

# DAVID AKERSON

## PROFILE

Trial lawyer with a broad international law and human rights portfolio ranging from human rights work in apartheid South Africa to prosecuting perpetrators at the Yugoslavia and Rwanda international criminal tribunals. Expertise in core international crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, practice and procedure of the international tribunals, complex international criminal litigation, and international tribunal policy and management.

## EXPERIENCE

**VISITING SCHOLAR,  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER KORBEL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER STURM COLLEGE OF LAW  
DENVER, COLORADO 2006- PRESENT**

Responsible for creating and teaching law and graduate level courses on the core international crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and the procedure and practice at the ad hoc international tribunals and the international criminal court. Devised and supervise a genocide clinic with twenty-five students (<http://www.westword.com/2007-06-14/news/rwanda-deliverance/>). Founded and supervise a leading international criminal law jurisprudence web site (<http://ihl.viawiki.com>) using contributions from humanitarian law practitioners and experts around the world.

**TRIAL ATTORNEY  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL  
TRIBUNAL FOR YUGOSLAVIA**

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS 2001-2006

Acted as senior attorney in Prosecutor v. Dragomir Milosevic, a major war crimes case. Supervised six attorneys, three legal interns, two criminal investigators and two criminal analysts. Served as lead attorney of a special prosecutions unit, supervised three lawyers along with investigative and support staff in all aspects of case analysis and litigation. Served as the Office of the Prosecutor project coordinator for case management and trial presentation technologies. Reporting to the Chief of Prosecutions, was responsible for assessing existing trial practices and workflows of an office with over 300 attorneys, investigators and support staff, and for formulating and executing a business plan to improve overall efficiency through greater coordination and automation of the work environment. Supervised the implementation of the project plan and monitored the delivery of new technologies into the existing work processes of ten investigation teams, fifteen trial teams, and three courtrooms. Reported to senior management on a weekly basis. Regularly consulted with attorneys, investigators, information technology staff, and general support staff and incorporated their feedback into project protocols. During this time, as an ancillary function of my job, advised and trained prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the International Criminal Court in The Hague, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the *ad hoc* Human Rights Court of Centre Jakarta, the Special Department for War Crimes of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Iraqi Special Tribunal, and other organizations in case management, evidence management and legal technology.

**CHIEF OF INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE SECTION  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL  
TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA,  
KIGALI, RWANDA 1999-2001**

Managed division in the Office of the Prosecutor. Within an overall prosecution staff of 300, directly managed an international staff of twelve. Responsible for the development of systems to facilitate, support and integrate the work of the legal and investigative teams of the Office of the Prosecutor. Coordinated and managed the receipt, organization and custody of the results of over five years of intensive field investigation of the genocide. Supervised the collection of over 400,000 documents, audio and videotapes, photographs, forensic material and physical artifacts. Conceived and supervised the creation of a digital evidence archive. Collaborated with prosecuting attorneys to develop work plans for research and disclosure of evidence. Consulted with trial teams on the use of digital presentations in the courtrooms.

**TRIAL ATTORNEY  
DADE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER / PRIVATE PRACTICE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA AND DENVER, COLORADO 1990-1999**

Trial lawyer for all phases of litigation in cases before Federal and State courts in both Florida and Colorado. Conducted over fifty jury trials as lead counsel. Analyzed evidence, formulated case strategies, drafted pleadings and argued in front of judges and juries.

**STAFF ATTORNEY  
LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (SOUTH AFRICA)  
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA 1988-1989**

Investigated allegations of human rights violations of the South African apartheid government. Briefed and assisted South African attorneys in their representation of death penalty cases, obtaining stays of execution in 100% of clients based on pervasive due process violations in the criminal justice system. Efforts culminated in a state-declared moratorium on executions.

**DEPUTY CAMPAIGN COUNSEL  
PAUL SIMON FOR PRESIDENT CAMPAIGN  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 1987-1988**

Responsible for Federal Election Commission election law and analysis, and FEC compliance and submissions. Advised senior campaign staff on general legal matters.

**LAW CLERK  
UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE SPACE SHUTTLE  
CHALLENGER ACCIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 1986**

Prepared legal memoranda and conducted research for senior staff in support of the commission's written report.

**EDUCATION**

PhD candidate, National University of Ireland, Galway -- degree expected 2010

Juris Doctor, Florida State University College of Law — 1987

Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Business, Furman University, 1984

**RECENT LECTURES, SPEECHES AND PUBLICATIONS**

*The War on Terror and implications for International Humanitarian Law*, Lecture and Panelist, Sutton Colloquium on International Law, Denver University College of Law, October 2008

*The History of the United Nations and Prosecution of Perpetrators of Mass Violence*, Lecture to Naropa Institute, October 2008

*Developments in the International Prosecution of War Criminals and Genocidaires*, Lecture to Facing History and Ourselves, August 2008

#### BOARDS AND ACTIVITIES

Board Chair, Africa School Assistance Project (ASAP)

Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, Denver, Colorado

Director, Washington Park Community Center, Denver, Colorado

Director, Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award Committee, Denver, Colorado