Business & Human Rights Workshop Series

Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:00-2:30 PM EST

Rachel Chambers and Jena Martin

A Foreign Corrupt Practices Act for Human Rights

The global movement towards the adoption of human rights due diligence laws is gaining momentum. Starting in France, moving to the Netherlands, and now at the European Union level, lawmakers across Europe are accepting the need to legislate to require that companies conduct human rights due diligence throughout their global operations. The situation in the United States is very different: on the federal level there is currently no law that mandates corporate human rights due diligence. Civil society organization International Corporate Accountability Roundtable is stepping into the breach with a legislative proposal building on the model of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act to prohibit corporations from engaging in grave human rights violations and to give the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice the power to investigate any alleged violations. Our paper discusses this proposal.

The Workshop is dedicated to the development and discussion of works-in-progress and other non-published academic research. The paper will be distributed to registered participants prior to the Workshop.

For more information and to register: https://businessandhumanrights.uconn.edu/events/

Dr. Rachel Chambers is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in business and human rights at the University of Connecticut, where she researches and teaches on corporate accountability mechanisms. She is Co-Director of the Teaching Business and Human Rights Forum. Rachel practiced in law as a Barrister (England and Wales) for nearly a decade before moving into academia and she has worked as a consultant to the UN Global Compact and Amnesty International.

Jena Martin is a professor at West Virginia University College of Law. Her research is in the field of business and human rights, where she has written extensively on many issues, including the intersection of securities regulation and human right impacts. She is the author of several articles on the subject. Professor Martin has also co-edited and co-authored a number of books in the field of securities regulation and business and human rights, including “The Business and Human Rights Landscape: Moving Forward, Looking Back” (Cambridge University Press); She has also presented her research at the United Nations.