



## ANURAG GUPTA

2009 Reynolds Fellow

NYU School of Law

Juris Doctorate, May 2011



Anurag Gupta is a New York based social entrepreneur, cultural innovator, lawyer, and human rights activist who envisions a world that is socially just, environmentally sustainable, and spiritually fulfilling. For over 10 years, he has worked as a teacher, advocate, and community organizer on issues of racial justice, inclusive development, women's rights, reconciliation, and personal care on three continents.

Born in India, Anurag was raised in New York, and entered NYU's College of Arts and Science (CAS) with hopes of becoming a doctor. However, he quickly found his interests divert towards human rights and social justice. As Teach For America's campus campaign manager, he informed students and community members about racial inequities in America and tutored immigrant youth at The Door and South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!). He also spearheaded the student-led South Asian Studies Program Initiative (SASPI), which under his leadership successfully secured a South Asian Studies minor at CAS. In college, Anurag studied in Rehovot, Israel, Hyderabad, India, and Merida, Mexico, experiences that inspired him to devise mechanisms to address systemic conditions that enable civil strife and intergenerational poverty trans-nationally. He graduated *summa cum laude* with a double degree in International Relations and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, and minors in Biology, Chemistry and History. He was awarded the Faculty Memorial Award and the Elizabeth Claster Memorial Award for his active engagement with the campus community and commitment to public service.

Upon graduation, Anurag served as a Fulbright grantee to South Korea where he founded Opening Possibilities Asia (OPA), a nonprofit that brings resources and capacity to schools inside Burma. As OPA's Director, he helped organize three annual Teacher Training Workshops for over 30 Burmese teachers, secured grants for educational resources and schooling of children affected by Cyclone Nargis, financed a school's infrastructural development and fostered ties between local community groups. In 2008, he was awarded the IIE New Leaders Group Award for his work in Burma.

Challenged and humbled by his experiences in Burma, Anurag completed a master's degree in Development Studies at the University of Cambridge and a law degree at NYU School of Law, where he was a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar and a Jacobson Scholar in Law and Business. A published author on the subjects of social entrepreneurship and human rights, he currently works with the Vera Institute of Justice and the Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies for Young Black Men Initiative. He will be returning to the NYU School of Law as the Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Fellow in fall 2012.

When not lawyering, Anurag enjoys hiking, teaching yoga, and volunteering with community organizations in New York City.