Annex III Biographical data form of candidates to human rights treaty bodies

Name and first name:

BULKAN, Christopher

Date and place of birth:

March 25, 1967;

Georgetown, GUYANA

Working languages:

English

Address

202 Fidelis Tower, Bates Trace, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

Current position/function

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

- Areas of teaching: International Human Rights Law; Caribbean Human Rights Law;
 Constitutional Law; Criminal Law
- Other responsibilities: supervision of graduate students; independent examiner for other departments (including International Relations); Deputy Dean (2013-2016)

Main professional activities

Co-founder and joint co-ordinator (with Tracy Robinson) of The University of the West Indies Rights Advocacy Project (U-RAP), 2009-present. U-RAP's aim is to promote human rights and social justice in the Caribbean by undertaking and participating in strategic litigation, socio-legal research and legal education in collaboration with Caribbean lawyers, scholars, civil society organisations and students. In 2010 U-RAP launched two ground-breaking challenges to discriminatory colonial laws in Belize and Guyana, both of which are still ongoing. I serve as lead counsel in the Guyana case. In 2015 U-RAP partnered with the Caribbean Coalition of Vulnerable Communities (CVC) on various activities aimed at strengthening regional human rights frameworks to improve access to justice for marginalised populations and reduce stigma and discrimination as one strategy for tackling the regional HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Educational background

Doctor of Philosophy in Law (PhD) (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, Canada) 2008; Dissertation: The Land Rights of Guyana's Indigenous Peoples
Master of Laws (University College London) 1997, Awarded with Merit
Bachelor of Laws (UWI) 1988, (Hons)
Legal Education Certificate (Hugh Wooding Law School) 1990

Other main activities in the field of human rights

Long-standing advocate of Indigenous Peoples' rights, both in Guyana and in the wider Caribbean region (paid and voluntary legal work for the State and Indigenous communities on issues of land and resource rights; research and writing; public education through conferences);

Advocate of human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS (drafted a national assessment in Guyana on the legal framework in relation to HIV issues; public regional advocacy on behalf of individuals; named CARICOM/PANCAP Champion for Change in September 2017);

Involved in litigation, advocacy and public education on a range of civil and political rights issues, including SOGI rights and capital punishment;

Activist and commentator on issues of governance, constitutionalism and democracy through membership of Transparency Institute Guyana Inc (2011-2015) & public commentary.

List of most recent publications in the field

"The Death Penalty in the Commonwealth Caribbean: Justice out of Reach?" (UN-OHCHR 2014)
"The Limits of Constitution (Re)-making in the Commonwealth Caribbean: Towards the 'Perfect Nation'" (2013)
"The Poverty of Equality Jurisprudence in the Commonwealth Caribbean" (2013) 10 Equal Rights Review 11-32;
The Survival of Indigenous Rights in Guyana (Institute of Development Studies, UG, 2014)
Fundamentals of Caribbean Constitutional Law (Sweet & Maxwell 2015) [with Robinson & Saunders]