

Panelists

Thomas Buergenthal

Considered one of the world's leading international human rights experts, Professor Buergenthal was a Judge and President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as well as President of the Administrative Tribunal of the Inter-American Development Bank. He was a member of the UN Human Rights Committee and the UN Truth Commission for El Salvador.

In 1996, with his colleagues from the UN Truth Commission, Professor Buergenthal founded DPLF, with the certainty that human rights could only be guaranteed through strong and independent judicial institutions.

Naomi Roht-Arriaza

Professor Naomi Roht-Arriaza is renowned at a global level for her expertise in transitional justice, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law. She is a Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. She has contributed to the defense of human rights through legal and social counseling, in her position as academic chair as well as her published academic works.

Professor Roht-Arriaza is the author of *The Pinochet Effect: Transnational Justice in the Age of Human Rights* (2005) and *Impunity and Human Rights in International Law and Practice* (1995), and coeditor of *Transitional Justice in the Twenty-First Century: Beyond Truth versus Justice*. In 2011 she was a Democracy Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development, and in 2012 she was a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Botswana. She has been a member of DPLF's Board of Directors since November 2012, and President of the Board since May 2013.

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed has worked at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights since 1992 and has held the post of Assistant Executive Secretary of this organization since 2007. She is the Commission's Legal Director, in charge of coordinating and supervising the preparation of all reports on cases as well as thematic and country reports. She is an expert on gender issues and authored "The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: Prospects for the Inter-American Human Rights System to Protect and Promote the Human Rights of Women" in *Women and International Human Rights Law*. Elizabeth Abi-Mershed studied law at American University's Washington College of Law and did her postgraduate studies in international and comparative law at Georgetown University.

Marcie Mersky

Marcie Mersky is a Program Director at the International Center for Transitional Justice. Before joining the ICTJ she worked as a senior political officer in several UN operations, including the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, the Guatemalan Historical Clarification Commission, and Guatemala's Truth Commission, where she led a major field office.

Ms. Mersky also served as the liaison to the UN Department of Political Affairs for the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). She has written and spoken on transitional justice issues in numerous international venues.

Helen Mack

Helen Mack is the President of the Myrna Mack Foundation, which she founded in 1993. In 1997, she was named head of Guatemala's Commission for Justice Strengthening and helped co-found the Pro-Justice Movement in 1999. In 2009, she helped form the Guatemala Forum, a network of over 50 organizations supporting the work of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). She served as the head of the Presidential Commission on Police Reform and championed reforms to strengthen, modernize, and professionalize the Guatemalan National Civilian Police (PNC).

Ms. Mack is a renowned national and international expert on impunity, justice, human rights and security. She has received several significant recognitions for her work, including the Right Livelihood Award in 1992, the [Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America](#) in 2005 and the Human Rights Award from the King of Spain in 2006. She is also a former member of DPLF's Board.

Ambassador Rubén Zamora

Ambassador Zamora is the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations, a position he has held since 2013. Previously, he was Ambassador to India.

Ambassador Zamora is the Founder of the Convergencia Democrática (CD), a center-left electoral coalition that, still in the midst of the civil war, participated in the 1989 elections. During the 1990s, he served as Vice President of the National Assembly and as a member of the National Peace Commission, and he founded and led the Centro Democrático Unido party.

Ambassador Zamora has taught political science at the University of El Salvador, Universidad Centroamérica, Universidad San Carlos, and Universidad Rafael Landívar, Essex University, and Stanford University. He has published many works on Salvadoran politics, including *El Salvador, heridas que no cierran: Los partidos políticos en la post-guerra*, and *La izquierda partidaria salvadoreña: Entre la identidad y el poder*.

**20 YEARS PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW
AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA**www.dplf.org**Alberto Brunori**

Alberto Brunori is the Representative of the Regional Office for Central America of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He has worked with the United Nations for 19 years. Before becoming the Representative for Central America, Mr. Brunori served as the Representative for Guatemala and Mexico.

He was also Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan, Liaison Officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Panama, among other positions.

Ariel Dulitzky

Ariel Dulitzky is a Clinical Professor and Director of the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Texas at Austin. He was the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) from 2001 to 2007, and is a leading expert on the Inter-American Human Rights System. He served as advisor to the IACHR's first Special Rapporteurship on Afro-Descendants that he helped to establish in 2005, and as a technical advisor to the OAS Working Group discussing the adoption of the Inter-American Convention against Racial Discrimination.

In 2010 Professor Dulitzky was appointed to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. His mandate with the Working Group recently came to a close, in April of this year. Ariel Dulitzky has been a member of DPLF's board since May 2012.

Leonor Arteaga

Leonor Arteaga is the Senior Program Officer for DPLF's Impunity and Grave Human Rights Violations program. She joined the DPLF team in January 2012. She is in charge of monitoring and undertaking legal analyses of high-profile criminal cases regarding grave human rights violations and truth and reparation initiatives across the region on the basis of international standards and best practices.

Before joining DPLF, Ms. Arteaga worked as the Deputy Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child and Youth at the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office. She also worked at the Association for the Search for Disappeared Children, a Salvadoran organization dedicated to seeking truth and justice for the victims of the internal armed conflict. During this time, she was a member of the Working Committee for Historic Memory where she led a variety of initiatives regarding truth, memory, reparation and justice with Salvadoran groups.