MOVEMENT LAWYERING
READING GUIDE
April 2013

Bertha Social Justice Institute

centerforconstitutionalrights
on the front lines for social justice
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It is with great pleasure that we have put together this short bibliography of selected readings as an introduction to “movement lawyering” to help orient you and point you to the works that we have found helpful in shaping our practice. There is a vast body of literature on movement lawyering and thus what follows is a work in progress and does not purport to be an exhaustive list in any way.

A few notes on the logic of the sections: the articles in Section 1 help lay the foundation; within those articles you will find citations to myriad other works that have been written on movement lawyering, called by a variety of names from “revolutionary lawyering” to “social justice lawyering” to “law and organizing.” The articles in Section 2 are but a scratch at the surface of the theoretical underpinnings of movement lawyering—the works that help lawyers develop a framework for critique and analysis of the law and its limits with respect to bringing about social change. Section 3 is an even fainter scratch at the extensive scholarship on progressive international lawyering and human rights, but here we offer a smattering of readings that will most certainly get you thinking and searching for more. Section 4 gives a nod to the numerous law professors and practitioners who have reflected on the law school experience, including clinical experience and pedagogy, and Section 5 to the practice of combining lawyering with organizing, though the organizers’ perspective is admittedly one to be expanded further here. Section 6 then contains some examples of how movement lawyering has been applied in the national and international contexts, to help guide our practice and learn from the lessons learned by our colleagues. At the end, in Section 7, we included a short list of books that have been useful to us in our work, but there are certainly countless others that could be included in this list.

Undoubtedly, our critical lenses are shaped by much more than a reading list, much less a reading list comprised primarily of articles written on the law in law review publications. There is of course the depth of our lived experience as well as the richness of poetry, music and film, among other things, that inform our human interactions and our own personal views on our place as social justice lawyers and students who desire to create social change. While fully recognizing this, we hope to continue to develop this reading list further as we move forward. To that end, if you note—as you surely will—that there are pieces missing from this list that have been valuable to you or have made an impression on you, please feel free to point them out to us so that we can make this list as comprehensive and helpful as possible. You can send any suggestions to BerthaSJII@ccrjustice.org

Finally, a big thanks to Rebecca Sheff at NYU Law School, Jeena Shah at the Center for Constitutional Rights and Meena Jagannath at the Community Justice Project of Florida Legal Services for compiling this reading list. We look forward to adding to it in the future!

Onward!

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SECTION 1: DEFINING “MOVEMENT LAWYERING”

a. Models of Movement Lawyering
   • Angelo N. Ancheta, Community Lawyering, 81 Cal. L. Rev. 1363 (1993).
   • Angela Harris et al., From “The Art of War” to “Being Peace:” Mindfulness and Community Lawyering in a Neo-Liberal Age, 95 Cal. L. Rev. 2073 (2007).
   • Douglas NeJaime, Cause Lawyers Inside the State, 81 Fordham L. Rev. 649 (2012).

b. Typology/Bibliographies

SECTION 2: BEYOND THE BLACK LETTER: THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF MOVEMENT LAWYERING

a. Critical Race Theory & LatCrit
   • Derrick A. Bell, Jr., Brown v. Board of Education and the Interest-Convergence Dilemma, 93 Harv. L. Rev. 518 (1980).
   • Cheryl I. Harris, Whiteness as Property, 106 Harv. L. Rev. 1707 (1993)
   • Patricia J. Williams, Alchemical Notes: Reconstructing Ideals from Deconstructed Rights, 22 Harv. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev. 401 (1987).

b. Intersectionality & Race/Class/Gender/Postcolonial Analysis
• Angela P. Harris, *From Stonewall to the Suburbs? Toward a Political Economy of Sexuality*, 14 Wm. & Mary Bill Rts. J. 1539 (2006).

**c. Client & Community “Voice”**


**SECTION 3: MOVEMENT LAWYERING & INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

SECTION 4: LAW SCHOOL & MOVEMENT LAWYERING

a. Finding Your Place In The Dislocating Law School Experience


b. Clinics and Movement Lawyering


SECTION 5: LAWYERING AND ORGANIZING

a. Working With Community Organizations & Movements

b. Balancing Lawyering & Organizing


SECTION 6: CASE STUDIES ON MOVEMENT LAWYERING

a. National context


b. International context


SECTION 7: ADDITIONAL READING


Balakrishnan Rajagopal, INTERNATIONAL LAW FROM BELOW: DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, AND THIRD WORLD RESISTANCE (2003).


