

# SETON HALL | LAW

## Speaker Biography

### Public Lecture Imagining Global Health with Justice: Lessons from the Ebola & Zika Epidemics

**September 27, 2016 | Newark, NJ**

**LARRY O. GOSTIN**, *University Professor, Georgetown Law School*



**Lawrence O. Gostin** is University Professor, Georgetown University's highest academic rank conferred by the University President. Prof. Gostin directs the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and is the Founding O'Neill Chair in Global Health Law. He served as Associate Dean for Research at Georgetown Law from 2004 to 2008. He is Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University and Professor of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University.

Prof. Gostin is the Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center on Public Health Law & Human Rights. The WHO Director-General has appointed Prof. Gostin to high-level positions, including the International Health Regulations (IHR) Roster of Experts and the Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health. He served on the Director-General's Advisory Committee on Reforming the World Health Organization, as well as numerous WHO expert advisory committees, including the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework, smallpox, and genomic sequencing data. He is a member of the WHO/Global Fund Blue Ribbon Expert Panel entitled, The Equitable Access Initiative to develop a global health equity framework.

Professor Gostin served on three global commissions to report on the lessons learned from the 2015 West Africa Ebola epidemic:

- *Commission on a Global Health Risk Framework*: The international, independent, multi-stakeholder expert commission of the National Academy of Medicine, with oversight by WHO, World Bank, Gates Foundation, and Rockefeller Foundation
- *Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola* (Harvard/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- Advisor, *United Nations High-Level Panel on Global Response to Health Crises*

Prof. Gostin holds multiple international academic professorial appointments: Visiting Professor (Faculty of Medical Sciences) and Research Fellow (Centre for Socio-Legal Studies) at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom; the Claude Leon Foundation Distinguished Scholar and Visiting Professor at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; and the Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellow and Founding Fellow of the Centre for Advanced Studies (Trinity College), University of Melbourne. Prof. Gostin served as Secretary and a member of the Governing Board of Directors of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

Prof. Gostin holds numerous editorial appointments in leading academic journals throughout the world. His principal position is the Health Law and Ethics Editor and Contributing Scholar for the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He is also Founding Editor-in-Chief of *Laws* (an international open access law journal). He was formally the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*.

Prof. Gostin holds four honorary degrees. In 1994, the Chancellor of the State University of New York conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. In 2006, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Vice Chancellor awarded Cardiff University's (Wales) highest honor, an Honorary Fellow. In 2007, the Royal Institute of Public Health (United Kingdom) designated Prof. Gostin as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health (FRSPH). In 2012, the Chancellor of the University of Sydney – on the nomination of the Deans of the Law and Medical Schools – conferred a Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) in the presence of two Justices of Australia's highest court—Justices Kirby and Haydon.

Prof. Gostin is an elected lifetime Member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine), National Academy of Sciences. He has served on the National Academy's Board on Health Sciences Policy, the Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, the Human Subjects Review Board, and the Committee on Science, Technology, and Law. He chaired the National Academy's Committee on Global Solutions to Falsified, Substandard, and Counterfeit Medicines. He has chaired National Academy Committees on national preparedness for mass disasters, health informational privacy, public health genomics, and human subject research on prisoners.

The National Academy of Medicine awarded Prof. Gostin the Adam Yarmolinsky Medal for distinguished service to further its mission of science and health. He received the Public Health Law Association's Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award "in recognition of a career devoted to using law to improve the public's health" presented at the CDC. The New York Public Health Law Association conferred the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for extraordinary service to improve the public's health. In 2015, the American Public Health Association awarded Prof. Gostin the Lifetime Achievement Award for his career in public health law.

Prof. Gostin is also a lifetime elected Member of the Council of Foreign Relations (providing independent advice to governments on foreign policy) and a Fellow of the Hastings Center (for bioethics and public policy).

President Obama appointed Prof. Gostin to a six year term on the President's National Cancer Advisory Board to advise the nation on cancer prevention, research, and policy.

Internationally, Prof. Gostin received the Rosemary Delbridge Memorial Award from the National Consumer Council (United Kingdom) for the person "who has most influenced Parliament and government to act for the welfare of society." He also received the Key to Tohoko University (Japan) for distinguished service for human rights in mental health.

Prof. Gostin has led major law reform initiatives in the U.S., including the drafting of the Model Emergency Health Powers Act (MEHPA) to combat bioterrorism and the "Turning Point" Model State Public Health

Act. He is also leading a drafting team for the World Health Organization and International Development Law Organization, *Advancing the Right to Health Through Public Health Law*.

Prof. Gostin's proposal for a Framework Convention on Global Health – an international treaty ensuring the right to health – is now part of a global campaign, endorsed by the UN Secretary-General and Director of UNAIDS.

In the United Kingdom, Lawrence Gostin was the Legal Director of the National Association for Mental Health, Director of the National Council of Civil Liberties (the UK equivalent of the ACLU), and a Fellow at Oxford University. He strongly influenced the current Mental Health Act (England and Wales) and brought several landmark cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

Prof. Gostin's latest books are: *Global Health Law* (Harvard University Press, 2014; Chinese Translation Published in 2016); *Public Health Law: Power, Duty, Restraint* (University of California Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 2016); *Public Health Law and Ethics: A Reader* (University of California Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Forthcoming 2017); *Law and the Health System* (Foundation Press, 2014); *Principles of Mental Health Law & Practice* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Paul Farmer, Partners in Health, says of his latest book: *Global Health Law* is “more than the definitive book on a dynamic field. Gostin harnesses the power of international law and human rights as tools to close unconscionable health inequities — the injustices that burden marginalized populations throughout the world. Gostin presents a forceful vision, one that deserves a wide embrace.”

In a 2012 systematic empirical analysis of legal scholarship, independent researchers ranked Prof. Gostin 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in productivity among all law professors, and 11<sup>th</sup> in in impact and influence.