



## **B&HR Access to Justice Lab (A2J Lab), Macquarie Law School**

***B&HR Access to Justice Lab (A2J Lab) conducts research, builds capacity of civil society organisations and provides advice to affected communities around access to justice for business-related human rights abuses.***

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### **ABOUT US**

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#### **Promoting Corporate Accountability**

The A2J Lab is an innovative initiative at Macquarie Law School which brings together leading business and human rights experts, selected law students and external organizations to work together to promote accountability for business-related human rights abuses.

We seek to bridge power imbalances between corporations and communities by conducting research, developing practical tools, building capacity and offering pro bono assistance to affected individuals and communities to seek remedies for business-related human rights abuses. Through its various activities, the A2J Lab contributes to building a more just and equitable society.

The A2J Lab's team comprises leading business and human rights experts who are passionate about promoting corporate accountability for human rights abuses. We work with a diverse range of stakeholders such as UN agencies, universities, foundations, civil society organizations, lawyers, businesses, trade unions, and affected communities to develop effective remedial solutions to address corporate human rights abuses.

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### **OUR PROJECTS**

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At the A2J Lab, we are dedicated to conducting research that strengthens access to justice pathways for individuals and communities adversely impacted by corporate activities. Our research contributes to developing transformative strategies that assist affected rightsholders in seeking access to justice for business-related human rights abuses.

By leveraging our expertise in business and human rights standards as well as strategic litigation, we develop practical tools and build capacity of civil society organisations and human rights defenders to bridge power imbalances between corporations and communities.

The A2J Lab collaborates with leading business and human rights experts and external organizations to make a difference in the lives of those who have been impacted by business-related human rights abuses in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Read more about our current projects below.



## **Pressure Points for Access to Justice**

The A2J Lab has received funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop policy briefs for various “pressure points” that individuals, communities or civil society organisations could use to seek access to justice for corporate human rights abuses. The briefs regarding the following five pressure points are currently under development: (i) civil society advocacy, including social media campaigns, (ii) complaints to National Contact Points under the OECD Guidelines, (iii) communication to the UN Special Procedures; (iv) shareholder activism, and (v) strategic litigation. These pressure points should directly or indirectly help in holding corporations accountable for human rights abuses by using a range of judicial or non-judicial remedial mechanisms.

## **Pro Bono Assistance to Affected Communities**

Law students in the Lab are working with Professor Deva and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to provide pro bono assistance to the affected individuals and communities in selected cases in Asia Pacific in securing access to justice through non-judicial mechanisms such as complaints to National Contact Points or UN Special Procedures.

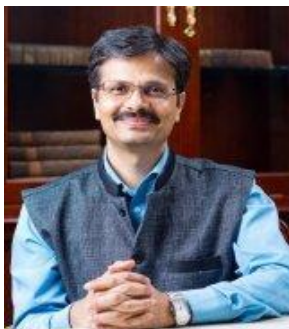
## **Impact of Strategic Human Rights Litigation on Corporate Behaviour**

The A2J Lab team, in collaboration with Prof Justine Nolan of the Australian Human Rights Institute, has secured funding from the Freedom Fund to investigate the effectiveness of strategic human rights litigation in promoting corporate accountability for human rights abuses. This project examines the various factors that contribute to the success or failure of strategic litigation in holding corporations accountable for human rights abuses. By identifying successful strategies and best practices, we hope to increase the impact of strategic litigation on corporate behaviour. Our research will also propose an indicator to measure the impact of strategic litigation on corporate behaviour.

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## **OUR PEOPLE**

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**Professor Surya Deva**

### **DIRECTOR**

Surya Deva is a Professor at Macquarie Law School and Director of the Centre for Environmental Law. He is also the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development. Deva is an internationally recognised scholar in the business and human rights field. He served as a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (2016-22). [View full profile on Pure](#)

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**Dr Ebony Birchall**

## DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dr Ebony Birchall is a Lecturer at Macquarie Law School. She teaches and researches on strategic litigation, accountability of business and governments, and refugee rights. She is also a human rights lawyer. Her litigation practice has been at the forefront of Australian-based strategic litigation over the past decade. Her notable cases include the Manus Island Class Action, reportedly Australia's largest human rights case. [View full profile on Pure](#)



**Professor Justine Nolan**

## EXPERT ADVISOR

Justine Nolan is the Director of the Australian Human Rights Institute at UNSW and a Professor in the Faculty of Law and Justice at UNSW Sydney. She is a Visiting Fellow at NYU's Stern Center for Business and Human Rights. Justine's research focuses on the intersection of business and human rights, in particular, corporate responsibility for human rights and modern slavery. Justine is a member of the Australian Government's Expert Advisory Group on Modern Slavery. She was UNSW Law's Associate Dean (Academic) from 2016-2019 and has previously worked as an international human rights lawyer and corporate lawyer.

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**Amy Sinclair**

## EXPERT ADVISOR

Amy Sinclair is a lawyer with over two decades' experience in law and human rights. As the Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Regional Representative for Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, she has helped drive the business and human rights agenda in the region – including through the adoption of the Modern Slavery Act in Australia. Amy holds expert advisory appointments with the Australian Government, Law Council of Australia and Law Society of New South Wales. She also holds an adjunct academic position at UNSW's Australian Human Rights Institute and is a recognised public commentator on business and human rights.

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**MACQUARIE**  
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**Justin Jos Poonjatt**

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Justin is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law and Justice, University of New South Wales, Sydney. He completed his undergraduate law and business administration (BBA LLB) degree from National Law University Odisha, India and Master of Laws (LLM) from University of Exeter, United Kingdom as a Commonwealth Shared Scholar. Justin's main research interests are in the field of business and human rights, specifically focusing on access to remedies for corporate human rights abuses through non-judicial pathways.

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**Sali Yousif**

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Sali Yousif is an aspiring lawyer completing her penultimate year at Macquarie University, majoring in Criminology. She is also the research assistant for MURI initiative at Macquarie University and a court support volunteer at the Community Restorative Centre for Legal Aid Australia. Sali is passionate about assisting individuals and communities affected by corporate human rights abuses, particularly through non-judicial mechanisms. Her research also encompasses criminal law as well as criminology and sociology.

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## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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A2J Lab invites expression of interest from passionate law students committed to contributing to the cause of access to justice and corporate accountability for human rights abuses. The selected student interns will be working with leading experts, external partners and affected communities.

If you are interested in doing internship with the A2J Lab, please contact the Lab Director, Professor Surya Deva: [surya.deva@mq.edu.au](mailto:surya.deva@mq.edu.au)

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## CONTACT US

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