

## Brian Ganson, J.D.

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**Brian Ganson is an expert on socio-political risk mitigation, conflict prevention and resolution, and third party roles in post-conflict and other complex environments. His research, writing, teaching and consulting focus on the nexus of business, conflict and development.**

Brian Ganson is Head of the Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement (ACDS) at the University of Stellenbosch Business School, a platform for research and dialogue at the nexus of business, conflict and development. ACDS works with business, government, labour and communities to reduce the costs of conflict and increase collaborative opportunities.

Mr. Ganson's focus is on particularly challenging environments. Examples of his advisory work include assessing with an international gold mining company conflict risks in a West African country; exploring with a development NGO strategies for mining affecting communities in the DRC; conducting a 360° stakeholder survey to identify the barriers to development of a comprehensive extractive industries policy in a Latin American country; and helping ameliorate social conflict with a development agency in Kosovo engaged in large-scale agricultural development projects. He has counseled UN agencies on their operations in the context of violent socio-political conflicts; advised UNDP on their extractives industries strategy for Africa; and was Chair of the Expert Panel for the evaluation of the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in post-crisis transition. His work helps multi-national corporations, development agencies, and inter-governmental organizations meet their full range of goals in emerging economies and post-conflict societies.

Mr. Ganson integrates academic and field perspectives to provide practice- and policy-relevant insight. He is (among other work) co-author of the book, *BUSINESS AND CONFLICT IN FRAGILE STATES*; editor and lead author of the book, *MANAGING IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS: QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS*, and author of *Business in Fragile Environments: Capabilities for Conflict Prevention* in the *Negotiation & Conflict Management Research Journal*. He produces the Company-community conflict resolution case stories series as well as the Mediator reflections from practice series for ACCESS Facility, an international non-profit organization focused on company-community conflict and its resolution. This and other research address various aspects of the relationships among the private sector and security, justice and inclusive development.

Mr. Ganson was previously a Senior Researcher with the Fletcher School Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, and a Director of Conflict Management Group, a non-profit consulting firm founded to apply the innovative approaches of the Harvard Negotiation Project to intense or protracted conflicts of public importance. He was a co-founder of the Organization Practice of Mitchell Madison Group, where he consulted to Fortune 500 companies across a variety of industries. Earlier he served as Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. He began his career as a civil rights attorney in Texas, helping expand access to quality education for underserved populations.

Mr. Ganson received his Bachelor of Arts in history with high distinction from the University of Michigan, his Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School, Tufts University, and his Juris Doctor with honors from the Harvard Law School.



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