



Prasanna Ranganathan



CONTACT

- E-MAIL** prasannaranganathan@yahoo.com
PHONE (613) 868-6208
WEBSITE <http://www.prasannaranganathan.com>
LINKEDIN www.linkedin.com/in/prasannaranganathan/
TWITTER @PRanganathan



PROFILE

Prasanna Ranganathan is a lawyer, writer, social media strategist, diversity and inclusion expert, and communications and marketing specialist. Prasanna has enjoyed a rich and diverse career as: a lawyer with various governments, the private sector, a non-governmental organization, and the United Nations; a contributing writer; a social media strategist for artists, film studios, TV networks, and authors; a red-carpet correspondent; an associate producer; and a public speaker, trainer and facilitator.



EDUCATION

MASTER OF LAWS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY – SCHOOL OF LAW // 2006 - 2007

- 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

JURIS DOCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA // 2002 - 2005

- 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)

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.), UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN (WITH GREAT DISTINCTION)

MAJOR: POLITICAL STUDIES, MINOR: FRENCH // 1999 - 2002

- 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)



ADMISSIONS & QUALIFICATIONS

ADMITTED TO THE LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO // 2017

ADMITTED TO THE LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN // 2006

FLUENT IN FRENCH (Spoken and written; Government of Canada Levels: EEC)

FLUENT IN TAMIL (Spoken)



WORK EXPERIENCE

Legal, International Development and Program Management

SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWER // 2017 - Present

INDEPENDENT STREET CHECKS REVIEW, GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

- Provide legal and policy advice, based on research and analysis, to the Independent Street Checks Reviewer, whose mandate is to undertake a full and independent review of Ontario Regulation 58/16 on police street checks, on human rights, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, the impact of culture on diversity in policing, and intersectionality
- Conduct legal and policy research, writing, and analysis and prepare pre- and post- meeting memoranda and research memoranda on the differing approaches to Regulation 58/16 by the various police services and on issues of diversity, inclusion, and human rights
- Draft and edit speeches on diversity and inclusion and technology in policing for the Independent Street Checks Reviewer
- Develop and execute the Independent Street Checks Review's social media strategy and develop an online audience for the Review's outreach and engagement initiatives
- Support the Independent Street Checks Reviewer in the development of recommendations and the preparation of the final report to the public on Regulation 58/16
- Plan, implement, and support the Independent Street Checks Reviewer in the various consultations with police services, members of the public, community organizations and implicated stakeholder groups in Ontario
- Moderate and facilitate public consultation sessions and youth engagement sessions for the Review
- Serve as the media representative for the Review, providing television, radio, and print media interviews across Ontario on the nature of the Review's work, goals, outreach, and consultations

POLICY ADVISOR // 2017

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA (NRCAN), INNOVATION AND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

- Responded to various NRCAN and Government of Canada requests related to Mission Innovation (MI) (an international initiative on clean energy innovation and multilateral collaboration), by drafting briefing notes and presentations
- Prepared briefing materials, communications tools, logistics notes, and research for the Minister of Natural Resources for his participation in the MI Ministerial in China in June 2017
- Provided policy analysis and operational support to the international MI Secretariat and MI Steering Committee
- Represented Canada on the Working Group for the MI Champions program, which seeks to award 36 awards annually (of \$100,000 each) to recognize leaders and innovators in clean energy research and development
- Developed pitch materials to raise funds and find judges for the MI Champions program

MANAGER AND SENIOR SPECIAL ADVISOR (JUDICIAL-LEGAL) // 2012 - 2017

FEDERAL JUDICIAL AFFAIRS CANADA (FJA), INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

- 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, cultural competency, court governance, training, manuals, and the role of judges
- Worked closely with and provided policy support, legal and policy research, and written analysis to Canadian judges and 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, 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 management/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, and 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

LEGAL COUNSEL // 2009 - 2012

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PROGRAMS

- Worked on justice sector reform projects in Jamaica, Mexico, and the 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 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

INVESTIGATOR / MEDIATOR (2009) - INTERN (2003 AND 2004) // Summer 2009/2004/2003

SASKATCHEWAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- 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, diversity and inclusion programming, provincial human rights statutes, and First Nations jurisdiction issues

ADVISOR / INTERN // 2008 - 2009

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY/CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM, ETHIOPIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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

ADVISOR // 2008 - 2009

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMME (DIP))

- 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 alternative dispute resolution strategies; and assisted the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission under a multi-donor project framework

ASSOCIATE // 2008

MACPHERSON, LESLIE & TYERMAN LLP, LITIGATION AND LABOR DEPARTMENT

- Practiced labor and employment law, immigration and refugee law, civil litigation, and human rights law
- Drafted appellate arguments, including leave applications to the Supreme Court of Canada and represented clients in immigration proceedings
- Reviewed employer anti-harassment policies and provided strategic advice on human rights issues and diversity and inclusion initiatives for large-scale employers in Saskatchewan and Western Canada

LAW CLERK / ARTICLING STUDENT // 2005 - 2006

THE COURT OF APPEAL OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Communications, Social Media, and Writing

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT, COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIST, AND CORRESPONDENT // 2011 - Present FREELANCE

- Design and launch innovative Twitter events for a range of books and publishers (online book clubs) and for several films and studios, with substantial impressions and trending data. Past film social media campaigns include:
 - *Selma* for Oprah Winfrey, Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) and Paramount Pictures; 34-50 million impressions
 - *The Hundred-Foot Journey* for Oprah Winfrey, OWN, and DreamWorks; 21 million impressions; Trending Topic
 - *Lee Daniels' The Butler* for Oprah Winfrey 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* for *The Huffington Post* and designed a social media and communications strategy for Arianna Huffington for her book *The Sleep Revolution*
- Served as the Social Media Correspondent at the Screen Actors' Guild Awards in Los Angeles (January 2014) for CBS TV's *The Insider*; provided social media coverage on the red carpet/backstage; conducted Instagram interviews with nominees and artists; and briefed hosts and producers on nominated actors, films, and TV programs
- Founding member and community co-manager of the OWN Ambassadors, a grassroots group supporting OWN and Oprah Winfrey through viewer engagement, marketing activities, service projects, and public outreach
- Correspondent for the CTV Public Relations Department, interviewing actors, directors and producers on the red carpet for the CTV Upfront and providing social media coverage of the new programming for the 2018/2019 television season

CONTRIBUTING BLOGGER AND FREELANCE WRITER / CONTRIBUTOR // 2012 - Present THE HUFFINGTON POST AND VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS

- Contributing blogger for *The Huffington Post* and freelance writer published on CBC Online, Oprah.com, and *Positively Positive* on human rights, diversity and inclusion, television, film, books, and personal development

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR OF MARKETING // 2015 - 2018 DREAM, GIRL (A DOCUMENTARY FILM)

- Developed a discussion guide for *Dream, Girl*, a documentary film on female entrepreneurs; used for over 200 screenings around the world
- Designed, implemented and tracked 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
- Led outreach initiatives and developed partnerships with media publications, companies, social media influencers, celebrities, leaders, and key stakeholders

NATIONAL TOUR SPEAKER // 2017

THE WALRUS TALKS CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANADA: WE DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY

- 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 a national tour on the future of Canada, televised on CPAC and broadcast on CBC Radio
- My talk entitled [Post-Poster: Inclusion in Action](#) focused on diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality, highlighting the importance of inclusion in Canada in institutions, leadership, and advocacy movements



VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2010-Present	CBA Young Lawyers International Program, Selection Committee and Presenter (Ottawa, ON)
2010-Present	Ottawa FUNraisers, Coordinator/Organizer for Charitable Fundraisers (Ottawa, ON)
2009-Present	Shepherds of Good Hope Soup Kitchen/Toronto Council Fire, Volunteer (Ottawa, ON & Toronto, ON)
2009-2012	Justice Canada Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, Member (Ottawa, ON)
2010	Sai World Foundation, Medical Camps, Volunteer (Port-au-Prince, Haiti)
2008-2009	Cheshire Services Ethiopia, English/Music Teacher (Menagesha, Ethiopia)
2008	University of Saskatchewan, College of Law, Guest Lecturer in Constitutional Law on Section 15 (equality rights provisions) of the Canadian <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> (Saskatoon, SK)
2007	California Appellate Project, Legal Intern for Death Row Appeals (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), University of Victoria Law Student Representative (Victoria, BC)
1985-2002	South Indian Classical Vocal Music Training (Regina/Saskatoon, SK)