

**The Implications of Goal 16 for
Access to Justice in the United States
September 24, 2015
12:30 to 2:00pm**

**Hosted by:
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP
Four Times Square, New York City**

Program

Presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals

Mr. Tony Pipa
U.S. Lead Negotiator for the Post-2015 Process

Panelists

Pete Chapman
Program Officer on Legal Empowerment, Open Society Justice Initiatives

Maha Jweied
Deputy Director, Office for Access to Justice, U.S. Department of Justice

Jennifer Smith
Executive Director, International Legal Foundation

David Udell
Executive Director, National Center for Access to Justice at Cardozo Law School

Moderator

Risa Kaufman
Executive Director, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute

Space is limited, RSVPs will be accommodated on a first come, first served, basis. Please RSVP to Goal16USA@gmail.com by September 21, 2015. A light lunch will be served.

-- See attached concept note for further details --

Concept Note

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This event is an opportunity for leaders in the U.S. access to justice community to learn from U.S. government representatives and other experts about the new United Nations global justice goal and its implications for access to justice in the United States.

World leaders will gather at the United Nations in New York from September 25th through September 27th to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a new universal agenda for eradicating poverty. Goal 16 of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, or the “Global Goals”), calls on the United States and all nations to report annually on specific progress to increase access to justice.

Specifically, Goal 16 of the SDGs calls on countries to “[p]romote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

Goal 16’s explicit inclusion of access to justice is reflective of the increasing understanding that access to justice is essential to ending poverty and to securing human rights. The United States, as part of a U.N. Open Working Group including many other nations, was directly involved in drafting the SDGs and has been a champion of Goal 16 throughout the process in recognizing the importance of access to justice.

But, what are the potential consequences of Goal 16 on the ground in the United States? Goal 16 is expected to have a substantial and real impact on government agencies, philanthropies, research institutes, and the nonprofit sector, including civil and criminal legal aid programs. By calling on government to use data to measure progress, Goal 16 will draw increased attention to the performance of our civil and criminal justice systems. Within the United States, it has the potential to promote access to justice reform, research, and funding, among its other possible impacts.

To explore the impact of Goal 16, Tony Pipa, the United States’ Lead Negotiator for the Sustainable Development Goals, along with the other panelists, will discuss key topics including: the purpose of the SDGs and Goal 16; the process for shaping indicators to track and promote access to justice globally and within the United States; the possibilities for data collection; the relationship between Goal 16 and the global access to justice movement; and the ways in which all stakeholders can help to maximize the impact of Goal 16 to increase access to justice in the United States.

Please join us to discuss the Implications of Goal 16 for Access to Justice in the United States.

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