



Changemaker Lawyers – Creative Lawyering for the Conceptual Age

1. Date & Time

Wednesday, November 18, 14H00 – 15H00 EST (Eastern Standard Time)

2. Technology & Links

The session will be livestreamed onto Swapcard, our Summit platform, via YouTube. The recording of the session will remain available until the end of November of 2021.

- Before the Summit, you can log into your [SwapCard Account](#) to personalize your profile, browse the agenda, and connect and network with other attendees.
- To set up reminders and add the session to your calendar, make sure to [register online](#) and explore the [agenda](#).
 - One of our panelists, Alain Werner, is also participating in [Breaking corruption and crime: How do Ashoka Fellows restore the value of justice and transparency?](#), which takes place on Tuesday, November 17th at 7am EST.
- For more information on Legal Engagement at Ashoka, please visit us on our [new webpage](#), or reach out to us at, legalsupport@ashoka.org.

3. About the Discussion

The way in which work is carried out and how society engages in shifting. That has been a core component of Ashoka, and something which Ashoka seeks to address by supporting innovative social entrepreneurs. The legal field has begun to confront this paradigm shift, by increasing focus on entrepreneurial, problem-solving, and creative lawyering, which are necessary in the conceptual age.

Gerald Lopez, an attorney and professor, noted “Lawyering means problem-solving,” and an Ashoka Fellow has stated that lawyers are unique in their “ability to intervene in issues related to the ownership of resources and ideas and to do so by working across disciplines. [They] have the ability to imagine and ensure more equitable systems across society.”

Combining social entrepreneurship, legal practice, and activism, lawyers can assume a pluralist and tactical approach to problem-solving; one that leverages legal powers to achieve the goals of broader social movements.

4. Discussion Participants



Stephanie Dangel

Professor of Practice
University of Pittsburgh
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ASHOKA PARTNER



Lam Nguyen Ho

Founder & Executive Director
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ASHOKA FELLOW



Alain Werner

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ASHOKA FELLOW



Luciana Zaffalon

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ASHOKA FELLOW



Annette McGee Johnson

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MODERATOR



Anne Pfeifenberger

ASE Coordinator
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COORDINATOR/MODERATOR



5. Additional Information

Stephani Dangel

Stephanie Dangel is a Professor of Practice at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law where she teaches lawyers and other changemakers in experiential courses and public seminars on law, social innovation, technology commercialization, and entertainment. She has also enjoyed successful careers as a practicing lawyer, social innovator, documentary filmmaker and Law Clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun. Stephanie has earned degrees from the Yale Law School, the University of Pennsylvania and Oxford University, where she is a Rhodes Scholar. She has presented at three Ashoka Exchanges, including Best Practice, Big Idea and Law Day sessions, and has participated in three Ashoka Commons programs. Stephanie and her husband, lawyer Tom Reiter, are the proud parents of three Gen Z changemakers, two of whom want to go to law school.

Lam Nguyen Ho

Lam Nguyen Ho is a public interest attorney committed to serving the most disadvantaged with extensive experience in numerous areas of poverty and civil rights law. Lam is dedicated to, and skilled in, different forms of community-based lawyering through his work as the Executive Director of Beyond Legal Aid, which he founded with a Harvard Law School Public Service Venture Fund seed grant. Previously nominated for the Echoing Green Global Fellowship and a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellowship, Lam was nominated as an Ashokan Fellow in 2018.

Prior to founding Beyond Legal Aid, Lam was a staff attorney at Equip for Equality, where he defended the civil rights of people with disabilities. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 2008, Lam joined Chicago's Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF) through a Skadden Foundation Public Interest Fellowship. During his time at LAF, he established and ran 10 community-based clinics providing free legal services to youth and their families on the west side of Chicago. He experienced firsthand the challenges of community lawyering and civil legal services, and was inspired to innovatively confront these challenges through the creation of Beyond Legal Aid.

Alain Werner

Alain Werner is a lawyer registered with the Geneva Bar, with a Masters of Law (LL.M) from Columbia University. Alain has been working in the field of international criminal law on the side of the victims for 20 years and participated in some of the most important trials for war crimes in the past few years. This included the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in front of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the trial of former Chadian President Habré in Dakar in front of the Extraordinary African Chambers and the trial of Kaing Guev Eav, aka Duch, in Phnom Penh in front of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). In 2012 he founded Civitas Maxima in Geneva, an international network of lawyers and investigators which represents and seeks justice on behalf of victims of international crimes. Civitas Maxima contributed since 2014 in the arrest and/or proceedings of 8 individuals in 6 different countries, with two convictions. In November 2020 Alain will represent several Liberian victims in the first ever war crime trial in Switzerland in front of the Swiss Federal Criminal Court, [the trial of Alieu Kosiah](#). Alain was awarded the [“Michel Halperin for Excellence” prize by the Geneva Bar in 2019](#).

Luciana Zaffalon

Luciana Zaffalon is an attorney who studies the governance of legal systems. For the past few years, Luciana has been working with [Justa](#), researching how the systems and practices employed by courts around the world worsen inequality. She is also creating a toolkit of innovative strategies to enable legal systems to overcome structural bias against the poor and promote equality.

Having previously worked as the general coordinator of the Brazilian Institute for Criminal Sciences and the adjunct executive secretary of the Brazilian Drug Policy Platform, Luciana now works as a consultative advisor.



She also served two terms as general ombudswoman of the Sao Paulo State Public Defender's Office (2010–2014), during which she was the president and legislative director of the National College of Public Ombudsmen of Brazil. She received her doctorate in public administration and government from Fundação Getúlio Vargas and the Center for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. She was an Ashoka fellow in 2008.

Annette McGee Johnson

As a changemaker lawyer Annette McGee Johnson is engaged in the international development social impact space. she is passionate about systems change in Africa rooted in growth and development of the whole person. She is the Global Legal Director at Ashoka and the Founder CEO of Monjae Inc. a platform that supports African diaspora social entrepreneurs rebuilding, rebranding and propelling Africa to a self-actualized future by telling their stories and rewriting prevailing false narratives about the continent and its people across the diaspora.

Anne Pfeifenberger

Anne has joined Ashoka's legal team through the inaugural Weil Legal Innovators program as a coordinator for the SELT internship, security, and legal support for Fellows. Anne assists with streamlining the Fellow Legal Support Services and contributes to building synergies in the legal social impact space between Fellows, pro bono partners, attorneys, law schools, and students.

Contact Information

For any questions please contact Anne Pfeifenberger at apfeifenberger@ashoka.org