



Hadar Harris

Hadar Harris has served as executive director of the Student Press Law Center since 2017. She started her career as a student leader, speaking truth to power and asking hard questions. Not only did she work on the student newspaper and yearbook staffs in high school, but she was a student activist, engaged in advocacy around core rights-based issues in the US and around the world.

Hadar has diverse experience as a non-profit leader. Prior to joining SPLC, Hadar served as the executive director of the Northern California Innocence Project, which works to exonerate the innocent and to reform the criminal justice system. She previously served for 13 years as the executive director of the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law at American University Washington College of Law (AU) in Washington, D.C. Hadar grew the AU Center into a vibrant hub of activity, raising over \$5 million in new funding and creating multiple new core programmatic initiatives, working with students and external partners. Under her leadership, the Center had an annual program of approximately 50 events and conferences, a variety of grant-funded programs and approximately 20 ongoing collaborative projects with partners in the U.S. and around the world.

Hadar has worked on freedom of expression and assembly issues through the broad lens of civil and political rights. As an international human rights attorney, she brings a comparative perspective of work in over 25 countries, with NGOs, governments, academics and intergovernmental organizations. Earlier in her career, she served as executive director of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, a bipartisan legislative service organization of the US House of Representatives, under the leadership of the late Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA). Following her graduation from law school, she worked as an Associate in private practice at the law firm Littler Mendelson.

Harris holds a BA in Political Science from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and a Juris Doctor from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is the recipient of the Rafael Lemkin Human Rights Award and formerly served on the national Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA.