

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 conflict risk assessment and mitigation planning with mining companies in Africa and Latin America; collaboration with NGOs on engagement strategies for mining affecting communities in the DRC and peace-positive development in Kosovo; and conflict mapping to advance a comprehensive extractive industries policy for a Latin American government. 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: THE CASE FOR PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS*; 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 is a principal investigator for a multi-year study on business and peace funded by the Carnegie Corporation, and co-author of a study for the UK Department for International Development on business environment reform in fragile states. He produced 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 Juris Doctor with honors from the Harvard Law School, his Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School, Tufts University, and his Bachelor of Arts in history with high distinction from the University of Michigan.



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