

# OMAR M. DAJANI

**Employment** **Professor of Law, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law**  
*Sacramento, California, November 2003 to present.*

- Faculty Chair, 2011-12.
- Courses: Contracts, Foreign Investment & Development, Immigration & Nationality, International Organizations, Public International Law, United Nations Law and Practice

**Visiting Professor of Law, The American University in Cairo**  
*Cairo Egypt, Fall Semester 2008.*

- Courses: International Investment Law; The United Nations and the Question of Palestine.

**Visiting Professor of Law, University of California, Hastings College of the Law**  
*San Francisco, California, August 2007-April 2008.*

- Courses: Contracts, Public International Law, The United Nations System.

**Political Officer, Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)**

*Jerusalem, September 2001 to March 2003.*

- Prepared Security Council briefings and draft resolutions on Middle East issues for UN Special Coordinator and Secretary-General.
- Helped develop peace-building initiatives; participated in Quartet consultations regarding Middle East Road Map in Paris, London, Washington, D.C.
- Helped to coordinate international effort to support Palestinian legal and political reform; represented the UN in donor groups supporting Palestinian elections, rule of law development, and civil society mobilization.
- Liaised with Palestinian ministers and legislators and with representatives from broad range of political parties and civil society organizations throughout West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Analyzed and reported on political developments in Palestinian Territories and Israel.

**Legal Adviser, Palestinian Negotiations Support Unit**

*Ramallah, Palestinian Territories, September 1999 to June 2001.*

- Provided legal advice and support to Palestinian negotiating team in peace talks with Israel; participated in negotiation rounds at Camp David and Taba, among others.
- Prepared draft agreements for talks on borders, security, trade, and financial issues.
- Managed work program of international team of legal and policy experts to develop and draft Palestinian proposals.
- Represented Palestinian negotiating team in meetings with third party governments and intergovernmental organizations.
- Testified before UN Human Rights Commission regarding applicability of international humanitarian law to Palestinian Territories and prepared written submissions to Mitchell Committee.

**Associate, Sidley & Austin**

*Washington, D.C., November 1998 to September 1999 and July-August 1996.*

- Helped prepare merits and *amicus* briefs for constitutional, trade, and white-collar criminal cases in United States Supreme Court.
- Defended health care corporation in *qui tam* suits and federal fraud investigations.
- Assisted World Bank in compiling evidence against contractors accused of corrupt practices.

# OMAR M. DAJANI

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- Defended health care corporation in *qui tam* suits and federal fraud investigations.
- Assisted World Bank in compiling evidence against contractors accused of corrupt practices.

- Secured thousands of dollars in back payments from Social Security Administration for disabled pro bono client.

**Law Clerk, Judge Dorothy Nelson, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit**

*Pasadena, California, August 1997 to August 1998.*

Prepared analytical memoranda and preliminary drafts of opinions on wide range of federal and state law issues, including interpretation of U.S.-U.K. extradition treaty and constitutionality of U.S. anti-terrorism legislation.

**Legal Intern, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless**

*Washington, D.C., August 1995.*

Assisted indigent clients seeking shelter and public assistance.

**Summer Associate, Steptoe & Johnson**

*Washington, D.C., June-July 1995.*

Prepared memoranda in employment discrimination, product liability, and commercial law cases.

**Legal Intern, Immigration Clinic, Yale Legal Services**

*New Haven, Connecticut, September 1994 to June 1995.*

Represented immigrants seeking political asylum in the United States.

**Intern, United Nations Centre for Human Rights**

*Geneva, Switzerland, Summer 1994.*

- Prepared profile of nascent Palestinian legal and political institutions for police force human rights training program.
- Drafted recommendations for incorporating quality control into UN assistance programs.

**Assistant Account Executive, Leo Burnett Advertising**

*Chicago, Illinois, October 1991 to April 1993.*

Worked on national multi-media advertising campaigns for consumer product accounts.

**Intern, United States House of Representatives**

*Washington, D.C., Summer 1989.*

Prepared briefs for Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker for hearings on U.S. aid to Lebanon.

**Consultancies Palestine Liberation Organization, Negotiations Support Unit**

*Ramallah, Palestinian Territories, June 2003-present.*

Provide occasional advice and support to Palestinian negotiating team with respect to Middle East peace process.

**Queens College Center for Racial, Ethnic, & Religious Understanding**

*New York, USA, 2007-present.*

Provide occasional advice regarding development of courses on Middle East history & conflict resolution; lecture to course participants.

**Center for Humanitarian Dialogue**

*Mindanao & Manila, Philippines, May 2010 to present.*

Member of international advisory group providing advice to Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Government of the Republic of the Philippines regarding Mindanao peace process. Participated in Negotiators Forum convened by Philippine government.

**Al Mustakbal Foundation for Strategic & Policy Studies**

*Ramallah, Palestinian Territories, 2006-2008.*

- Reviewed & edited report on legal & institutional structure of Palestinian state (financed by UK DFID).

- Reviewed & contributed to study on enhancing accountability of Palestinian public institutions (financed by Center for International Private Enterprise).
- Served as lead author of study on strategies for facilitating access of Palestinian agricultural goods to global markets (financed by US AID).
- Served as lead author of study on reforming Palestinian business legislation (financed by US State Department).

**Experts Forum on Planning Considerations for International Involvement in Resolving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict.**

Cambridge, UK. 2004.

Served as rapporteur for multilateral forum examining peacekeeping options for Middle East conflict.

**Education**

**Yale Law School**, New Haven, Connecticut. Juris Doctor, February 1997.

General Director, Lowenstein International Human Rights Law Project. Teaching Assistant, Procedure I (Prof. Owen Fiss). Intern, Immigration Clinic. Editor, Yale Journal of International Law. Teacher, Street Law Program. Coker Fellow, 1995-96. Schell Center Fellow, 1994.

**Northwestern University**, Evanston, Illinois. Bachelor of Arts (Honors), June 1991.

Majors: American Studies and Middle Eastern and Asian History. Graduated with distinction and departmental honors; GPA 3.86/4.0; Dean's List all terms; Phi Beta Kappa; Sargent Award for Academic Excellence.

**Scholarly**

**Publications**

*Responding to Ethnic and Religious Conflict in the New Arab Order: The Promise and Limits of Rights*, \_\_ UCLA J. INT'L L. & FOR. AFF. \_\_ (forthcoming 2013).

*Contractualism in the Law of Treaties*, 34 MICH. J. INT'L L. 1 (2012).

Omar M. Dajani & Nicholas Gibson, *Disproportionality & Deterrence: The Dahiya Doctrine under International Law*, in PALESTINE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW: NEW APPROACHES (Bir Zeit U. Press 2011).

*The Importance of the Goldstone Report*, 104 AM. SOC'Y INT'L L. PROC. 73 (2011).

*"No Security Without Law": Prospects for Implementing a Rights-Based Approach in Palestinian-Israeli Security Negotiations*, in MICHAEL LYNK, SUSAN AKRAM, MICHAEL DUMPER & IAIN SCOBIE, EDS., INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH (London: Routledge, 2011).

*Forty Years Without Resolve: Tracing the Influence of Security Council Resolution 242 on the Middle East Peace Process*, 37 J. PALESTINE STUD. 24 (2007).

*Shadow or Shade: The Roles of International Law in Palestinian-Israeli Peace Talks*, 32 YALE J. INT'L L. 61 (2007), reprinted in VICTOR KATTAN, ED., THE PALESTINE QUESTION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW (London: British Society of International and Comparative Law, 2008).

*Preparing for the Inevitable Negotiation*, 35 J. PALESTINE STUD. 39 (2006).

*Surviving Opportunities: Palestinian Negotiating Behavior in Peace Talks with Israel*, in ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATING STYLES: A CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY (Washington: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2005).

*Understanding Barriers to Peace: A Palestinian Response*, 20 NEGOTIATION J. 401 (2004).

*Stalled Between Seasons: The International Legal Status of Palestine During the Interim Period*, 26 DENVER J. OF INT'L LAW & POL'Y 27 (1997), reprinted in VICTOR KATTAN, ED., THE PALESTINE QUESTION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW (London: British Society of International and Comparative Law, 2008).

## Published Reports

*The Legal and Institutional Structure of the State of Palestine: The Case for a Hybrid Legal System* (Ramallah: Al Mustakbal Foundation, 2008) (reviewer and editor) (financed by grant from UK Department for International Development).

*Enhancing the Accountability of Palestinian Public Institutions* (Ramallah: Al Mustakbal Foundation, 2008) (lead editor, contributing author) (financed by grant from Center for International Private Enterprise).

*Strategies for Facilitating Palestinian Agricultural Exports: Legal Framework* (Ramallah Al Mustakbal Foundation, 2008) (lead author) (financed by grant from USAID).

*Developing a Palestinian Roadmap for Legislative Reform in the Business Sector: Analysis and Recommendations* (Ramallah: Al Mustakbal Foundation, Sept. 25, 2006) (lead author) (financed by grant from US State Dep't).

*Planning Considerations for International Involvement in Resolving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, Report of the Fourth Experts Forum* (July 2004) (rapporteur).

*Planning Considerations for International Involvement in Resolving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, Report of the Third Experts Forum* (March 2004) (rapporteur).

## Other Publications

*The Intifada Brought Palestine Home*, MONDOWEISS (Jan. 3, 2013), <http://mondoweiss.net/2013/01/resistance-intifada-palestine.html>.

*Arafat's Ghost*, FOREIGNPOLICY.COM (Nov. 27, 2012), [http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/11/27/arafats\\_ghost](http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/11/27/arafats_ghost).

*Sticky Wicket at the UN*, FOREIGNPOLICY.COM (Sept. 9, 2011), [http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/09/21/sticky\\_wicket\\_at\\_the\\_un](http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/09/21/sticky_wicket_at_the_un).

*September song*, FOREIGNPOLICY.COM (May 24, 2011), [http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/05/24/september\\_song](http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/05/24/september_song).

*The Myth of Defensible Borders: Building a Middle East Regional Security Regime*, FOREIGN AFFAIRS (January 5, 2011) (with Ezzedine Choukri-Fishere), <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67218/omar-m-dajani-and-ezzedine-c-fishere/the-myth-of-defensible-borders>.

*Post-Mortem: Oslo & Arafat*, MUFTAH (Aug. 2, 2010), <http://muftah.org/?p=205>.

*Obama off to good start in Middle East*, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER (Jan. 29, 2009).

*A Comprehensive Agenda: Adopting a framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East is the change that Obama really needs to herald*, AL AHRAM WEEKLY, Nov. 26, 2008 (with Ezzedine Choukri-Fishere).

*U.S. should take lead in Middle East peace process*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Nov. 8, 2008 (with Ezzedine Choukri-Fishere).

*A Palestinian State First*, AL AHRAM WEEKLY, Sept. 18, 2008 (with Ezzedine Choukri-Fishere).

*Conflict in Lebanon: In Middle East Problems Lie the Solutions*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Aug. 4, 2006.

*Lost Without a Context: The Failure to Apply International Law to the Palestinian-Israeli Dispute*, 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TRUST NEWS & JOURNAL (2004).

*On a Better Road This Time in the MidEast?* WASHINGTON POST, May 4, 2003, at B1.

## Lectures & Presentations

*Responding to Ethnic & Religious Conflict in the Middle East: The Promise & Limits of Rights* (presentation at Workshop on Multiculturalism and Minority Rights in the Arab World, Istituto di Studi Politici S. Pio V, Rome, Italy, March 3, 2013).

*Can the Two State Solution be Salvaged?* (roundtable discussion at New America Foundation, Washington, D.C., October 8, 2012).

*A Regional Approach to Pluralism in the New Arab Order?* (delivered at Cornell Law School workshop on Law Revolution and Reform in the Arab World, New York City, April 21, 2012 (<http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/spotlights/Clarke-Initiative-Hosts-Workshop-in-New-York>); earlier versions presented at UCLA Journal of Law and Foreign Affairs Symposium on Political Transition, Rule of Law, & Human Rights: What Have we Learned from the Arab Spring? February 17, 2012 (<http://orgs.law.ucla.edu/JILFA/symposium/Pages/Default.aspx>) and Yale Middle East Legal Studies Seminar, Istanbul, Turkey, January 14, 2012.)

*Immigration and the 2012 Election: Legal and Legislative Disputes* (panel discussion at University of the Pacific, April, 5, 2012) (<http://www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=20662>).

*Peace Advocacy After Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* (delivered to Davis Peace Coalition, Davis, CA, March 11, 2012).

*Reaping the Fruit of the Arab Spring: Seeds of Peace or Further Discontent?* (panel discussion at Pacific Council Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, November 19, 2011) (<https://www.pacificcouncil.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=710>).

*Still Stalled Between Seasons: Statehood & Mass Mobilization in Palestine* (delivered at Cornell Law School, Sept. 22, 2011) (<http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/spotlight.cfm?pageid=180312>).

The Palestinian Appeal for Statehood at the United Nations (panel discussion for Congressional staff, Washington, D.C., September 16, 2011) (<http://3phumansecurity.org/site/programs/congressional-forum>).

*Palestinian Statehood: Legal Issues and Strategic Implications* (delivered at Council on Foreign Relations round-table, Washington, D.C., February 18, 2011).

*The Myth of Defensible Borders: Toward an Integrated Approach to Middle East Security* (delivered at Japan Institute of International Affairs symposium, Conflicts and Peacebuilding in the Middle East: Palestine, Israel, and Iraq, Tokyo, Nov. 3, 2010).

*Disproportionality & Deterrence: The Dahiya Doctrine under International Law* (delivered at Bir Zeit University conference, Palestine and International Law: New Approaches, Bir Zeit, Sept. 26, 2010).

*International Law and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (delivered at Queens College, New York, Sept. 7, 2010)

*Negotiating Peace: Lessons from Palestine for Mindanao* (delivered at Philippine Negotiators Forum, Manila, May 27, 2010).

*Deterrence & Proportionality: Assessing the Legality of the Dahiya Doctrine* (delivered at UCLA School of Law, April 14, 2010).

*The Importance of the Goldstone Report* (delivered at Annual Meeting of American Society of International Law, Washington, D.C., Mar. 25, 2010).

*Palestinian Negotiating Patterns* (delivered at Yale Middle East Legal Scholars Seminar, Marrakech, January 16, 2010)

*Redrawing the Middle East Roadmap: Lessons for President Obama* (delivered at University of the Pacific, April 30, 2009).

*The Middle East Regional Crises: Israel-Palestine & Iran* (delivered at World Affairs Council of Northern California Annual Conference, San Francisco, April 3, 2009).

*Palestinian Struggles for Nationhood in Middle East* (delivered at Commonwealth Club of California, San Francisco, Feb. 19, 2009)

*Never Again and Then? Genocide and Exceptionalism in Israeli Security Discourse* (delivered at Yale Middle East Legal Studies Seminar, Abu Dhabi, January 17, 2009).

*Forty Years Without Resolve: Assessing the Influence of UN Security Council Resolution 242 on Middle East Peacemaking* (delivered in absentia at Middle East Studies Association Conference, Montreal, Nov. 2007).

*Defaults or Dictates: Negotiating Rights and Obligations under the Law of Occupation* (invited paper, delivered at Minerva Center (Hebrew University/Tel Aviv University) conference, Forty Years after 1967: Reappraising Legal Discourse on Occupation in the Israeli-Palestinian Context, Tel Aviv, June 7, 2007).

*Finding Peace in the Shade of the Law: The Plural Roles of Law in Palestinian Diplomacy* (invited paper, delivered at Bir Zeit University conference, The Theory and Practice of Diplomacy: International and Palestinian Experiences, Ramallah, , May 18, 2007).

*Legal Responses to Ethnic Difference: Rwanda & Burundi* (delivered at African Studies Association annual conference, San Francisco, Nov. 18, 2006).

*At the Shadow's Edge: The Role of Law in Palestinian-Israeli Peace Talks, 1999-2001* (delivered at Seattle University Law School, January 29, 2007, University of Pennsylvania Law School, March 16, 2006, and at University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, March 3, 2005).

*Finding Rights in Palestinian-Israeli Security Discourse* (delivered at "A Rights-Based Approach Toward Resolving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" conference, University of Exeter, June 9, 2006).

*Buckle Up the One You Love: Reconciling Peace and Democracy in the Middle East* (delivered at World Affairs Council, Santa Rosa, California, March 2, 2006).

*How Palestinians Negotiate* (delivered at Middle East Studies Association annual conference, Washington, D.C., Nov. 21, 2005).

*The Middle East after the Election: Lessons for Our Next President* (delivered at DePaul University Law Center, Human Rights Institute, Chicago, October 4, 2004).

*"End of Conflict" and Other Fictions: Competing Visions of Peace and Justice in the Middle East* (delivered at "Justice Across Cultures" conference at Brandeis University, International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, March 8, 2004).

*The Minimum Requirements for Peace in the Middle East* (a series of dialogues with Americans for Peace Now National Director Mark Rosenblum held at synagogues, universities, and other venues in New York, Chicago, Evanston, Los Angeles, Berkeley, San Francisco, and Palo Alto in 2004).

**Languages** English (native speaker), French (proficient), and Arabic (proficient).

**Professional Affiliations** State Bar of California, American Bar Association, American Society of International Law (Member of 2011 Annual Meeting Program Committee), Council on Foreign Relations (Term Member 2005-2010), Pacific Council on International Policy, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Middle East Studies Association, Israeli Palestinian Negotiating Partners, Yale Middle East Legal Studies Seminar.