

# The Human Trafficking Institute

Empowering justice systems to decimate modern slavery at its source

## Chief Executive Officer & Founding Director

**V**ICTOR BOUTROS is the CEO and Founding Director of the Human Trafficking Institute and co-author with Gary Haugen of *The Locust Effect: Why the End of Poverty Requires the End of Violence*, a book published by Oxford University Press in 2014. Drawing on real-world cases and extensive scholarship, *The Locust Effect* paints a vivid portrait of the way fractured criminal justice systems in developing countries have spawned a hidden epidemic of modern-day slavery and everyday violence that is undermining vital investments in poverty alleviation, public health, and human rights. A critically acclaimed work of thought-leadership, *The Locust Effect* is a *Washington Post* bestseller that has been featured by the *New York Times*, *The Economist*, NPR, the Today Show, Forbes, TED, and the BBC, among others. For their work on *The Locust Effect*, Boutros and Haugen received the 2016 Grawemeyer Prize for Ideas Improving World Order, a literary prize awarded annually to the authors of one book based on originality, feasibility, and potential for global impact.



Boutros previously served as a federal prosecutor who investigated and tried international human trafficking cases of national significance around the country on behalf of the United States Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit. He has taught human trafficking at the FBI Academy in Quantico, trained law enforcement professionals in the United States and other countries on how to investigate and prosecute human trafficking, and taught trial advocacy to lawyers from Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, and Africa.

Prior to his work with the Justice Department, Boutros spent time on similar issues in the developing world. He has worked on improving prison conditions in Ecuador, documented bonded slaves in India, and worked on human trafficking issues as a visiting lawyer with the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa.

Boutros is a graduate of Baylor University, Harvard University, Oxford University, and the University of Chicago Law School, where he was as an editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review* and received a grant to research human trafficking as a Human Rights Research Fellow. He has written on foreign affairs and human rights, including a feature article in *Foreign Affairs* and a piece co-authored with US Trafficking in Persons Ambassador John Richmond in the *AntiTrafficking Review*, and developed and taught a course on human rights, human trafficking, and rule of law in the developing world at the University of Chicago Law School. Boutros speaks to corporate leaders, universities, and think tanks on human trafficking, and has provided briefings to senior government leaders on human trafficking, including legislators, congressional committees, and the President of the United States.

Boutros and his family live in the metro Washington, D.C. area.

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