**UN Forum on Business and Human Rights 2014**

Concept note for side event

*Title*: “Principles in Practice – recent developments in law and legal practice in the field of business and human rights”

*Organisers*: Herbert Smith Freehills LLP and Faculty of Law at Western University

*Date and Time*: 1 December 2014, 10am-11:30am

*Background*

The past year has seen evidence of increasing efforts to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) by States and businesses. This session will provide an update on recent legal developments at the international and national level and discuss the current legal issues associated with the implementation by businesses of the UNGPs. This will include reference to the challenges faced by business lawyers advising on human rights and the implications of these challenges for legal education.

*Session objectives*:

* to provide an update of recent legal developments at the international and national level, including legislative updates such as reporting requirements
* to discuss current legal issues associated with the implementation of the UNGPs by businesses, including human rights risks and requirements in contracts
* to consider recent trends and decisions in business and human rights litigation and access to remedy
* to consider the challenges facing business lawyers in advising on human rights, including:
  + division of labour between legal and non-legal professionals (accountants, CSR specialists, etc)
  + managing the capacity within business law firms to advise on international human rights law
* to consider how educational initiatives could assist in moving forward with these challenges in the legal sector (through guidance by legal supervisory bodies and tertiary education)

*Format*

The side event will take the format of a panel discussion facilitated by a Chairperson with an opportunity for questions from the floor.

*Target audience*

State and business representatives, business lawyers, legal academics and non-governmental organisations

*Moderator*

Sara Seck, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Western University

*Panelists*

Stéphane Brabant, Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

Rae Lindsay, Partner, Clifford Chance LLP

Sarah Altschuller, Counsel, Foley Hoag LLP

Jeff Collins, Senior Counsel of International Policy, Chevron

Rachel Davis, Managing Director, Shift

Antony Ewing, Lecturer in Law, Columbia Law School

Mahdev Mohan, Assistant Professor of Law, Singapore Management University