



## THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Bringing Human Rights Abusers To Justice.

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### **Center for Justice and Accountability Announces New Executive Director**

*Human Rights Expert and Civil Rights Advocate Dixon Osburn to Lead CJA's International Efforts to Bring Human Rights Abusers to Justice*

San Francisco, CA – The Center for Justice and Accountability’s (CJA) Board of Directors announced today that human rights leader Dixon Osburn has been named the new Executive Director of CJA, the leading U.S.-based organization pursuing international human rights abusers through litigation. Osburn served as the Director of Law & Security at Human Rights First from 2010 until this Spring, where, among other things, he led efforts to end counterterrorism policies that violate the rule of law, including unlawful detention at Guantanamo, the lethal targeting by drone of suspected terrorists outside the laws of armed conflict, and the use of torture. He currently serves as an Adjunct Fellow at the American Security Project.

Osburn has more than 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur, leader, manager, political strategist, and fundraiser. In 1993, he co-founded Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a national security and human rights organization he led until 2007. During that time, the organization spearheaded the effort to repeal “Don’t ask, don’t tell” and end sexual orientation discrimination in the armed forces. In comments published in *The Congressional Record*, Rep. Barney Frank called Dixon “extremely effective and principled.”

Wilma Wallace, Chair of the Center for Justice & Accountability Board of Directors and Vice President of Global Responsibility, Business & Human Rights at Gap Inc., stated, “We are absolutely ecstatic to welcome Dixon, an experienced, visionary leader with a lifelong passion for, and commitment to human rights. CJA is at the forefront of the human rights community, and Dixon’s entrepreneurial spirit and collaborative approach will help the organization build on the great momentum we’ve created over the years for human rights advocates globally.”

Osburn has published extensively and served as a national spokesperson in print, on radio and on television. He is a member of the Working Group for the Halifax International Security Forum, the Campaign Board for the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and the bars of Pennsylvania and District of Columbia. He received his JD/MBA from Georgetown University and his AB with distinction from Stanford University.

“It is a great honor to join one of the most talented teams of human rights advocates in the world,” said Osburn. “For well over a decade, CJA has been doing ground-breaking work on behalf of victims of torture, but there is more work that can be – and must be done. If we want to prevent human rights abuses from happening in the future, we must hold perpetrators accountable today. I look forward to leading that charge on behalf of CJA and its clients and partnering with the global human rights community.”

As Executive Director, Osburn will lead efforts to raise the profile of CJA and work with other human rights organizations and government officials to advance the organization’s work. The organization, which has an internationally recognized and sought after expertise in developing, investigating and

litigating human rights abuses, works in a number of different legal systems, including Cambodia, Guatemala, Haiti, Spain and the United States, and is investigating human rights abuses from 20 different countries. Osburn, who will ensure that CJA continues to provide an important and effective voice for its clients, will join the organization on December 1, 2014.

After eight and a half years of successfully leading CJA, Pamela Merchant is stepping down to take time off before embarking on a new chapter of her professional career. Wallace added, “We are so grateful for Pamela’s leadership. She has left a vital legacy for CJA and for the clients we represent.”

### **About the Center for Justice and Accountability**

CJA is a San Francisco-based human rights organization dedicated to deterring torture and other severe human rights abuses around the world and advancing the rights of survivors to seek truth, justice and redress. CJA uses litigation to hold perpetrators individually accountable for human rights abuses, develop human rights law, and advance the rule of law in countries transitioning from periods of abuse. [www.cja.org](http://www.cja.org)

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