie & Tyerman LLP, Litigation and Labor Department, Associate (Saskatoon, SK)

- Practiced labor and employment law, immigration and refugee law, human rights law
- Drafted appellate arguments, including leave applications for Supreme Court of Canada
- Represented clients in immigration proceedings

2005-2006: The Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan, Law Clerk / Articling Student to the Honorable Mr. Justice Vancise and the Honorable Mr. Justice Lane (Regina, SK)

- Prepared bench memoranda in all areas of law (i.e. criminal, constitutional, labor and employment, and contracts); edited draft judgments; and assisted in preparing presentations for international conferences
- Completed two externships:
 - Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission: Prepared written pleadings and argued chambers applications
 - Hnatyshyn Gough LLP: Drafted contracts, wills and submissions for family and immigration proceedings

Communications, Social Media, and Writing

2017: The Walrus Talks Conversations about Canada: *We Desire a Better Country*, National Tour Speaker

- Selected as 1 of 100 speakers, including 50 Order of Canada recipients and 50 youth leaders, in the youth leaders category, to be a part of an extraordinary national tour focusing on the future of Canada
- The Walrus Talks, televised on CPAC and broadcast on CBC Radio, visited every province and territory, and each event featured 8 speakers: 4 youth leaders and 4 members of the Order of Canada
- My talk entitled [*Post-Poster: Inclusion in Action*](#) focused on diversity and inclusion, highlighting the importance of inclusion in Canada within institutional frameworks and marginalized communities

2015-Present: *Dream, Girl* (a documentary film), Associate Producer and Director of Marketing and Curriculum Development

- Developed a discussion guide for *Dream, Girl*, a documentary film on female entrepreneurs; used for over 200 screenings around the world
- Design, implement and track social media marketing and engagement campaigns generally and for specific events at the White House, the world premiere in New York City, and at the Cannes Film Festival
- Lead outreach initiatives and develop partnerships with media, companies, social media influencers, celebrities, leaders, and key stakeholders

2011-Present: Freelance Social Media Expert, Communications Strategist, and Correspondent

- Developed and implemented innovative, successful Twitter discussions/events for the following films and studios, with substantial impressions, metrics, and trending data:

- *Selma* for Oprah , OWN and Paramount Pictures; 34-50 million impressions
- *The Hundred-Foot Journey* for Oprah, OWN, and DreamWorks/Disney; 21 million impressions and Trending Topic
- *Lee Daniels' The Butler* for Oprah and OWN; Trending Topic
- *Miracles From Heaven* for DeVon Franklin and Sony Pictures; 132 million impressions
- Created a discussion guide on Arianna Huffington's book *Thrive* that she published on *The Huffington Post* (*Thrive* site) and designed a social media strategy and communications/outreach plan for Arianna Huffington for her new book *The Sleep Revolution* which informed outreach and engagement strategies with readers around the world
- Social Media Correspondent at Screen Actors' Guild Awards in Los Angeles (January 2014) for the CBS's *The Insider*; provided social media coverage on red-carpet/backstage, conducted Instagram interviews, live-tweeted, and briefed hosts and producers on nominated actors, films, and TV programs
- Designed, and delivered Twitter book club with substantial impressions, metrics, and trending data:
 - *The Untethered Soul* (Michael Singer); *Produced by Faith* (Devon Franklin); *It's Complicated* (Paul Brunson)
 - Significant increase in sales after *The Untethered Soul* event (ascendancy on the *NY Times* Best Seller List)
- Founding member and community co-manager of the OWN Ambassadors, an unofficial, grassroots group supporting OWN and Oprah Winfrey through viewer engagement, marketing/promotional activities, community service projects, and public outreach

2012-Present: ***The Huffington Post*, Contributing Blogger and Freelance Writer/Contributor**

- Contributing blogger for [The Huffington Post](#)
- Freelance writer with articles published on Oprah.com, Positively Positive, The Whirling Blog, The Daily OWN and Canada's OWN Viewers on pop culture, television, film, books, and personal development

SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- 2010-Present CBA Young Lawyers International Program, Selection Committee and Presenter (Ottawa, ON)
- 2010-Present Ottawa *FUN*raisers, Coordinator/Organizer for Charitable Fundraisers (Ottawa, ON)
- 2009-Present Shepherds of Good Hope Soup Kitchen/Shelter, Volunteer (Ottawa, ON)
- 2009-2012 Justice Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, Member (Ottawa, ON)
- 2010 Sai World Foundation, Medical Camps, Volunteer (Port-au-Prince, Haiti)
- 2008-09 Cheshire Services Ethiopia, English/Music Teacher (Menagesha, Ethiopia)
- 2008 University of Saskatchewan, College of Law, Guest Lecturer (Saskatoon, SK)
- 2007 California Appellate Project, Legal Intern/Volunteer (San Francisco, CA)
- 2006-2007 Columbia Society for International Law, Board Member (New York, NY)
- 2004-2005 Law Students' Society (LSS), President (Victoria, BC)
- 2004-2005 Law Students Peer Counseling Program, Founder and Coordinator (Victoria, BC)
- 2003-2004 CBA Provincial Council (BC), UVic Law Student Representative (Victoria, BC)
- 1985-2002 South Indian Classical Vocal Music Training (Regina/Saskatoon, SK)