

LAW WEEK

COLORADO

Book Highlights Supply Chain Issues in Human Trafficking

Perkins Coie attorney co-authors second edition of treatise



T. MARKUS FUNK IS A FOUNDING CO-CHAIR OF PERKINS COIE'S SUPPLY CHAIN COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PRACTICE IN DENVER.

PHOTO: COURTESY

BY LAW WEEK STAFF

Six years after the release of the critically acclaimed book “Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining Global Enforcement and Supply Chain Challenges and U.S. Responses,” a second edition has been released and renamed. The book was launched Jan. 24 at the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in Chicago. Co-author **T. Markus Funk**, a partner and founding co-chair of the supply chain compliance and corporate social responsibility practice at Perkins Coie’s Denver office teamed up with U.S. District Judge **Virginia Kendall** to co-author the book and expand the second edition, which highlights the rules, laws and perspectives of human trafficking.

The second edition is unique in that it focuses on supply chain rules and regulations, which is a major issue when it comes to human trafficking for labor, he said. The text serves as a resource for companies, judges, attorneys, law enforcement, policy makers and anyone who is interested in the issue.

“When we wrote the book, one of our primary objectives was to comprehensively survey the different U.S. and foreign laws, regulation, and international treaties relating to trafficking and child exploitation, and to then discuss both how they work in practice and how they’re enforced,” he said.

Funk became interested in writing a “go-to book about human trafficking issues” while prosecuting cases as an assistant U.S. attorney and as a federal prosecutor in Chicago. He said there is “a lack of

understanding on the issues.” He also spent two years in Kosovo as the section chief with the Department of Justice, which also fueled his interest in writing the book.

“Oftentimes people view the issue of human trafficking through the lens of movies,” he said. “So when they think of human trafficking, they think of sex trafficking ... people chained to walls, and shipped from other countries. Obviously, those examples are as real as they are horrifying.”

But there are over 21 million trafficking victims in the world, he said, and the large majority of them are engaged in labor trafficking outside of the realm of sex trafficking.

“These victims are used to make an enormous amount of products and apparel that we use every day with no idea that they are tainted by forced labor.”

Funk said that many of these victims live in countries such as China, India, Vietnam and Cambodia — countries that have a large workforce of people who make products, working in places such as garment factories.

Specific acts have been implemented to combat human trafficking, which are cited in the book. The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010 requires large businesses in that state to disclose any policies they have to address human trafficking in their supply chains. In Europe, the United Kingdom Modern Slavery Act of 2015 mirrors California’s act in that it requires companies to disclose issues within their supply chains.

A 2012 executive order signed by

President **Barack Obama** is the most recent act that has been implemented in the U.S. The order, which continues to aim to “strengthen protections against trafficking in persons in federal contracts,” ensures contractors and subcontractors are not trafficking labor through coercion, fraud or force.

The order was significant in the effort to reduce human trafficking, Funk said, because the American government is the world’s largest consumer of goods and services.

Co-author Kendall said that of the millions of people who are trafficked in the world, less than 10,000 trafficking prosecutions actually occur, therefore having regulations in place in both government and private companies can help change the landscape.

Law firms are increasing their efforts to combat the problem as well. Some firms have implemented supply chain compliance practices, and Perkins Coie were trailblazers in the implementation of these specialized practice areas, Funk said.

From the consumer’s perspective, the benefit of this supply chain compliance work is that they can have a better sense of what they are purchasing and who is making it, Funk said, adding that when they implemented the practice, there was some skepticism.

“As it turns out, this is now an important issue that many (law firms) are also focusing on — in that sense,” he said. “I suppose imitation is the sincerest form of flattery — and does a great deal of good for a great deal of people.”

LATERAL WATCH

Sheridan Ross announced Wednesday that **Rita Sanzgiri**, who holds a Ph.D., has been named a firm shareholder.

Sanzgiri, who joined the firm in 2008, is a registered patent attorney with experience in the general areas of life sciences, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. Her practice includes all aspects of domestic and foreign patent preparation and prosecution, reexamination proceedings, patentability and freedom to operate opinions, due diligence reviews and patent litigation support.

Dr. Sanzgiri has expertise in the fields of genetics, biochemistry, immunology, neuroscience, cancer biology and drug development. Her clients range from early stage biotech start-ups to established publicly funded companies, as well as nonprofit research institutes and universities.

Prior to the start of her legal career in 2006, Dr. Sanzgiri worked as a research associate in the biochemistry division of Bhabha Atomic Research Center, or BARC, in Mumbai, India. She earned her Ph.D. in genetics

from Iowa State University, where she studied cellular signaling in the mammalian nervous system and conducted post-doctoral research in neuroscience at Brandeis University.

JUDICIAL WATCH

The 17th Judicial District Nominating Commission has nominated three candidates for a district court judgeship created by the appointment of the Hon. **Craig Welling** to the Colorado Court of Appeals, effective Jan. 16. Nominees **Sean Finn** of Broomfield, **Cynthia Kowert** of Brighton, and **Roberto Ramirez** of Thornton were selected by the commission on Jan. 31 at a meeting in Brighton.

Under the Colorado Constitution, Gov. **John Hickenlooper** has 15 days from Feb. 1 within which to appoint one of the nominees as district court judge for the 17th Judicial District (Adams and Broomfield counties).

Comments regarding any of the nominees may be sent via e-mail to the governor at gov_judicialappointments@state.co.us

GOOD FOR YOU

The Rocky Mountain Institute announced Thursday that **Edward “Ted” White** has been appointed chair of its Board of Trustees. White, who has served on the board since 2012, succeeds **José María Figueres**, who steps down as he seeks re-election for the presidency of Costa Rica in 2018. Figueres remains a member of the board.

The RMI board is comprised of national and international environmental ambassadors, business leaders and clean energy executives, including recently elected **Todd Stern**, former U.S. special envoy on climate change; **Mary Powell**, president and CEO of Green Mountain Power; and **Elizabeth Sall**, founder and president of Urban Labs LLC.

White is a business lawyer and a named partner of Denver-based Moye White, where he serves as co-chair of the Advanced Energy Team.

He is also managing partner of Fahr, the umbrella entity for the business, policy, political and philanthropic efforts of **Tom Steyer**, a business leader, philanthropist, and renewable energy advocate.

White is the founder and advisory board chair of Estabrook Funds, whose managers are global, multi-strategy absolute return investors. His civic leadership positions include founding chair of Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, director of Advanced Energy Economy Institute, and director of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board. White graduated from Yale University with honors and received his J.D. from the New York University School of Law. •