

The Scott Hendler Public Interest Law Fellowship

Scott Hendler is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Pittsburg School of Law where he was an editor on the Journal of Law and Commerce. Following law school, he served as a Judicial Clerk to Chief Judge Robert Porter of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. He is the founding partner of the Hendler, Lyons, Flores law firm in Austin, Texas.

Scott served an Inter-American Court of Human Rights Post Graduate Internship 1983 – 1984 where he worked under the supervision of the Secretary of the Court. Together with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, it makes up the human rights protection system of the Organization of American States (OAS), which serves to uphold and promote basic rights and freedoms in the Americas through the application and interpretation of the American Convention on Human Rights.

As a seasoned advocate for victims of corporate misconduct, Mr. Hendler is an authority on the impact of corporate malfeasance on workers' and consumers' rights. He has been invited to speak at international conferences in Spain, Argentina, Mexico, Japan and Scotland, as well as Guatemala where he addressed a meeting of the attorney generals of all the Central American nations regarding the use of tort law to address corporate malfeasance by foreign corporations. He has represented workers in mesothelioma asbestos litigation, children in connection with exposure to toxic shoe glue and families in high value single event complex injury and illness litigation involving violation of dram shop laws, nursing home abuse and defective pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices.

Scott was the Founder, President and General Counsel of SaveTownLake.Org, an environment Grass Roots Neighborhood organization formed to restore the Austin, Texas Waterfront Overlay Ordinance to preserve the open spaces around Ladybird Lake and the Butler Hike and Bike Trail, and to control development to reasonable levels that comply with City Ordinances. He also served on the Board of Directors and Vice President of the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas, which was dedicated in 1971 as an intimate sanctuary available to people of every belief. The Chapel has become a rallying place for all people concerned with peace, freedom, and social justice throughout the world.

Scott took on the pro bono representation of an HIV positive man whose health insurance company promptly canceled his policy upon receiving a claim for reimbursement for an HIV related prescription. The case was tried to a federal jury and the jury ruled in favor of the insured, reinstating his health insurance policy. He also represented pro bono a federal employee denied advancement due to alleged age and disability discrimination, a single mother of two daughters facing eviction from public housing, and a disabled permanent legal resident in connection with police investigation of an altercation with neighbors. In addition, he received the National Women's Political Caucus Good Guy's Award for pro bono representation of the organization in litigation in court in the District of Columbia. Scott has also been recognized as a Texas Watch Champion of Justice and received the Animal Legal Defense Fund Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award.

Scott established the Charles Moyer Summer Fellowship in International Human Rights administered by the Rapport Center for Human Rights and Justice. Charles Moyer served as the first Secretary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and prior to that was the Chief Investigator of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Fellowship recognizes Moyer's life long commitment to the protection of the rights of people everywhere and provides a stipend each year to support one law student to work in the field of human rights. He also served as a mentor to a first generation American from age 12; kept him in high school and ensured his graduation. He is now 24 and considering a career in the military or pursuing higher education.

Scott is licensed in Texas, New Mexico, Illinois and Pennsylvania, and regularly represents plaintiffs in complex injury litigation in state and federal courts throughout the United States. He is a frequent speaker at national bar association continuing education programs, international legal conferences and law schools. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Hendler served as Senior Investigator for the Texas Commission on Human Rights, the state's fair housing and fair employment practices enforcement agency. He currently resides in Austin, Texas with his wife, Lulu Flores, an attorney and nationally recognized women's rights activist, and their very vocal cat, Nana.

The Scott Hendler Public Interest Law Fellowship is awarded in hopes that the recipient will be inspired by what successful lawyers like Scott Hendler do in the public's interest as an essential part of their career, and will make a similar commitment.

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