



## **Martina E. Vandenberg**

Martina E. Vandenberg is the founder and president of The Human Trafficking Legal Center, which she established in 2012. For more than two decades, Vandenberg has worked to fight human trafficking, forced labor, rape as a war crime, and violence against women. Vandenberg has represented victims of human trafficking pro bono in immigration, criminal, and civil cases. She has obtained T-visas for trafficking survivors and won significant civil judgments in federal cases. Vandenberg has trained more than 5,000 pro bono attorneys nationwide to handle human trafficking matters. She provides technical assistance and mentoring to legal teams handling trafficking cases nationwide.

Vandenberg has also testified before multiple House and Senate Committees on issues ranging from human trafficking and peacekeeping to forced labor in global supply chains. She gave the keynote address at the first NATO ambassadorial-level conference on human trafficking in Brussels, and has worked to combat trafficking of third country nationals onto U.S. military bases for forced labor. Her work has been cited in *The Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, NPR, CNN, and the BBC.

A former Human Rights Watch researcher, Vandenberg spearheaded investigations into human rights violations and war crimes. She conducted HRW investigations in the Russian Federation, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Uzbekistan, Kosovo, and Ukraine. She is the author of two Human Rights Watch reports, “Hopes Betrayed: Trafficking of Women and Girls to Post-Conflict Bosnia & Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution,” and “Kosovo: Rape as a Weapon of ‘Ethnic Cleansing.’” As a researcher for the Israel Women’s Network, she investigated and published the first report documenting human trafficking into Israel. While living in the Russian Federation in the 1990s, she co-founded *Syostri*, one of Russia’s first rape crisis centers for women.

Vandenberg previously served as a partner at Jenner & Block LLP, where she focused on complex commercial litigation and internal investigations under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. She served as a senior member of the firm’s Pro Bono Committee and handled multiple human trafficking matters pro bono while at the firm.

Vandenberg has received multiple awards for her leadership against human trafficking. In 2012, the Freedom Network USA presented Vandenberg with the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Award for her “outstanding leadership and dedication in working to combat human trafficking and slavery in the United States.” In 2013, she received the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation’s Stevens Award for outstanding service in public interest law. In 2015, she received the Katharine & George Alexander Law Prize. She also received Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Pro Bono Award for her successful representation of trafficking victims in United States federal courts and her advocacy before Congress. In 2020, Vandenberg received an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Pomona College. In 2021, she received the Blaisdell Award, Pomona College’s highest honor for alumni of the college. She previously co-chaired the D.C. Human Trafficking Task Force’s Forced Labor Subcommittee.

A Rhodes Scholar and Truman Scholar, Vandenberg has taught as an adjunct faculty member at the American University Washington College of Law and at the Oxford University Human Rights Law Summer Program. She is a graduate of Pomona College (B.A.), Oxford University (M.Phil), and Columbia Law School (J.D.).