

John Sherman is an internationally recognized thought leader on how businesses can respect the dignity and equality of all people.

John was a core member of the central team advising the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, who authored the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which has become the authoritative global standard. As senior legal advisor to Prof. Ruggie, John helped to shape and draft the UN Guiding Principles and has been deeply involved in their implementation around the world.

Since 2011, John has advised many Global Fortune 500 companies on how to respect human rights in their business. John currently focuses on the role of the legal profession on how to practice law with respect for human rights. He has worked with major law firms, inside legal departments, and bar associations.

John acted as liaison between Prof. Ruggie and the corporate legal bar and was a founder and co-chair of the International Bar Association's CSR Committee. John chaired the IBA Human Rights Working Group and was the primary author of the widely-read 2016 IBA guidance on business and human rights for corporate lawyers.

John is a Senior Program Fellow at the Corporate Responsibility Initiative in the Center for Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School, and an Executive Fellow at the Hoffman Center for Business Ethics at Bentley University. John is also General Counsel and Senior Advisor to Shift, an independent, international nonprofit which is the leading center of expertise on the UN Guiding Principles.

Earlier in his career, John was deputy general counsel at National Grid and its predecessor, New England Electric System. John had high level executive responsibility for its ethics and compliance program, and worked closely with the late Mike Hoffman, Director of the Center for Business Ethics at Bentley.

John is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Dartmouth College.