

# Romina Picolotti

**President, Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA)** January 2009 – Present  
**Chair WG Human Rights and Environment IUCN** 2006 - Present

## Prizes and Special Recognition

- **Climate Protection Award 2008 – US Environmental Protection Agency.** For her unique contribution to advancing international negotiations and securing global commitments to phase out HCFCs under Montreal Protocol Treaty.
- **Montreal Protocol Award 2007.** In recognition of exceptional efforts to comply with the Montreal Protocol.
- **Highest Environmental Protection Award. 2008** National University of Mexico and Mexican Bar Association.
- **Sophie Prize 2006 Recipient.** Norwegian given to One advocate promoting innovative sustainable development.
- **Outstanding Neighbor Award. 2006.** Municipality of Córdoba for excellence in outstanding local presence.
- **Years Most Outstanding Youth Award - 2005** from Córdoba Province. for outstanding public service.
- **Peter Ciccino Award. 2002.** American University international prize for outstanding contributions to public interest;
- **USIA.** First Prize in National Lawyers Competition presenting legal strategies.

## Professional Experience

**Environment Secretary of Argentina** July 2006 – December 2008 (Two Presidencies)

- Raising Political Priority of Environmental Agenda in Argentina and in the Region
- Secured Five Fold increase and managed Multi-million dollar National Environmental Budget and 900 staff
- Led international negotiations on Ozone Protection and secured New Montreal Protocol Commitments
- Built Alliances for Int'l Negotiations with Brazil, Chile, China, USA, Denmark, Mexico, Venezuela, South Africa, et.al.
- Led developing country position on Mitigation and Adaptation in Climate Change negotiations
- Secured passage of Sustainable Forestry Law
- Designed Forestry Policy for Argentina
- Promoting Sustainable Industry and New Technologies in historically contaminating sectors
- Bridging Social Dimension into Argentine Federal Environmental Agenda and Policy
- Partnered with Judicial Branch to create the first Federal Environmental Prosecutor
- Designed and Created Argentine Sustainable Development Research Institute
- Designed and Created innovative Inter-Governmental Authority for river contamination cleanup
- Devising and Promoting Sustainable Development and Human Rights as Political Priority
- Designed and consolidated federal team to ensure Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
- Protecting Natural Patrimony while Achieving Fair/Equitable Access to Natural Resources
- Promoting sustainable use and systems-view of natural resources wealth
- Designed, created and implementing Argentine Sustainable Cities Program workign with Mayors
- Incorporating human rights approach/views and needs of local communities in Environmental Policy
- Developing National Argentine Sustainable Development Strategy
- Incorporated Indigenous Dimension/participation into National Environmental Authority and Strategy
- Promoting local, national and regional agenda with integral view of the global environment;
- Achieved entry of Federal Environment Authority into assessment of Provincial Mining Investments
- Adopting and advocating (nationally and internationally) for policy alignment with Right to Water

**Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA) - Córdoba, Argentina** May 1999- July 2006

*Founder and President.* In charge of program design, curriculum development, international advocacy work bridging environment and human rights field, legal representation in local and international cases, training civil society leaders/attorneys on human rights advocacy for environmental cases, development of training materials, research and publication, development of litigation tools, management of team of human rights and environmental attorneys.

**Adjunct Professor International Law Master's Program (LLM). American University.**

Designed and taught graduate seminar on Human Rights/Environment.

**International Human Rights Law Group (LG) - Washington D.C.**

December 1996 - May 1999. Designed Latin America Program. I Civil Society strengthening/legal assistance projects in Nicaragua. Foster autonomous rights and legal participation of marginalized ethnic minority communities. Communications, training, elections monitoring, conferences, press communications, and lobbying for the protection of human rights before the appropriate Inter-American human rights institutions.

**Cambodian Court Training Project, IHRIG - Cambodia**

August 1995 - November 1996. *Legal Advisor* to Provincial Court Judges and Prosecutors. In charge of Project Provincial Hub in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng Provinces, developed training curriculum in Criminal Law, nationwide mobile training instructor in Criminal and Family Law, mentoring Judges, Prosecutors and Police in Legal issues, introducing judicial analytical tools to Judges and Prosecutors, and facilitating institutional dialogue between Courts and local human rights NGOs. Coordinated material assistance program.

### **Organization of American States (Unit for the Promotion of Democracy).**

- Haiti: June - July 1995. *Elections Monitor* for Congressional and Municipal elections. Operated in Chambellan and Jeremie Communes observing electoral process. Worked with MICIVIH UN/OAS (*Mission Civile Int'l*) monitoring human rights violations.
- Peru: Feb. - April 1995. *Sub-Coordinator* of OAS NW Branch monitoring Presidential and Congressional elections.. Responsible for the legal section receiving and processing electoral complaints. Worked closely with the Provincial Jury of Chiclayo and the General Prosecutor.

### **Center for Justice and International Law/Americas Watch.** 1994-1995 - Washington, D.C.

Consultant work on human rights cases going to the IACHR, OAS.

### **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).** June 1994-Sept. 1994 -

Helped determine admissibility of entering cases presented to the *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* for Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Cuba. Prepared section *1995 OAS Annual Report* on institutional and judicial structures of Nicaragua, drafted IACHR recommendations to Nicaragua.

### **Private Practice.** 1989-1994. Córdoba, Argentina.

Commercial and Civil Law. Participated in local conferences on cases at *Córdoba Bar Association*. Handled incoming cases to practice concerning federal & provincial law.

### **Banco Social de Córdoba.** Lawyer. Commercial Law Cases. 1993-1994.

### **Assistant Professor of Law.** Civil Rights, National Univ. of Córdoba. 1993-1994

### **Academia**

**The American University.** Masters Degree. International Human Rights Program. 3.8 GPA

**University of Córdoba,** Argentina. Degree: Lawyer (graduated with honors). Concentration: Civil Law.

### **The United States Information Agency (USIA)**

First Prize, National Contest Trial Defense on Criminal Justice for *USIA*. Received fellowship to study US Judicial System in Washington DC during Summer 1994.

### **Justice Council**

Active participation in the development of a *Justice Council* for the instruction of judges on improving justice administration in Argentina.

### **Córdoba College of Law**

1st Prize, University of Córdoba contest on flexibility of labor laws.

### **Inter-American Congress**

- Participated in the *Inter-American Congress on Criminal Law in Argentina*.
- Panelist for debates on Judicial Organization and Penal Systems in Latin America.
- Panelist for Argentine *Conference on Civil Obligations (Torts)*.
- Presented Supreme Court rulings on contracts revision during hyperinflation.

**Special Courses:** Philosophy of Law and Legal Reasoning, Judicial Abuse, Penal Procedures Reforms, Alternative punishment methods to solve prison over-population.

### **Bar Affiliation Member Córdoba Bar Association**

### **Publications**

- Beyond Kyoto. July 2007.
- Rethinking Climate Strategies. Presentation World Environment Day – Norway. June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Sustainable Development and Human Rights: The Way Forward. Delivered in Oslo During Sophie Prize Ceremony. June 2007.
- Linking Human Rights and Environment (Arizona Press, 2003)
- Human Rights and Environment in Argentina – Proposals for a Federal Agenda (Ed. Advocatus, 2005)
- The Human Cost of Protecting the Planet: Cases of Human Rights Violations of Human Rights Activists in Latin America. 2002
- Corporate Social Responsibility concerning the Protection of Environment and the Respect for Human Rights (January, 2002)
- Report on Human Rights and Environment in the Americas. 2002
- The Enforcement of Environmental Law from a Human Rights Perspective. W/Bordenave. 2002
- Agenda 21 and Human Rights: The Right to Participate – CEDHA Publication
- Human Rights and Corporations: Legal Responsibility of Corporations for Human Rights Abuses. W/ Juan M. Picolotti. International Council on Human Rights Policy, October 2000.
- Human Rights Accountability of Private Business: A Question of Sustainable Development. W/Taillant 2000
- The Protection of the Environment in the Inter-American Human Rights System: The Case of Awastingni. 1999.
- The right to participate at the municipal level. W/Jorge Daniel Taillant.
- The Use of Satellite Images and Human Rights Protection – CEDHA/CIEL
- Social Accountability of Private Business - CEDHA
- In the Wake of Discussions on Reforming the Inter-American Human Rights System: *Behind the Scenes at the OAS*. Inst. Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (IIDH) 1998.
- Human Rights and the OAS, 1996-1997. IHRLG, 1997.
- Assessment Mission to the Nicaragua Atlantic Coast, 1997.
- The Valuation of Evidence in the Criminal Process. IHRLG. 1996.
- Córdoba Law Review: Article on "Euthanasia: The Right to Die". 1993 and "The Theory of Judicial Abuse". 1993.
- Course Texts: (1) Introduction to Law. (2) Political Law. 1993.