

PRESS RELEASE

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## Accountability Counsel Selected Into Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation Portfolio

DRK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR GROUNDBREAKING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Accountability Counsel has received a three-year grant from the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation to support the organization’s pioneering work defending environmental and human rights of communities around the world. The Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation is a global venture philanthropy firm that finds, funds and supports leaders with exceptional promise and bold, innovative ideas who are making a positive, sustainable impact in the world.

“We are investing in the work of Accountability Counsel because of their unbelievable leverage,” says Christy Chin, a Partner at DRK Foundation, who will take a seat on Accountability Counsel’s board. “Despite their small size, Accountability Counsel has already shown that they can change global policy through their expertise, and that their work as lawyers in communities can transform peoples’ lives. It is thrilling to be a part of this organization as they are poised to scale and deepen their impact.”

Accountability Counsel is a San Francisco-based non-profit legal organization that supports communities harmed by internationally-financed projects. Their unique approach facilitates complaints to little-known and under-utilized accountability offices tied to the sponsors of projects that cause harm. Recent cases support nomadic herders in Mongolia, villagers in rural Nepal, and tea workers in India, all challenging abuses tied to World Bank Group investments. In the past five years, Accountability Counsel has worked with communities in 21 countries and has successfully advocated for more just global accountability policy at a number of international institutions.

DRK Foundation’s support particularly recognizes the leadership of attorney Natalie Bridgeman Fields, the founder and Executive Director of Accountability Counsel. Natalie is a 2009 Echoing Green Fellow and 2012 recipient of *Elle* Magazine’s Genius Award. She is one of the world’s foremost experts on accountability in international finance and development -- her career has spanned litigation of human rights and environmental cases in US courts, consulting for development banks on accountability, and serving an advocate for communities.

Over 70 organizations have previously received this honor from the DRK Foundation, including Room to Read and Kiva.

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