

KRISTI DISNEY BRUCKNER

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Kristi Disney Bruckner is an attorney with 25 years of experience working on complex law and policy issues with governments, communities, companies, and multi-stakeholder initiatives. She is Law and Policy Director at the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) where she works with governments and across sectors to use IRMA's best practice standards as a tool to improve mining sector governance and responsible sourcing, including for materials needed for renewable energy, electric vehicles, and other low-carbon technologies. Her experience includes over a decade of leadership at Sustainable Development Strategies Group, working to align management of renewable energy and natural resources with sustainable development objectives. She has worked with government, community, and industry stakeholders around the world to review and improve law and policy frameworks; build capacity to negotiate and manage natural resource contracts and company-community agreements; and advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Her work has included research and co-authorship of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) validation reports for 16 countries, review of mining law and policies of over 70 jurisdictions, and review of community development requirements for the mining sector in over 50 countries. She has also worked with the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) to complete Mining Policy Framework Assessments, capacity building seminars, and guidance for IGF Members, including guidance on improving environmental and social impact assessment and management for the mining sector. She is an adjunct professor of climate change law, sustainable development and international trade, and community engagement courses at law schools in Colorado and Arizona.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) 2021–Present

Law and Policy Director (2023–Present); Senior Policy Advisor (2021–2023)

- Lead engagement with governments and others using IRMA's best practice standards as a tool to improve mining sector governance and responsible sourcing, including for materials needed for renewable energy, electric vehicles, and other low-carbon technologies
- Project Manager for the ISEAL Alliance Mining, Minerals and Metals Partnership (M3), a collaboration between IRMA, Responsible Jewellery Project, ResponsibleSteel and Mining Association of Canada
- Supported development of the IRMA *Chain of Custody Standard*
- Implement public engagement processes on IRMA standards, including the draft *Standard for Responsible Mineral Processing*, draft *IRMA-Ready Standard for Mineral Exploration and Development*, and Expert Working Groups and revisions to the *Standard for Responsible Mining*
- Represent IRMA at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an Official Observer and at the UN Environmental Assembly
- Represent IRMA on working groups and expert panels that influence responsible management of the mining sector, including the OECD Environmental Working Group to inform the OECD Tool on Environmental Due Diligence in Mineral Supply Chains (2021–2022); the GRI Mining Working Group to inform development of the GRI Mining Sector Standard (2022); the Roundtable on Responsible Recycling of Metals (2023); the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals (2024); the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct, and EITI Critical Minerals Anti-Corruption Expert Group (2023-Present); and the ISO Project Committee 348 on Sustainable Raw Materials, ISO/PC 348 U.S. Technical Advisory Group, and ISO Technical Committee 87/Subcommittee 7 on Sustainable Mining and Mining Closure
- Build collaborative relationships

Sustainable Development Strategies Group (SDSG), Gunnison, CO 2010–Present

Member, Board of Directors (2022–Present); Executive Director (2013–2021); Director of International Programs (2011–2013); Law Clerk (2010)

- Expert, Goalmakers National Forum 2020, Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7) and Climate Action (SDG 13)
- Expert and Research Supervisor, Just Transitions Research Team, Developing a series of case studies on social and economic transitions for coal-based communities in the transition to green energy
- Consultant, Bettercoal, Mapping the Bettercoal Code to the SDGs
- Legal Expert, Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF): assessed law and policy frameworks of the Dominican Republic, Mongolia, and Uganda against the IGF Mining Policy

Framework (MPF) and participated in follow-up capacity building programs for governments and other stakeholders in each country; reviewed IGF MPF and recommended updates to MPF Assessment Methodology to incorporate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and good international practice; co-authored *IGF Guidance for Governments: Improving Legal Frameworks for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management* (June 2020); reviewed Uganda's Draft Minerals and Mining Bill; expert in GOXI Dialogue on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management in Mining: Good Practices and Innovation Through the COVID-19 Pandemic; expert for *New Tech, New Deal* consultation and report for Mongolia

- Lecturer, University of Dundee Centre for Energy, Petroleum & Mineral Law & Policy Community Rights and Expectations in Natural Resource Development Seminar
- Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law
- Legal Expert, Colorado School of Mines National Science Foundation Study, *A Systems Dynamics Approach to Mapping, Modeling, and Optimizing the Disruption of Illicit Gold Supply Chains in Peru*
- Collaborator, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA): Reviewed IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining to identify alignment and gaps in the Standard and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Legal Expert, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Cameroon Development Minerals Programme
- Public Engagement Expert, Government of Northwest Territories, Canada
- Validator, SDG Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Validation Team: Completed 2013 Validation Report for EITI Guatemala; completed reviews of EITI 2015 Pilot Validation Reports for Ghana, Mongolia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste; completed 2016 Validation Reports for Azerbaijan, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, São Tomé & Príncipe, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, and Timor-Leste
- Coordinator and Supervisor, SDG Legal Intern and Law Fellows Program: Supervise relevant research and major writing projects of SDG interns and fellows from schools in Colorado and around the world
- Legal Expert and Coordinator, *Improving Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Practices in the Dominican Republic*, a World Bank-funded program that provided support to the Government of the Dominican Republic
- Presenter and Coordinator, World Bank *Training Course on the Negotiation of Mine Development Agreements*, including curriculum development and a regional five-day course conducted in Tanzania, Burkina Faso, and Tunisia
- Worked on Community Development Agreements policy with government ministries in Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Uganda; worked on mining legislation and policy evaluations for Ecuador, Honduras, and Mozambique
- Conducted five-day course on mine development agreements, Community Development Agreements, and sustainable development for Universal Network Intelligence (UNI Strategic) in Malaysia, attended by attorneys and executives from across Southeast Asia
- Co-produced social and political risk assessments related to mine developments in the Philippines and Argentina
- Presenter, *Mining and Community Development*, a five-day course for the Mozambique Ministry of Mineral Resources
- Presenter, *Human Rights and Extractive Industries*, a six-day course with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, Papua New Guinea's Department of Justice, and local NGOs in Papua New Guinea; Worked with Revenue Watch Institute and Samdhana Institute to develop a workshop for stakeholders in the Philippines on Community Development Agreements, human rights frameworks, and revenue transparency
- Principal Law Clerk, International Bar Association (IBA) Model Mine Development Agreement (MMDA) Version "1.0," a template for negotiation of sustainable mine development agreements; assisted with stakeholder consultations in Canada and Kazakhstan; designed consultation website: www.MMDAProject.org

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, Colorado 2011–Present

Adjunct Professor and Lecturer

- Adjunct Professor (2015 – Present) Sustainable Development and International Trade Seminar, Climate Change Law and Policy Seminar
- Lecturer (2011 – 2015) SDG Sustainable Development of Natural Resources series, including: Emerging International Framework for the Sustainable Development of Natural Resources, National Legislation and Policy for Sustainable Development of Natural Resources, and Community Expectations for Sustainable Development in Natural Resources Projects
- Judge, Memorial Reviewer for Jessup International Law Moot Court Rocky Mountain Regional Rounds, 2013–2018
- Judge, Stetson International Environmental Law Moot Court North America Round, 2014

CLE International, Denver, Colorado 2015–2020

Program Attorney

- Coordinated educational conferences on climate change, water law, and other current environmental topics for US-based attorneys, engineers, and other professionals

Levy Konigsberg, LLP, New York, New York, 2004–2007, 2016

Contract Attorney (2016), Legal Assistant (2004–2007)

- Assisted with environmental toxic tort claims by conducting intakes, researching and documenting exposure histories, organizing and maintaining client files and exhibits, and assisting with trials
- Coordinated economic and environmental expert reports and trial witnesses
- Drafted and served answers to interrogatories and pre-trial orders

Center for International Environmental Law, Washington, D.C. Fall 2010

Legal Intern

- Completed a comprehensive review of environmental impact assessments, financing, community consultations, environmental law, and transboundary water & air quality impacts of a World Bank energy development project
- Conducted research and prepared memos on the role of international financial institutions (IFIs) in energy development, particularly to encourage IFIs to dedicate more funds to renewable energy projects
- Prepared memos related to international laws and policies, including nanotechnology, freedom of information, use of webcasting in judicial proceedings, and international environmental governance

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, Colorado, 2009–2010

International & Comparative Environmental Law Research Assistant for Professor George “Rock” Pring

- Researched and drafted “Environmental Impact Assessment in the United States under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969,” published in *The Legal Nature of Environmental Impact Assessment: Comparative Law Analysis*, José Juan González Márquez, ed., by the Mexican Institute for Research in Environmental Law (2011)
- Assisted with research and editing of *Greening Justice: Creating and Improving Environmental Courts and Tribunals* by George (Rock) Pring and Catherine (Kitty) Pring, Access Initiative (2009), helped maintain current information for the related DU Environmental Courts and Tribunals Study, see <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/ect-study>
- Assisted with scholarly reviews, lecture revisions, and research in international environmental law and energy law

Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, Denver, Colorado, 2007–2009

Paralegal/Administrative Assistant

- Assisted survivors of torture and war trauma with asylum claims and immigration matters, including client intakes, appropriate U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services applications, and referral to attorney services
- Coordinated monthly Continuing Legal Education trainings focused on asylum law, and provided other recruiting, research, training, and administrative support for RMSC’s Pro Bono Attorney Network and RMSC Legal Interns
- Managed volunteers and auction donations for annual fundraising gala, and developed donor newsletter content

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Tennessee Economic Renewal Network, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2000–2004

Fair Trade & Globalization Program Coordinator

- Researched, created and facilitated public education programs on international trade and sustainable development
- Coordinated international exchanges amongst scholars and community leaders in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, India, Nigeria, Columbia, and Brazil, exploring the impacts of U.S. foreign policy and international trade agreements
- Built and strengthened diverse local, national and hemispheric coalitions that worked to make international trade agreements more beneficial to low-income workers, rural communities, and the environment

EDUCATION

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, Colorado

Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program

J.D./LL.M May 2011

Specializations achieved in Environmental Law & Policy; International Resources Transactions Law & Policy

Awards Donnell Initiative Fund, Selected as DU SCOL Donnell Fellow for work in public interest law, 2014
DU Student Bar Association “Most Outstanding Evening Student” Award, 2010

Scholarships Colorado Hispanic Bar Association Scholarship Recipient, 2010–2011
Public Interest Law Group Clerkship Recipient, 2010

Moot Court DU Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team Member, Spring 2010
DU Natural Resources Law Society Moot Court Competitor, Spring 2010

Activities Public Interest Law Group Clerkship Committee Co-Chair, 2010–2011
DU Alternative Spring Break Legal Volunteer, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, Spring 2010
DU Alternative Dispute Resolution Society International Law Liaison, 2010

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

Bachelor of Science in Social Work (Minors in Journalism and Economics) August 2000

Awards UT “Torchbearer” Award, Presented to UT’s Top 10 Graduating Student Leaders, 2000; University of Tennessee College of Social Work Academic Achievement Award, 2000; Gamma Kappa Chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma “Kristi Disney Outstanding Service Award,” (Now Presented Annually to Honor One UT Student for Outstanding Community Service), 2000; Anderson Consulting/UT Peer Achievement Award for Leadership in Service, 1999; Gamma Sigma Sigma National Distinguished Service Award, 1999; Gamma Sigma Sigma National Outstanding Undergraduate Award, 1998; Designated UT “Volunteer of the Year,” 1998; UT Chancellor’s Citation for Extraordinary Community Service, 1997, 1998

Scholarships Tennessee Higher Education Commission Love Community Service Scholarship, 1999; Vic Davis/Earl Zwingle Extracurricular Service Scholarship, 1999; John and Louise Harrison Social Work Scholarship, 1999; UT Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship Award, 1994

Activities United Nations Humanitarian Aid Delegation Participant, Havana, Cuba, 2000; Global Children’s Organization Volunteer, Croatia; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Northern Ireland, 1999; Missionaries of Charity Volunteer, Kolkata/Calcutta, India, 1998

Ixchel Spanish School, Antigua, Guatemala; Intermediate Spanish Course 2015–2016, 2021–2022

Spanish Language Institute, Boulder, Colorado; Spanish Course Completion Spring 2014

Cemanahuac Educational Community, Cuernavaca & Buena Vista de Cellular, Mexico

Advanced Spanish Language Certificate; Rural Studies Certificate Summer 2002

Colorado Bar Association 40-Hour Mediation Training, Denver, Colorado; Mediation Certificate Fall 2021

Collaborative Decision Resources (CDR) Associates, Boulder, Colorado; Certificate in Facilitation & Mediation of Public & Environmental Conflicts Spring 2013

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, *“Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance as Pathway to Remedy”* in LEADERSHIP IN THE JUST TRANSITION: THE ROLE OF REMEDY IN RESPONSIBLE MINERALS VALUE CHAINS. Fabiana Di Lorenzo, Victoria Gronwald, and Estelle Levin-Nally, eds. Springer, Forthcoming 2025.
- Co-author, *“Community Benefit Sharing: Lessons for Climate Infrastructure Developers from the Mining Sector”* in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE LAW. Romany Webb, ed. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, Forthcoming 2025.
- *Commentary: Improving Environmental and Social Practices in the Mining Sector is Essential in the Transition to Renewable Energy*, International Bar Association Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law, August 2022
- *Border Carbon Adjustments: Obstacles and Opportunities to Act on Climate*, American Bar Association, April 2022
- *Navigating Company-Community Relationships through Community Development Agreements*, It’s Just a Clause, Isn’t It?, CONNEX Support Unit, November 2021
- Chapter Author, *Environmental and Social Governance and Related Litigation*, in American Bar Association Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Year in Review 2021
- Co-author, *Reversing the Resource Curse through Legislative Community Development*, Publish What you Pay, December 2021
- Co-author, *Mapping Community Development Requirements in the Mining Sector*, International Institute for Environment and Development, May 2021
- Co-author, *“All that Glitters is Not Gold:” The Effects of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining and Supply Chains in Peru*, International Bar Association Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law, March 2021
- Co-author, *Case Study: Peru’s Environmental and Social Management in the Gold Mining Sector in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic*, GOXI, December 2020

- Co-author, *Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) Guidance for Governments: Improving Frameworks for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management*, International Institute for Sustainable Development, June 2020
- *Sharpening Your Leadership Skills for 2020 and Beyond: Lessons Learned from The Honorable Richard L. Gabriel*, Colorado Lawyer, January 2020
- Co-author, *Renewing US Leadership in Transparency & Anti-Corruption Efforts*, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, The Environment at 5280, December 2019
- *Indaba 2019: Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) Sustainability Roundtables—Environmental and Social Impact Assessment*, International Institute for Sustainable Development, February 2019
- *Book Review: Development in an Era of Capital Control: Embedding Corporate Social Responsibility Within a Transnational Regulatory Framework*, International Bar Association Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law, September 2017
- *Community Development Agreements in Mining Projects* in Denver Journal of International Law & Policy, June 2016
- Co-author, *Planning for the Economic Future of Colorado's Coal Communities*, Sustainable Development Strategies Group and The Mountain Pact, June 2016
- Co-author, *Uganda: Assessment of Implementation Readiness—Supporting Implementation of the Mining Policy Framework in Member States of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development*, International Institute for Sustainable Development, March 2015
- Co-author, *IISD Methodology to Assess Government Implementation of the IGF Mining Policy Framework*, International Institute for Sustainable Development, December 2014
- Co-author, *Dominican Republic: Assessment of Implementation Readiness—Supporting Implementation of the Mining Policy Framework in Member States of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development*, International Institute for Sustainable Development, March 2015
- Co-author *Validation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative—Guatemala*, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, November 2013
- Co-author *Model Mining Development Agreement—Template*, International Institute for Sustainable Development, May 2012
- Co-author and editor *Grassroots Action for Global Change: Resources for Community-Based Organizers in Appalachia*, Highlander Research and Education Center, December 2005
- Co-author and editor *Global Activist's Handbook: Local Ways to Change the World*, a guide to transforming corporate globalization. New York: Thunder's Mouth Press/Nation Books, April 2002

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Colorado 2012

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Bar Association, Environmental, Energy, and Resources Law Section; Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Ecosystems Committee Co-Chair 2023-2025, Articles Vice-Chair 2021–2023; Climate Change Task Force 2024-Present; Sustainable Development Task Force 2025
- American Bar Foundation Fellow
- Colorado Bar Association, International Law Section Board of Governors Representative 2016–2018; International Law Section Co-Chair 2014–2016; Young Lawyers Division Executive Council 2013–2015
- Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training Program Class of 2019, Sessions Committee 2020
- Colorado Bar Foundation Fellow
- Colorado Women's Bar Association, Circle of Minerva 2016–Present
- First Judicial District Bar (Colorado)
- International Bar Association, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law (SEERIL) Section
- Women In Mining