

The HUMAN TRAFFICKING INSTITUTE

Empowering justice systems to decimate modern slavery at its source

SPECIAL COUNSEL IN BELIZE

Dave Fillingame serves as Special Counsel for the Human Trafficking Institute in Belize. In this role, he works directly with Belizean government officials – in particular police, prosecutors, and judges – to help strengthen their capacity to stop traffickers by improving their abilities to investigate, prosecute and try trafficking cases.



DAVE FILLINGAME

Dave previously worked for International Justice Mission in southern India for two years where he oversaw the investigation of forced labor cases, supported the government's efforts to rescue identified victims, and developed strategies for the criminal prosecution of traffickers. In this role, he helped develop productive investigations into systems of forced labor; drafted petitions and reports for government officials to further those ends; and developed resources and best practices to improve institutional capacity.

Prior to joining the Institute, Dave practiced law for eight years in New York City, providing free legal services to low-income New Yorkers. This included working on employee rights cases at South Brooklyn Legal Services and working for four years at Volunteers of Legal Service as the Director of the Unemployment Insurance Advocacy Project where he trained and mentored volunteer attorneys to represent workers in administrative hearings. Under his leadership, that project secured more than \$3 million in benefits to workers who had been wrongfully terminated from their jobs. Most recently, he worked for two years as a staff attorney with Manhattan Legal Services where he defended tenants against frivolous eviction cases and sued slumlords on behalf of tenants to recover overcharged rents and force the correction of uninhabitable living conditions in their apartments.

Dave is a graduate of New York University School of Law. During law school, he served with the Justice Department's Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division and the Advocacy Forum in Nepal, where he investigated human rights violations committed during Nepal's civil war. He also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of California at Davis. Dave is from Sacramento, California, and currently lives in Belmopan, Belize.