

## ERIK G. JENSEN

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**Erik Jensen** holds joint appointments at Stanford Law School and Stanford's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. After a number of years as Professor of the Practice, he continues to hold the position of Director of the Rule of Law Program at Stanford Law School and is an Affiliated Core Faculty at Stanford's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. Jensen began his international career as a Fulbright Scholar. He has taught and practiced in the field of law and development for 40 years and has carried out fieldwork in approximately 45 developing countries. Before arriving at Stanford in 1999, Jensen had a long affiliation with The Asia Foundation. He lived in Asia for 14 years and led or advised research teams on governance and the rule of law at the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the African Development Bank. Among his numerous publications, Jensen co-edited with Thomas Heller *Beyond Common Knowledge: Empirical Approaches to the Rule of Law* (Stanford University Press: 2003). At Stanford, he teaches courses related to state building, development, global poverty and the rule of law. He also co-teaches with Francis Fukuyama two capstone classes in the Master's in International Policy program. Jensen's scholarship and fieldwork focuses on bridging theory and practice, and examines connections between law, economy, politics, and society. Much of his teaching focuses on experiential learning. In recent years, he has committed considerable effort as faculty director and principal investigator for the Afghanistan Legal Education Project (ALEP) which founded and developed a law degree-granting program at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), an institution where he sat on the Board of Trustees for many years. He is also the faculty director of the Rwanda Law and Development Project at the University of Rwanda. He was faculty director of the Iraq Legal Education Initiative at the American University of Iraq in Suleimani (AUIS). He has directed similar projects in Bhutan, Cambodia and Timor Leste. In the wake of the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021 Jensen with two SLS alumnae launched a policy lab in the 2022 winter and spring quarters entitled "Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis: Policy and Legal Pathways to Resettle High-Risk Afghans." In September 2023 he taught a course entitled "Ukraine: Legal Reform and Governance in Wartime and Reconstruction" with Michael Strauss, the General Counsel and Vice President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In the winter and spring of 2024, he taught a policy lab on "Regulating Professional Enablers of Russia's War on Ukraine" and with his students wrote a report for the International Working Group on Russian Sanctions.

At the Freeman Spogli Institute, Jensen is a founding faculty member of the Fisher Family Summer Fellows Program, and he continues to anchor that program with Kathryn Stoner, Francis Fukuyama, Larry Diamond and Michael McFaul. With Paul Brest, he is co-leading the Rule of Non-Law Project, a research project launched in 2015 and funded by the Global Development and Poverty Fund at the Stanford King Center on Global Development. The project examines the use of various workarounds to the formal legal system by economic actors in developing countries. A number of faculty and scholars at the Freeman Spogli Institute and Stanford Law School participate in the Rule of Non-Law Project. Jensen has authored two books and numerous articles and reports.

### Employment

#### Stanford University

October 2022-Present, Director of the Rule of Law Program, Stanford Law School  
April 2012 – 2022, Professor of the Practice of Law and Director, Rule of Law Program  
Stanford Law School (full-time)  
1999-Present, Senior Research Director, then Co-Director, then Director, Rule of Law Program,  
Stanford Law School (part-time 1999-2012, full-time 2012-present)  
2007-2021, Faculty Director, the Afghanistan Legal Education Project, the Iraq Legal  
Education Initiative, Cambodia Law Reform Initiative, the Rwanda Law and Development

Project, the Timor Leste Legal Education Project, the Bhutan Law and Policy Project,  
2008-Present, Senior Research Scholar, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law  
2004-Present, Core Affiliated Faculty Member, Rule of Law Program, Center on Democracy, Development  
and Rule of Law  
2005-Present, a Founding Faculty Member, Fisher Family Summer Fellows Program on Democracy and  
Development (CDDRL)

#### The Asia Foundation

2009 – 2018, Senior Advisor for Governance and Law (part-time 2009-12, pro bono 2012-2018)  
1999-2009, Senior Law Advisor (part-time)  
1994-1999, Representative, Pakistan and Afghanistan  
1989-1993, Assistant Representative, Philippines  
1986-1989, Law Consultant, Sri Lanka

#### Other Positions

2015-2023, Member, Board of Trustees, American University of Afghanistan (pro bono)  
1997-2012, Advisor and Consultant to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the  
African Development Bank  
1993-1996, Member, Fulbright Committee, Pakistan  
1990-1993, Adjunct Professor of Law, Ateneo de Manila University College of Law, Philippines  
1985-1989, Senior Fulbright Lecturer in Law, University of Colombo and the Open University,  
Sri Lanka  
1984-1985, Assistant General Counsel, Gelco Corporation (now a division of General Electric)  
1983-1984, Associate Attorney, Drake & Rogesheske, Minneapolis, Minnesota

#### **Education**

LL.M., London School of Economics and Political Science, 1983.  
J.D., *cum laude*, William Mitchell College of Law, 1981.  
B.A., *cum laude*, Augustana College, 1977.

#### **Publications, Illustrative Substantial Reports and Case Studies**

##### Books

Erik G. Jensen and Thomas C. Heller, eds., *Beyond Common Knowledge: Empirical Approaches to the Rule of Law* (Stanford University Press: 2003).

Erik G. Jensen, *Introduction to International Law in Sri Lanka*, (The Open University Press: 1989).

Faculty advisor for numerous textbooks on the laws of Afghanistan, Bhutan, East Timor, Iraq and Rwanda.

##### Papers and Chapters

Dinsha Mistree and Erik G. Jensen, “The Domestic Political Economy of Stock Market Reform: Why India’s Stock Market Dwarfs Pakistan’s,” (forthcoming 2026).

Liza Goldberg, Stephen Luby, Erik G. Jensen et al., “Adolescent Psychological Health Under Chronic Climate Change-Related Stress: A Mixed-Methods Cross-Sectional Study in Bangladesh,” *The Lancet Planetary Health* (accepted for publication December 2024), SSRN preprint at: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=5037271](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5037271)

Erik G. Jensen and Kazumi Hoshino-Macdonald, “Is Taliban 2.0 Closing the Gates to Ijtihad Again?” 59 *Stanford Journal of International Law* p. 75-89 (2023).

Erik G. Jensen, “Seven Myths About Afghanistan,” *American Purpose*, September 17, 2021.

Mehdi Hakimi and Erik G. Jensen, "Rethinking Legal Education in Afghanistan: The Law Program at American University of Afghanistan," 55 *Stanford Journal of International Law* 83 (2019).

Erica Gaston and Erik G. Jensen, "Rule of Law and State Building in Afghanistan: Testing Theory with Practice," in *State Strengthening in Afghanistan: Lessons Learned from 2001 to 2014* edited by Scott Smith and Colin Cookman (United States Institute of Peace: 2016) at p. 69-79.

Erik G. Jensen, "Postscript: An Immodest Reflection," in David Marshall, ed., *The International Rule of Law Movement: A Crisis of Legitimacy and the Way Forward* (Harvard University Press: 2014) at p. 297-305.

Debra Ladner, Erik G. Jensen and Samuel E. Saunders, "A Critical Assessment of Legal Identity: What It Promises and What It Delivers," *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law* 2013: 1-27.

Erik G. Jensen and William Cole, "Democracy, Governance and the Rule of Law in Asia," in *Order and Institutional Architecture in Asia*, edited by Bates Gill and Michael Green (Columbia University Press: 2009).

Erik G. Jensen, "Justice and the Rule of Law," in Charles Call with Vanessa Wyeth, eds., *Building States to Build Peace* (Lynne Reinner: 2008).

Erik G. Jensen, "Confronting Misconceptions and Acknowledging Imperfections: A Response To Khaled Abou El Fadl's 'Islam And Democracy'" 27 *Fordham International Law Review* 81 (2003).

Erik G. Jensen, "Context for Judicial Independence Programs: Improving Diagnostics, Developing Enabling Environments and Building Economic Constituencies" in *Rule of Law and Judicial Independence Handbook* (USAID: 2000).

Erik G. Jensen, "Financial Crisis and the Judiciary's Capacity to Protect Human Rights -- Some Reflections from Pakistan," (The Hague: May 1999).

Erik G. Jensen, "Doing Business in Pakistan," *The Asia Business Law Review*, (1998).

G.L Peiris & Erik G. Jensen, "Fundamental Rights and Academic Discipline: Current American and South Asian Trends Compared," 38 *The International and Comparative Law Quarterly* 788 (1989).

#### Substantial Reports

Erik G. Jensen, et al., *Regulating Professional Enablers of Russia's War on Ukraine*, Report Prepared for the International Working Group on Russian Sanctions (May 2024) at [https://fsi9-prod.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2024-05/sls\\_policy\\_lab\\_lawyers-enablers\\_report\\_may2024.pdf](https://fsi9-prod.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2024-05/sls_policy_lab_lawyers-enablers_report_may2024.pdf)

Erik G. Jensen, Asha Gosh and Debra Ladner, *The Rights of Urban Poor in Rapidly Urbanizing Asia* (Asian Development Bank: 2009).

Debra Ladner and Erik G. Jensen, *Legal Identity* (Asian Development Bank: 2007).

Erik G. Jensen and David O'Brien, *Judicial Independence in Asia* (Asian Development Bank: 2004).

Erik G. Jensen, "Meaningful Participation or Deliberative Deception: Realities and Dilemmas in Legitimizing Legal and Judicial Reform Projects Through Consultative Processes" (World Bank's Lawyers' Forum: 1999).

Erik G. Jensen et al., *Legal and Judicial Reform in Pakistan* (Asian Development Bank: 1999).

Erik G. Jensen & Tariq Banuri, “Pakistan 2010: An Agenda for Effective Governance,” (Standard and Poor’s: 1997).

Erik G. Jensen & Tariq Banuri, “Pakistan 2010: A Vision,” (Government of Pakistan: 1998).

#### Case Studies

Dinsha Mistree and Erik Jensen, “The Bombay Stock Exchange: In the Face of Crisis,” (forthcoming 2025)

Erik Jensen and Dinsha Mistree, “Unfinished Business: The Judicial Reform Agenda in the Republic of Georgia” (forthcoming 2026).

Arjuna Dibley, Erik Jensen and Dinsha Mistree, “Go or No-Go? Voting on the World Bank’s Proposed Legal and Judicial reform Project in Bangladesh” (2017) at [https://www-cdn.law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Bangladesh-Case-Study\\_Final-5-Oct-17.pdf](https://www-cdn.law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Bangladesh-Case-Study_Final-5-Oct-17.pdf)

#### Op-Ed, Interviews, Press Coverage

Erik G. Jensen and Bryce Tuttle, “Attorney-Client Privilege Shouldn’t Help Oligarchs Evade Russian Sanctions, *The Hill*, June 13, 2024 at <https://thehill.com/opinion/criminal-justice/4718617-attorney-client-privilege-shouldnt-help-oligarchs-evade-russia-sanctions/>

Various interviews and press coverage in *The Stanford Lawyer*, *The Stanford Daily* and *Stanford Legal Podcast*.

### **Courses**

Ukraine: Legal Reform and Governance in Wartime and Reconstruction  
Regulating Professional Enablers of Russia’s War on Ukraine (Policy Lab)  
Policy Change Studio (co-teach capstone class with Francis Fukuyama in Master’s in International Policy Program)  
State-building and the Rule of Law  
Global Poverty and Law  
Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis: Policy and Legal Pathways to Resettle High-Risk Afghans (Policy Lab)  
Poverty and Corruption in India  
International Development and the Rule of Law  
Law and Development in India  
Islam and the Rule of Law  
Rule of Law in Mexico  
Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (summer program and undergraduate)

### **Awards**

Awarded two successive Fulbright grants to teach international and comparative law, and international economic law at the University of Colombo and the Open University, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Alumni Achievement Award, Augustana College  
Presidential Award, The Asia Foundation  
Honorary Doctorates, Free University of Tbilisi and Ilia State University (Republic of Georgia)

### **Personal**

Jensen lives in Palo Alto with his wife of 41 years, Elizabeth Kilgore Jensen. They have two adult children.

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