

# Allyson McKinney Timm

## Founder and Executive Director

Allyson McKinney Timm is a human rights lawyer, scholar, and faith leader with over two decades of experience defending the dignity and rights of those on the margins in the United States and globally. Her work promoting justice and equality has spanned the nonprofit, private, and academic sectors. In 2018, she was named “one of ten faith leaders to watch” by the Center for American Progress. Her writing has appeared in *Sojourners*, *Christian Century*, *Religion News Service*, *Baptist News Global*, *California Lawyer*, *The Independent*, *USA Today*, and others, earning her a 2023 “Award of Merit” from the Associated Church Press.



Allyson is a frequent public speaker on issues of faith and justice, Christianity and human rights, and the struggle for gender equality in the United States. She preaches Sunday sermons; speaks at law schools, seminaries, and universities; and provides media interviews on these topics and others. During her tenure at Justice Revival, Allyson has created and taught an innovative Christian course on human rights to seminary and church audiences across the country.

As the Robert M. Cover-Allard K. Lowenstein Fellow in International Human Rights at Yale Law School, Allyson taught and supervised students in the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, investigating and analyzing issues such as early and forced marriage, human trafficking, religious liberty, and human rights to education and housing. While at Yale, she also co-taught an undergraduate course in human rights and served as a guest speaker and consultant on issues at the intersection of human rights and religion. During her time in New Haven, she earned a Master of Divinity degree at Yale Divinity School, where she co-led the Women’s Center and organized a symposium on campus sexual assault.

Previously, Allyson established and led the Uganda Field Office of International Justice Mission, recruiting and mentoring a diverse, inter-disciplinary, international team of staff and volunteers. Under her leadership, the IJM Uganda team initiated a successful program to defend the property and inheritance rights of vulnerable widows and orphans. They educated rural communities about their legal rights, represented victims in civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings, and pioneered a police training program on property grabbing crimes. Their program design became a model for others doing similar work in the region.

Prior to joining IJM, Allyson was a litigation associate in the San Francisco office of Latham & Watkins LLP, where she contributed to a team that successfully advocated for reform of unlawful conditions in California’s juvenile prison system. She worked on an early civil suit to address human trafficking and served *pro bono* on a trial team with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Office of the Prosecutor. Over the years, she worked on projects addressing constitutional law, justice, and peace-building issues in what is now South Sudan.

Allyson holds a law degree and an MBA from Georgetown University and a Masters in Divinity from Yale Divinity School. She is ordained as a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).