

PAUL SCHACHTER

Background and Activities

My social and economic justice activities started in the 1960's with involvement in the civil rights and the anti-war movements in the United States. I did my undergraduate work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and attended law school at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (Newark), receiving my Juris Doctor in 1974. Later, I studied the theory and practice of dispute resolution at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard University and the Conflict Resolution Program at the Justice Institute, BC.

I began my formal legal career as a law clerk for Professor Arthur Kinoy, a prominent U.S. civil rights attorney and a founder of the Center for Constitutional Rights. I worked with him on many civil liberties cases including the "Chicago 7" case and opposition to the Nixon-era "national security" wiretapping. In 1974 I began my own active practice of law as an associate of David Scribner, a labour and human rights pioneer. From 1974-1976 I worked as a lawyer for the independence/decolonization movement and grass roots unions in Puerto Rico and litigated constitutional challenges to repressive laws.

For the next five years I was Counsel and Assistant to the President of the New York Hotel and Motel Trades Council, representing every classification of unionized employees at all major hotels in New York City. In 1980, I became Director of the Rutgers Law School Labor Law Clinic, a program that instructed advanced law students on employment and labour law issues through involvement in ongoing cases.

In 1983, my wife and partner, Denise Reinhardt, and I started a private practice where we directed a six-person law firm doing civil rights, civil liberties, and union representation. We primarily represented clients in the New York and New Jersey areas. In addition to the issues that arise in a labour and human rights practice, we litigated major cases involving academic freedom and the right to access to governmental information, among many others. In 2000, we decreased the time spent on our law practice to devote our energies to public service as Senior Fellows of the Center for Constitutional Rights (New York). We advised on cases, including Guantánamo detainees, torture claims, police abuses and systemic discrimination. From 2004-2012 I served as senior counsel to the firm of Levy Ratner, P.C. in New York City.

In 2003, we relocated to Powell River, BC, where I was involved with advocacy and mediation of issues involving resource conflicts. I also became President of the Society overseeing employment, literacy, diversity, immigrant, family and social services programs. I served as neutral chairperson of Stakeholders Committee of community groups with respect to the region's paper mill. I was also an officer of Powell River Community Foundation, the Society for the Advancement of Local Sustainable Agriculture and the PRISMA symphony program, among other activities. I have served as a Director of the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) since 2014 and its Vice President since 2016.

I currently reside in Victoria, BC.

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Education and Training

Law School	Rutgers Law School - Newark (Juris Doctor 1974)
Mediation	Program on Negotiation, Harvard University Conflict Resolution Program, Justice Institute, BC Civil Mediation Training - N.J. Supreme Court
Undergraduate	Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Employment

<i>2004 – 2012</i>	<i>Levy Ratner, P.C., Senior Counsel, New York</i>
<i>2000 - 2013</i>	<i>Center for Creative Mediation, Co-Director</i>
<i>2000 - 2003</i>	<i>Center for Constitutional Rights (NY), Kinoy/Stavis (Senior) Fellow</i>
<i>1982 - 2004</i>	<i>Reinhardt & Schachter, Managing Partner, New Jersey / New York</i>
<i>1980 - 1982</i>	<i>Rutgers Law School, Director, Labor Law Clinic, Newark, NJ</i>
<i>1975 - 1980</i>	<i>New York Hotel & Motel Trades Council Counsel and Assistant to the President, New York, NY</i>
<i>1975 - 1977</i>	<i>Escribano & Carreras, Partner, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico</i>
<i>1975</i>	<i>Puerto Rico Labor Law Project, Coordinator, San Juan, PR</i>
<i>1974 - 1975</i>	<i>Law firm of David Scribner, Associate, New York, New York</i>

Court Admissions

1975	New York
1976	Puerto Rico
1983	Supreme Court, United States of America
1981	New Jersey
1981	United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
1981	United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
1983	United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
1976	United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
1980	United States Special Railroad Reorganization Court
1976	United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
1981	United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
1981	United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
1981	United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
1995	United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Other

Mediation Panels:

United States District Court, District of New Jersey (2001-2010)
United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (2003-2007)