



Dr. Nancy D. Arnison

**Biographical Sketch for Nancy D. Arnison
Director, ELCA World Hunger Program
and churchwide representative for the
2008 I-K Synod Assembly**

June 5 – 7, 2008

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, World Hunger Program

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (July 2005 - present).

Responsible for directing the ELCA's work on poverty and justice through international and domestic programs and grants in long-term economic development, emergency relief, education, and advocacy. Areas of focus include sustainable development, HIV/AIDS, women's rights and environmental sustainability. Manage a \$20 million annual budget. Responsible for strategic planning, grants, budgets, staff development and external relations including media work, interfaith relations, and extensive public speaking.

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN

Director of Resource Development (December 1997 – April 1999). Responsible for development and public relations. Fundraising with individual donors, foundations, endowment campaign.

Minnesota Advocates For Human Rights, Minneapolis, MN

Deputy Director, Legal Director, Director of Policy and Programs (1993 – 1997)
Director, Refugee and Asylum Project (1992 – 1993)

Developed and managed programming in international human rights. Work included strategic planning, board and donor relations, program design and oversight, fundraising, and hiring and supervision of staff. Extensive public speaking, media work, and presentations to U.S. and foreign governments and United Nations bodies. Responsible for fact-finding investigations, legal analysis and publications on civil and political rights, refugee and asylum law, immigration policy, humanitarian intervention, children's rights and economic/social rights. Built Refugee and Asylum Project by recruiting and training 250 volunteer lawyers to provide free legal representation to 400 indigent clients. Created campaign to combat anti-immigrant bias through curriculum development, videos, speakers bureau, workshops, theater presentations and media coverage. The

project became a national model whose resources were used throughout rural and urban Minnesota and in 15 other states. Developed the Child Mortality Project bringing international human rights strategies to bear on high infant mortality in Uganda, Mexico and select U.S. locations. Worked with social science and public health specialists to document, report, evaluate and develop strategies for intervention.

Physicians For Human Rights, Boston, MA

Program Director (1990–1992)

Responsible for leading and supervising medical/legal investigations of international human rights abuses; writing and editing reports, books, and journal articles; and handling media relations (print, radio and TV). Areas of focus included international human rights, laws of war, medical ethics, forensic investigations, health and human rights in prisons. Developed training manual on medical testimony in asylum cases.

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Developed successful \$1,000,000 grant proposal to start Human Rights Center at the University of Minnesota (1989).

Briggs and Morgan Law Firm, Minneapolis, MN

Attorney in transactional and litigation departments (1984-1990). Municipal bonds for low-income housing developments (1984). Litigation in a wide range of disputes including environmental contamination, public utilities, franchise, commercial and non-profit organizations (1985–1990).

Robert M. Schray Insurance Agency, Chicago, IL

Manager, Claims Department (1979–1981); Commercial Marketing (1978)

Augustana Hospital, Chicago, IL, and Chateau Waukegan Halfway House, Waukegan, IL

Psychiatric and Medical Social Work (1976–1978)

TEACHING

Luther Seminary, MN

Course: Tragedy and Beauty (2006)

Thiel College, PA

Earth Week Visiting Scholar (April 2006) Keynote: Hunger and Hope

Concordia, Moorehead, MN

Lilly Foundation Scholar in Residence (Feb.14-16, 2006). Keynote: Vocation and the Call to Justice

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, MN

Adjunct Professor (2004). Course: Religion and International Human Rights

University of Minnesota

Adjunct Professor in the law school (1989-1990) Courses: International Human Rights; Human Rights in Eastern Europe.

Lecturer (1992–1997) Periodic lectures on international human rights; economic and health issues for women and children; humanitarian law; immigration policy; and refugee and asylum law.

University of Chicago

Wabash Fellowship for Teaching Comparative Religions, The University of Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion (2002-2003)

PUBLICATIONS AND MATERIALS

Numerous articles on hunger, justice and theology for ELCA publications: *Mosaic* (video), *World Hunger Basics*; *Lifelines*; *Love Indeed* (July 2005 - present)

"The Accidental Theologian" *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, MN, May 28, 2005)

Charity or Justice? Food Security (Radio interview broadcast October 16, 2005)

Tragic Vision and the Quest for Justice: Aeschylus and Whitehead (dissertation in progress)

Where Hope is Born (Video, project director) (United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 1998)

Energy of A Nation: Immigrants in America (Curriculum and Video, project director and editor) (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 1996)

"Asylum Law" *Immigration Law* (Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, July 1994)

"International Law and Non-Intervention: When Humanitarian Concerns Supersede Sovereignty" *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Vol. 17, No. 2, Summer 1993.

"Suffering Under Sovereignty" *Sojourners*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 1993

"Preventing the Next Bosnia" *International Law and Business in A Changing World* (American Bar Association, 1993)

"The Law of Humanitarian Intervention," *New Strategies for a Restless World* (U.S. Committee for Refugees and the American Refugee Committee, May 1993)

Health Conditions in Haiti's Prisons (Boston: Physicians for Human Rights, 1992)

"Operation Just Cause: A Case Study in Estimation of Casualties After War" *PSR (Physicians for Social Responsibility) Quarterly* 1991; 1:138–144, co-authored with Paul Wise, M.D., Gregg Bloche, M.D., and Jane Schaller, M.D.

Medical Testimony on Victims of Torture: A Physician's Guide to Political Asylum Cases (Boston: Physicians for Human Rights, 1991) co-authored with Paul Epstein, M.D., Richard Pels, M.D., Robert Lawrence, M.D., and Susan Akram

Yugoslavia: Mistreatment of Ethnic Albanians (Boston: Physicians for Human Rights, 1991)

“Bad Faith Litigation in Insurance Contracts” in *Treatise on Business Torts* (Matthew Bender, 1988) co-authored with David Forsberg

Editor:

Global Child Survival: A Human Rights Priority: Child Mortality in Uganda, Mexico and the United States (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 1999) Co-editors: Huy Pham, Sosamma Samuel

No One Can Hear Us: Somali Refugees in Kenya (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 1992)

Operation ‘Just Cause’: The Human Cost of Military Action in Panama (Boston: Physicians for Human Rights, 1991)

Hidden from View: Human Rights Conditions in the Krome Detention Center (Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee & Physicians for Human Rights, 1991) Co-editors: Sam Myers and Deepika Udagama

BOARDS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Bread for the World, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 2007-present.

Midwest Alliance for Human Rights, Advisor, 1999-present

National Immigrant Justice Center, Leadership Council, 2002-present

American Society of International Law, 1990–present

Law and Society Association, 2004-present

Center for Process Studies, Claremont University, 1998-present

Council on Foreign Relations, 1992–present

Society of Christian Ethics, 2003-present

Lutheran Ethicists, 2002-present

American Association of Religion, 1998–present

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, President, 1988–1989; Council, 1984–1989; member, 1984-present.

Minnesota Council of Churches, Advisory Board for Refugee Services, 1993–1996

Interchange Institute (Sustainable Development in El Salvador), Board of Directors, 1993–1996

International Commission of Jurists, Working Group on Economic, Social, Cultural Rights, India, 1995

American Immigration Lawyers Association, 1992–2000

Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee, Board of Directors, 1985–1990

Minnesota Justice Foundation, Board of Directors, 1985–1988

Zorongu Flamenco Dance Theater, Advisory Board, 1995–1996

American Dance Ensemble, Performer, 1994–1995

HOBBIES

Dance, gardening, piano

