

UCLA School of Law Critical Race Studies

OCTOBER 5 - 6, 2023

CRS 2023 SYMPOSIUM

REBELLIOUS



ENVISIONING AND
EMBODYING RADICAL
PRACTICE

HONORING

GERALD P. LÓPEZ

AND ALL
REBELLIOUS PRACTITIONERS

WELCOME

Gerald P. López published *REBELLIOUS LAWYERING: ONE CHICANO'S VISION OF PROGRESSIVE LAW PRACTICE* in 1992. The book brought to life how he and others had been practicing for decades. Through “fictional characters and settings as real as can be,” *REBELLIOUS LAWYERING* illuminated how people do what they do when collaborating with others as equals. To fight subordination of every sort. To transform institutions, systems, nations, and transnational life. To personify – and not just prefigure – the concrete utopias they seek.

The rebellious vision traces its origins, as López emphasizes, to varied traditions of radical work passed down across generations. It grounds its particulars in the diverse array of social movements that arose in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. And it anticipated movements coming into being in the most recent decades, some with resurrected names and some with new names, all borrowing from earlier eras. Earlier eras too often unappreciated and unstudied today. Earlier eras too often entirely ignored.

In the rebellious vision, all working for radical change are “co-eminent practitioners.” There’s no permanent hierarchy. No fixed roles designating in advance and always leaders and followers. No messianic rulers. No one conniving to be “The Star.” All involved bring their knowledge of practice to these collaborations. Sharing ideas and skills and sensibilities. Challenging one another about how best to frame problems, to employ diverse ensembles of strategies, to adapt on the fly to feedback, to take stock of outcomes, to anticipate backlash. They cooperate to get better as teams and as people. To get better to overturn a malevolent status quo that regards some as genetically and culturally unequal and that considers burning fossil fuels “harmless enough.”

For over three decades, the rebellious vision of practice has reverberated across the United States, indigenous peoples and tribal nations, and other countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, England, Haiti, India, Italy, Scotland). In all these places, it challenges the “the regnant vision,” the familiar top-down experts-rule approach to practice that still dominates “colorblind” institutions and conventional race-conscious public interest organizations and organizing campaigns. The same regnant vision that, regrettably, still pervades some strands of today’s liberation movements. *Unless how we work – unless our practice, how we do what we do -- embodies our anti-subordination and transformational aspirations, we’re doomed to reproduce precisely what we claim to topple.*

We can see the rebellious vision all around us and often enough within us. Already present in diverse settings. In communities still targeted as sub-human. In some organizations and organizing drives collaborating with members of these communities. In some graduate, undergraduate, pre-K, K-12, and prison education. In the efforts of some visual artists, sustainable agriculture co-ops, bloggers, musicians, green *raiteros*, filmmakers, debt abolitionists, and writers. In continuing education for professions as diverse as psychiatry (“RebPych”) and law (“RebLaw”). We can choose, if we’re willing, to commit ourselves to a practice – to a way of working and living with others – that already embodies the radically transformed world we seek.

Militantly challenging subordination in all forms and transforming life as we know it are at the center of the rebellious vision, and UCLA Law’s Critical Race Studies program is honored to devote its 2023 Symposium to looking at rebellious practice past, present, and future.

CRITICAL RACE STUDIES 20²³ SYMPOSIUM

REBELLIOUS



Envisioning And Embodying Radical Practice
Honoring All Rebellious Practitioners – Including Gerald P. López

OCTOBER 5 - 6, 2023 | UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 2023

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

REGISTRATION

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

WELCOME

Laura E. Gómez / Professor of Law and Critical Race Studies Program, UCLA School of Law

Michael Waterstone / Dean and Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

2:45 pm - 4:30: pm

PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: ONE HELL OF A RADICAL RIDE – THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF REBELLIOUS PRACTICE

MODERATOR:

Shauna Marshall / Professor Emerita and Co-Director of the Center for Racial and Economic Justice, UC College of Law, San Francisco

PANELISTS:

Martha L. Gómez / Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice, UCLA Law '10

Gina Hong / Attorney and Collective Member, LA Center for Community Law & Action, UCLA Law '18

Dale Minami / Founder & Senior Counsel, Minami Tamaki LLP and Co-Founder of the Asian Law Caucus and the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

Sunita Patel / Assistant Professor of Law, Faculty Director, UCLA Veterans Legal Clinic, UCLA School of Law

WHAT DOES TOPPLING THE STATUS QUO — people and personnel – require of radical practitioners? In how they do their work with others? In facing hostile enemies and squeamish “allies?” In dealing with disdainful and indifferent co-workers? What does it take to bluntly question, defy, and oppose people, institutions, and systems accustomed to crushing dissenters? What does it take to see a battle through? Especially when some take years and generations? Sometimes especially when victory – in the form, say, of a new law or a successful judgment – doesn’t mean much unless and until it’s implemented through on-the-ground practices? What must we bring each day to our work with others to force authoritarian governments to concede they have lied, cheated, stolen? To force ruthless employers and landlords to acknowledge their racism? To force arrogant educational institutions – individually and system-wide -- to admit they use “merit” to cover their consciously discriminatory choices?

Our moderator and panelists have founded and helped develop organizations, programs, and agencies that, working with individual clients and subordinated communities and diverse allies, challenged the racism, misogyny, classism, homophobia, xenophobia practiced by employers, landlords, local and state governments; that forced the United States to admit and to repair the generational damage it caused through the internment of Japanese Americans; that held universities accountable for illegal denials of tenure and for the neglect of low-income, of color, and immigrant communities surrounding campuses; that overturned school districts’ racist targeting of Latinx and Black students for suspension and expulsion and challenged governmental targeting of Muslims in the wake of 9/11. And they have called out everything from the failure of all government to provide robust support for unhoused and housing-insecure populations to the self-promoting regnant practices pursued by well-heeled public interest “impact organizations” and high volume “service work.”

Note: You may earn 1.75 hours of general MCLE credit for attending this plenary.

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm

BREAK

4:45 pm - 6:30 pm

PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – THE REAL DEAL AND NOT JUST HARVARD ADMISSIONS

MODERATOR:

Gerald P. López / Professor of Law Emeritus, UCLA School of Law

PANELISTS:

Eric Cohen / Executive Director, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

Maisha Nelson / Director of Human Resources for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in San Francisco and Founder & CEO of Partnerships with Purpose (P2)

Mona Tawatao / Legal Director, Equal Justice Society

Sherod Thaxton / Professor of Law and former Faculty Director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy
UCLA School of Law

WHAT MUST REBELLIOUS RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY look like in a world without race-conscious affirmative action? The Supreme Court, diverse elites, and many others enthusiastically proclaim that banning race-conscious affirmative action now returns us to the merit-based systems central to all opportunities in the United States. Really? You do not need to be a student of history to understand that the ubiquitous White privilege we observe today was made possible by what we accurately can call affirmative action for Whites. Governmental programs – in coordination with networks of private institutions and people – have concentrated advantage in white communities and concentrated disadvantage in non-white communities. These racially discriminatory practices and policies created the White middle- and upper-middle class. And the same practices and policies have made it exceedingly difficult – sometimes impossible -- for most non-Whites to even have a fair chance at the American Dream. The kicker? Both the success (for Whites) and the suffering (for non-Whites) are passed down from generation to generation.

“Merit” (human capital) is the rhetoric among elites. But financial and social capital is the reality. This is why White kids born on third base can go through life thinking they’ve hit a triple. Meanwhile non-Whites -- especially Latinx, Blacks, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos -- are labeled dysfunctional and defective for their inability pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. But the world of powerful elites extends far beyond the swankiest schools and fanciest jobs. Across the country, there are always those who, in their own spheres of influence, wield an aggregate power far greater than The Ivy League, Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court Building, and Wall Street. These other elites, who remain overwhelmingly White, rule over state capitals, counties, cities, and rural areas and everything from education to housing to employment to banking to criminal justice to immigration to elections. And they rule through racism, cronyism, and crude proxies for merit that reinforce the status quo. If without race-conscious affirmative action we want our future not to look like our past, must rebellious practitioners abolish affirmative action for Whites?

NOTE: You may earn 1.75 hours of general MCLE credit for attending this plenary.

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

RECEPTION

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023

8:30 am – 9:30 am

REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:30 am – 9:45 am

WELCOME

LaToya Baldwin Clark / Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Critical Race Studies Program, UCLA School of Law

Jasleen Kohli / Executive Director, Critical Race Studies Program, UCLA School of Law

Sherod Thaxton / Professor of Law and former Faculty Director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, UCLA School of Law

9:45 am – 11:15 am

PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: WHY AREN'T FAR MORE PEOPLE ALREADY IN FAVOR OF TRANSFORMING MANY INSTITUTIONS IN OUR LIVES?

MODERATOR:

Colin Cloud Hampson / Partner, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP

PANELISTS:

Alina Ball / Professor of Law, Bion M. Gregory Chair in Business Law, and Co-Director of the Center for Racial and Economic Justice, UC College of Law, San Francisco, UCLA Law '08

Michelle Tseching Fei / Justice Liaison, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Hawai'i (Medicaid)

Craig B. Futterman / Clinical Professor of Law, Director of Civil Rights and Police Accountability Project, University of Chicago Law School

Yumari Martínez / Esq., Founding Executive Director, Catalyze Justice

CALLS TO ABOLISH LAW ENFORCEMENT have met with significant support and criticism, both within and outside of marginalized communities. None of this much surprised our boldly rebellious panelists. The wonder is quite the opposite. Once abolition became defined as fundamental transformation (as dismantling, redesigning, rebuilding), why haven't far more people been calling for the abolition of a far wider set of institutions? If we're talking transform, how about the Los Angeles Unified School District? The Bureau of Indian Affairs? Juvenile justice systems? The California Department of Motor Vehicles? Indian Health Services? The United States Department of Agriculture? Homeland Security? The Chicago Police Department? Universities? The Florida and Texas systems of governance? Nashville's traditional country music scene? The political economy? And on and on.

The idea is as reasonable as reasonable can be: Shouldn't all sensible folks come to understand that demanding fundamental transformation is a profoundly rational and sober response to institutions built and staffed to fail? To keep subordinated communities subordinated? A profoundly rational and sober response to institutions that can be described as “working” only if we assume they are designed and staffed not to work – not even for most in the middle class? Built and staffed to grotesquely betray their publicly professed missions? What explains why far more people don't clamor for transforming a wide range of institutions? We certainly don't need more “studies” and “pilot projects” that go nowhere and reinstate the status quo. We certainly don't need to throw out “just a few bad apples.” Why don't far more people — and all rebellious practitioners, really — demand fundamental transformation on a fast-track schedule? Fast-tracked transformation now?

Note: You may earn 1.5 hours of general MCLE credit for attending this plenary.

11:15 am – 11:30 am **BREAK**

11:30 am – 1:00 pm **PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: TRANSFORMING THE EDUCATION OF REBELLIOUS PRACTITIONERS**

MODERATOR:

Andrés Dae Keun Kwon / Senior Policy Counsel and Senior Organizer, ACLU Southern California, UCLA Law '16

PANELISTS:

Jessica Cobb / Researcher and Advocate for Education Justice, former Policy Director, National Center for Youth Law, and former Director, Norco College Prison Education Program, UCLA Law '18

Jullian Harris-Calvin / Director of Greater Justice New York at The Vera Institute, UCLA Law '13

Ana Graciela Nájera Mendoza / Senior Staff Attorney, Educational Equity Team, ACLU Southern California and former associate at Alexander, Krakow and Glick a plaintiff civil rights firm, UCLA Law '14

Ian Stringham / Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, UCLA Law '18

IF YOU LIBERATED YOUR IMAGINATION, if you had available all the resources now found across a university and all the opportunities in communities beyond a university's borders, how would you design the education of rebellious practitioners? And how would you continue this education into the future, over years of work, across a lifetime? Building upon and extending what ambitious and effective practitioners need to know? Or perhaps should want to know in the world they would come to see differently than most do now? How would you transform learning and teaching as the boundaries now separating universities and communities would grow more porous and perhaps disappear altogether?

Our moderator and panelists broke free of conventional wisdom. As students of the Rebellious Lawyering Clinic, the Legal Analysis Workshop, and graduates of UCLA Law's Critical Race Studies Program, they rejected the bi-partisan way to "do law school." Instead, looking across the university and out into communities and prisons and jails and detention centers, they packaged together an education more demanding, ingenious, and illuminating than tradition recommends. Then they threw themselves into the most demanding practices. Working with people charged with crimes and with immigration offenses. With employees battling wage theft, racial discrimination, sexual harassment. With K-12 students regarded by school districts as unworthy of ambitious and effective education. With incarcerated adults in need of well-run prison libraries and in-person education. They worked ambitiously within the very institutions and systems they aimed to fundamentally transform. If they were starting education from scratch, what would they envision? A collage of the best they found and helped to create? Something even more creative still? An education always in-the-making?

Note: You may earn 1.5 hours of General MCLE credit for attending this plenary.

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm **LUNCH**

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm **PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: REBELLIOUS VOCATIONS, REBELLIOUS LIVES**

MODERATOR:

Tara Ford / Senior Counsel, Opportunity Under Law, Public Counsel & Co-Founder Pegasus Legal Services for Children

PANELISTS:

Bill Ong Hing / Professor of Law and Migration Studies, Director of the Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic, and Dean's Circle Scholar, University of San Francisco School of Law and Founder of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

Brenda Montes / Immigration Attorney, Montes Law Firm, UCLA Law '11

Gary Peck / former Executive Director, ACLU of Nevada

Ascanio Piomelli / Professor of Law, UC College of Law, San Francisco

IF BEING REBELLIOUS IS A VOCATION, a calling, how can we be healthy when work and life can be so tough? Or does that pose the question in exactly the wrong way? Does health lie in embracing demanding ways of being? And being around others who do the same? Avoiding at all costs "parlor generals and field deserters," as Marge Piercy urges, and seeking out those who "move in a common rhythm when food must come in or the fire be put out"? For the historically subordinated all this has always been a necessity, right? A necessity to survive and thrive? Surviving and thriving is, as Audre Lorde teaches, "the ability to change, to metabolize experience, good and ill, into something that is useful, lasting, effective." Mustn't we all, as Lorde says, "become fast learners"?

These panelists – among the most admired of radical practitioners – have done so much. Founded rebellious organizations, offices, and programs. Transformed others. Taken heavy hits. Lived with deep disappointments. Learned from mistakes and from successes. They're not into martyrdom or sainthood. Not into "suffering as a badge of courage." They do enjoy music, sports, yoga, art, dance, cooking, and poetry. Highs of many sorts. Yet they know there's no "answer." Work-life balance? Really, achieving and sustaining an equilibrium? When some people need to escape the horror of their lives far more than the demands of their jobs? When work is not "just a job" and life is "too much a bad job"? How then do they unflinchingly face realities and treat each day as a new opportunity? How do they learn from others? Across time, from afar, in our midst? Learn from all those they work with how to be healthy as together we transform our world? Learn how to be rebellious?

Note: You may earn 1.5 hours of general MCLE credit for attending this plenary.

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm **BREAK**

4:15 pm – 6:00 pm

PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: A CONVERSATION AND A CLOSING

INTRODUCTION:

Sherod Thaxton / Professor of Law and former Faculty Director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, UCLA School of Law

CONVERSATIONALISTS:

Stephen Carpenter / Deputy Director and Senior Staff Attorney, Farmers' Legal Action Group

Gerald P. López / Professor of Law Emeritus, UCLA School of Law

Shauna Marshall / Professor Emerita and Co-Director of the Center for Racial and Economic Justice, UC College of Law, San Francisco

Sherod Thaxton / Professor of Law and former Faculty Director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, UCLA School of Law

CLOSING:

Gerald P. López / Professor of Law Emeritus, UCLA School of Law

In this final roundtable, we offer a conversation and then a closing.

The panelists' conversation has not been scripted. Nothing's been declared "off-limits." Nothing has been declared "a necessity to talk about." Instead, the conversation will draw upon all that has happened through October 6, 2023, including at this Symposia.

To evoke only a bit of the possible:

When elected Latinx City Council members spew hateful racist comments in their ignorant jokey-jokey fashion, we must immediately get rid of them. And their redistricting plans. And all those complicit in what they have done. And get rid of all those implicated in any "machine" these Latinx City Council members are part of. Drive them all out. Immediately. We can and must clean up our own houses. And, yes, we can without taking our eye off the pervasive practices and effects of White Supremacy. Hard stop.

On May 25, 2020, in the early morning hours, Amy Cooper called the police with a racist made-up story about Christian Cooper, a birdwatcher in Central Park. Later that same day, Derek Chauvin took George Floyd's life in Minneapolis, with fellow police officers watching and doing nothing to stop the killing. Chauvin's killing of George Floyd sparked a world-wide movement. Amy Cooper's lies to the police about Christian Cooper drew much attention but only for a relatively short time. Never forget Derek Chauvin taking George Floyd's life. Never forget Amy Cooper's call to the police about Christian Cooper.

Why isn't the rebellious practice of Farmers' Legal Action Group (FLAG) talked about by every organization doing progressive and radical work? How they draw upon and collaborate with "farm advocates," family farmers helping themselves, their neighbors, and others (regionally and even statewide) handle the problems they all regularly face. How they work with family-farm-accountable organizers and organizations. How they fight race and gender discrimination often ignored in talk of civil rights in part because the race and gender diversity among family farmers remains unappreciated. How they acknowledged publicly what's particularly difficult and only partially successful in the work they do. How they always aim -- in fact and not just in principle -- to get better still.

Why don't we all already know about how the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska took over its own health care system? How the Winnebago refused any longer to endure the horrible services provided by Indian Health Services? How they've built and staffed their own hospital, all within a comprehensive scheme? And why don't we know about the many people involved? Including Colin Cloud Hampson? Including Danelle Smith? Who took years away from her Indian Law practice to serve as the CEO of Winnebago Healthcare System? If we're looking in our midst for what many (probably most) would regard as impossible dreams of self-determination, why not learn about the Winnebago and their health care system?

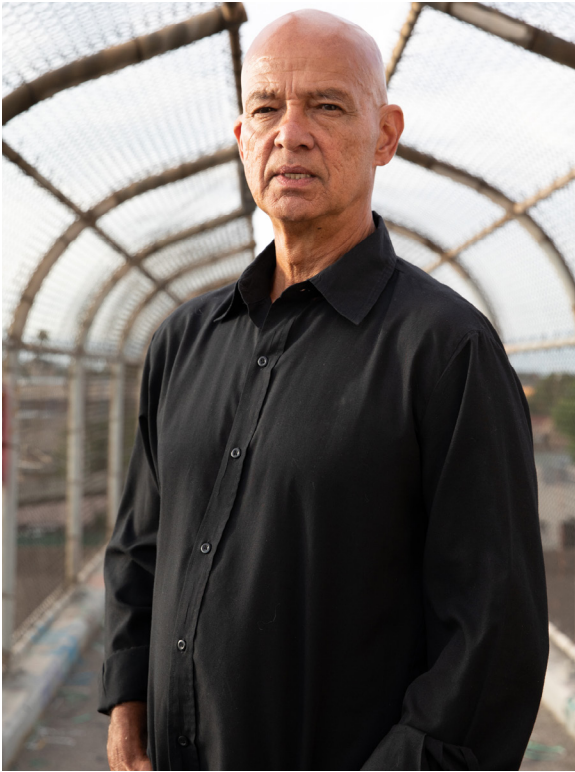
Is the cure for Trumpism a renewed respect for the rule of law? The rule of law led to the Supreme Court's decisions in the Chinese Exclusion Cases, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Buck v. Bell*, *Pace v. Alabama*, *United States v. Brignoni-Ponce*? That led to the Compromise of 1877, an informal agreement that made Rutherford Hayes president in exchange for ending and gutting Reconstruction, returning absolute power to the Southern states? That led Earl Warren to lie about the legal necessity to intern Japanese Americans? That led Colin Powell to lie to the UN Security Council about Iraq's huge stash of weapons of mass destruction? That led Justices Kennedy, O'Connor, Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas to award the presidency to George Bush over Al Gore?

Note: You may earn 1.75 hours of general MCLE credit for attending this plenary.

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm RECEPTION AND DINNER

UCLA School of Law Courtyard

NOTE: UCLA School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider. By attending this event, you may earn up to 9.75 hours of MCLE credit.



GERALD P. LÓPEZ

Gerald P. López is on the law faculty at UCLA. In earlier decades, he served on the faculties of NYU, Stanford, Harvard, and California Western law schools. In 2003, he founded the Center for Community Problem Solving in New York City. From 1985-1994, he helped develop and then co-launched the Lawyering Against Subordination/For Social Change Concentration at Stanford. In 1975, with Tom Adler, Roy Cazares and Napoleon Jones, he formed a radical storefront law firm in San Diego. Over the years, López's practice, his clinical teaching, and his writing have focused on whatever challenges subordinated communities face. Those challenges include the routinely brutal criminal justice and immigration systems. The frequently vile health care and educational institutions. The predatory financial, housing, labor, and consumer markets. The absence of favorable economic development and the presence of deadly environmental racism. The everyday failures to provide public benefits and to enforce anti-discrimination laws. The cold-blooded dismissal of the prevalence of domestic violence and sexual harassment. The rejection and weakening of self-determination, and so much more. Across all these fronts, López has emphasized how we can and should most ambitiously work with one another — practice rebelliously — in addressing often messy, entangled problems. He has called attention to how struggles of every sort (including dealing with ostensibly mundane hassles) express the largely ignored experiences of communities targeted as genetically and culturally sub-human by the bi-partisan mainstream as much as by the far right. In all his work, he aims accurately to describe the

ruthless contemporary and historical realities of everyday life governed by White Supremacist and authoritarian regimes (across the globe, transnationally, and within constitutional democracies like the United States). And he highlights constantly the need imaginatively to pursue varied strategies (familiar and improvised ensembles) to have a shot at changing situations and traditions that appear too formidable to alter. If we open up to the truth that everyone can teach us, López has stressed, we can always find others — from nearby to afar — demonstrating that we can stand up to and sometimes take down godlike bullies and invincible networks. We can always discover in others and in ourselves, periods where we foreshadow and embody, through work and life, the transformed worlds that otherwise can feel hopelessly beyond our reach. Among López's latest publication is *Growing Up in Authoritarian 1950s East LA*, 66 *UCLA L. Rev.* (2019), an article that traces its origins to a keynote speech he delivered at the UCLA Latinx Communities, Race, and Criminal Justice System Symposium.

A Personal Thanks from Jerry López

I'd like to personally thank Laura Gómez, Jasleen Kohli, Ayda Haghghatgoo, and Sherod Thaxton. Laura, Jasleen, and Sherod, you did heroic work to prepare for the March 2020 Symposium. Only to have COVID force us to cancel. That was the right decision. But I regret not having the opportunity to thank you in person at the Symposium for all your righteous efforts.

In the years since, you three remained committed to rescheduling the Symposium. That's not such an easy call to make. And it isn't in part because it means starting nearly from scratch to do all it takes to make a Symposium this large come into being. And this time around, the challenges may have been even more formidable than they were four years ago.

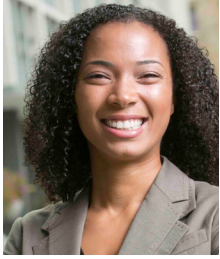
Ayda, your arrival has been a beautiful blessing. You shouldered a big load of Symposium work, all on top of everything else you do, all in the face of difficult times. You brought inspiring energy and invigorating perseverance to our collective efforts.

Others joining us at the Symposium have told me how much they look forward to thanking you all in person. But this time around, even before we all meet on October 5 & 6, I wanted to personally thank you. And to do so, yes, in the official program for the Symposium you made happen. You've all done astonishing work.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Jerry

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES



ALINA BALL | Professor Alina Ball is the founding director of the Social Enterprise & Economic Empowerment Clinic at UC College of Law, San Francisco (UC Law SF). This in-house corporate law clinic is a unique blend of transactional lawyering with an eye towards critically examining issues of economic and social justice. Her scholarship explores the intersection of transactional lawyering, economic justice, and social movements. Professor Ball co-founded and co-directs the Center for Racial and Economic Justice at UC Law SF. She was recognized as a 2015-16 AALS Bellow Scholar for her corporate representation and collaborations to increase access to safe drinking water in rural communities. In 2018, Ball received the AALS Shanara Gilbert Award acknowledging her commitment to teaching and advancing racial and social justice through clinical legal education. And in the fall 2023, UC Law SF will celebrate her receiving the Rutter Teaching Award.

Before her career in academia, Professor Ball was a corporate associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP, in San Francisco and Washington, DC, where her practice focused on representing private and public companies in debt, venture capital, private equity, and M&A transactions. She received her LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center, J.D. from UCLA School of Law, with a specialization in Critical Race Studies, and B.A. degree from Wellesley College, majoring in Mathematics and Spanish, with a concentration in Latin American Studies.

She is actively engaged in community work and is honored to serve on the board of directors for several racial justice and equity nonprofits, including Public Advocates



STEPHEN CARPENTER | Stephen Carpenter is Deputy Director and Senior Staff Attorney at Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. (FLAG). FLAG is a nonprofit law firm that works on behalf of family farmers.

Stephen is a graduate of Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, and of Stanford Law School. In law school, Stephen was active in the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, was a Stanford Law Review Executive Editor, and received a Skadden Foundation Fellowship that brought him to FLAG in 1993.

At FLAG, Stephen's work has centered on discrimination in agricultural lending, debtor- creditor issues for farmers, Covid-19 and disaster assistance, legal issues for beginning farmers, federal farm and farm loan programs, problems of farmers contracting for carbon capture and for livestock production, urban farming land access, sustainable agriculture, and farmer direct marketing. He served as Senior Counsel in the Office of the Monitor in the Pigford case and as the court-appointed Ombudsman for the In re Black Farmers Discrimination case.

Stephen has conducted frequent FLAG trainings and webinars for farmers, advocates, and attorneys and has spoken to farmers and their advocates in more than forty states. He has authored and edited a number of FLAG publications. Law review articles have discussed rebellious lawyering on behalf of farmers, discrimination by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and discrimination litigation against USDA, the future of agricultural law, lawyering for family farmers in poverty, and sustainable agriculture.

Stephen has served on several academic advisory committees and on the board of several community organizations and has been an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School. In 2020, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Agricultural Law Association.



DR. JESSICA S. COBB | Jessica Cobb is a researcher and advocate for education justice. Dr. Cobb has a JD from UCLA Law with a specialization in Critical Race Studies (2018) and a PhD in Sociology from UC Berkeley (2012). Her academic and applied policy research illuminate the institutional links between public education and carceral systems. Her publication record includes peer-reviewed articles published in *Sociology of Education*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *City and Community* as well as multiple policy reports co-authored with attorneys at ACLU SoCal and Public Advocates. She previously served as Policy Manager at the National Center for Youth Law, as Director of Prison Education at Norco College, and as Director of Programs at College Access Plan.



ERIC COHEN | Eric Cohen has been with the ILRC since 1988, and has been its Executive Director since 2007. He has extensive experience training attorneys, paralegals, community advocates, and organizers on a variety of immigration law, immigrants’ rights, and leadership development topics. Eric is a national expert on naturalization and citizenship law and is the primary author of the ILRC’s manual entitled, *Naturalization and U.S. Citizenship: The Essential Legal Guide*. Eric helped develop ILRC’s community model for naturalization workshops. Additionally, Eric has worked on voter outreach and education programs for naturalized citizens.

Prior to working at the ILRC, Eric worked with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Labor Immigrant Assistance Project where he worked on legalization and union organizing campaign.

Eric obtained a B.A. degree in History from Colorado College and a J.D. degree from Stanford Law School. He is conversant in Spanish and is a member of the State Bar of California.



MICHELLE TSECHING FEI | Michelle serves as a Justice Liaison for Medicaid beneficiaries with justice involvement in Hawai’i, where she focuses her efforts on Native Hawaiians and other populations overrepresented in the criminal legal system. Prior to her current position, Michelle worked as a Nurse Home Visitor with the Nurse-Family Partnership, supporting and advocating for low-income, of color, and immigrant first-time parents. She is also a midwifery school dropout who served as a birth assistant and doula in mostly homebirth settings.

Previously, Michelle was the Executive Director of the Immigrant Defense Project. There, her substantive work centered around community education and policy initiatives and helped lead a statewide campaign that successfully led to the New York suspension of a large-scale federal deportation program.

In 2003, Michelle helped launch the Center for Community Problem Solving at New York University with Professor Gerald P. López where, with the support of an Equal Justice Works Fellowship, she spearheaded a jail and prison reentry project and an immigrant workers’ rights project. She also previously worked at a community-based law firm representing Central American clients in their immigration cases.

For a sample of Fei’s written work, check out Michelle Tseching Fei and Gerald P. López, Learning How Regularly to Improve Our Capacity to Meet the Challenges of Asian and Pacific Islander Re-Entry, 31 *Amerasia Journal* 61 (2005).



TARA FORD | Tara Ford, Senior Counsel, Opportunity Under Law, Public Counsel, has focused her career on working with children and their families to safeguard their rights to education, special education, health care, and mental health care. She has long worked to protect the rights of children and families when they are involved in the dependency system, with the goal of keeping families together. She has also partnered with Native American children, families, and Tribes – litigating cases focused on education, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and voting rights.

Tara was the Co-Founder of Pegasus Legal Services for Children, a non-profit law firm serving children and their families in New Mexico. In 2016, Tara authored “Pegasus Legal Services for Children: Taking Stock of a Rebellious

Non-Profit Practice in New Mexico,” published by the *Clinical Law Review*. She is a child welfare law specialist in NM certified by the National Counsel for Children.



CRAIG B. FUTTERMAN | Craig B. Futterman is a Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School and a Resident Dean in the College. He founded and has served as the Director of the Civil Rights and Police Accountability Project of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic since 2000. He was elected to a Simon Visiting Professorship in the School of Law at the University of Manchester, U.K., in 2018/2019. Before his appointment to the Law Faculty, Professor Futterman was a Lecturer in Law and Director of Public Interest Programs at Stanford Law School. He previously joined Futterman & Howard, Chtd., a boutique law firm concentrating in complex federal litigation. There, Prof. Futterman specialized in civil rights and constitutional matters, with a special focus on racial discrimination, education, and police brutality. Before that, he served as a trial attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Cook County Public Defender’s Office.

Futterman received his J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1991 and graduated with the highest distinction from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Economics.



MARTHA L. GÓMEZ | Martha L. Gómez is a Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice. She primarily works on confidential matters that advance the constitutional and statutory rights of the people of California.

Before joining DOJ, Ms. Gómez was a Senior Staff Counsel at the California Civil Rights Department (formerly the Department of Fair Employment and Housing). She litigated cases that protected the people of California from unlawful discrimination and harassment in employment, housing, and businesses, and from hate violence and human trafficking in accordance with the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), Unruh Civil Rights Act, Ralph Civil Rights Act, among other laws.

Ms. Gómez was a Staff Attorney at MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund), where she specialized in civil rights litigation that impacted Latino communities. Her cases included constitutional challenges to anti-immigrant laws; workplace cases involving race, national origin, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination; wage-and- hour class actions; and cases that advance the education rights of students in high school and college. She practiced in state and federal courts across various states.

Ms. Gómez earned her law degree from UCLA School of Law in 2010, where she studied in the Critical Race Studies program and was co-chair of La Raza (now the Latinx Law Students Association) and an associate editor to the *UCLA Chicana/o-Latina/o Law Review* (now the *Chicanx-Latinx Law Review*). She obtained a Master in Theological Studies from Harvard University in 2003. Prior to law school, Ms. Gomez worked as an educator at an all-girl Catholic high school in the greater Los Angeles area, where she taught courses in Psychology and Religion.



COLIN CLOUD HAMPSON | Colin Cloud Hampson is a partner in the San Diego office of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson and Perry, LLP, a national Native American rights firm. Mr. Hampson represents Indian tribes and tribal organizations in litigation, transactional, governmental affairs and other matters, involving issues such as tribal sovereignty, economic development, gaming, environmental regulation, water law, health care, taxation, labor and employment, self-determination, cultural resources and administrative law. Mr. Hampson graduated with distinction from Stanford Law School in 1994 and received a Master of Arts degree in International Policy Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from Stanford University in 1991. Mr. Hampson is a descendent of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and the White Earth Band of Chippewa.



JULLIAN HARRIS-CALVIN | Jullian Harris-Calvin is director of the Greater Justice New York program (GJNY) at the Vera Institute of Justice, where she focuses on criminal justice reform across the Empire State. GJNY uses research, policy, and advocacy to expose injustice—in bail, sentencing, parole, fines and fees, and more—and to drive change by piloting innovative solutions, analyzing data, publishing evidence, partnering with movement leaders, and providing technical assistance.

Prior to joining Vera, Jullian served as senior legal counsel at The Justice Collaborative, a nonprofit that supplies legal, policy, communications, and networking support to criminal justice reform leaders and organizations. She began her career as director of administration for a Los Angeles councilman before becoming a public defender at the Federal Defenders of New York and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

She graduated from the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, with critical race studies and public interest law and policy specializations.



BILL ONG HING | Bill Ong Hing is a Professor of Law and Migration Studies at the University of San Francisco, and Professor of Law and Asian American Studies Emeritus, at U.C. Davis. He founded the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in San Francisco 1979 and helps to direct the USF Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic. Professor Hing teaches Immigration Law & Policy, Introduction to Migration Studies, Rebellious Lawyering, and Evidence. Throughout his career, Professor Hing has pursued social justice by combining community work, litigation, and scholarship. His past books include *American Presidents, Deportations, and Human Rights Violations* (2019), *Immigration Law and Social Justice* (2018); *Ethical Borders—NAFTA, Globalization and Mexican Migration* (2010); *Deporting Our Souls—Values, Morality, and Immigration Policy* (2006), *Defining America Through Immigration Policy* (2004), and *Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy* (1993). He was co-counsel in

the U.S. Supreme Court asylum precedent-setting case *INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca* (1987) and also represented the State Bar of California before the California Supreme Court in *In re Sergio Garcia* (2014) involving bar membership for undocumented law graduates.

Professor Hing’s brand new book — *Humanizing Immigration: How to Transform Our Racist and Unjust System* (2023) — calls for abolishing ICE and understanding immigrants and refugee rights as part of the fight for racial justice.



GINA HONG | Gina Hong is a tenants rights attorney and collective member of the Los Angeles Center for Community Law and Action, where she has been practicing since graduating from UCLA Law in 2018. At LACCLA, she has defended evictions and litigated dozens of cases alongside plaintiff tenants, with a focus on harassment, retaliation, and discrimination claims. LACCLA is a base-building organization, and Gina’s practice emphasizes working with organized tenants who are actively participating in the tenants’ rights movement on the East Side of Los Angeles, including representing tenant unions and community organizers facing immediate threats to displacement. While at UCLA, she was a member of the Epstein Public Interest Law and Policy Program, and she graduated with specializations in Critical Race Studies and International and Comparative Law.



ANDRÉS DAE KEUN KWON | Andrés Dae Keun Kwon is Senior Policy Counsel and Organizer at the ACLU of Southern California. He joined ACLU SoCal in 2016 and was previously Equal Justice Works Emerson Fellow.

Andrés has worked on the intersection of immigrants’ rights, policing, and criminal legal system reform. As immigrants from Argentina, Andrés and his family struggled to access effective, ethical lawyers to navigate a complex, punitive criminal-immigration legal system he has since worked to transform. After seven years as a community organizer in New York, Andrés went to law school so that, as an organizer and human rights lawyer, he could fight alongside individuals and families like his who struggle to access justice.

The first in his family to pursue higher education, Andrés holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Administration degree from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Andrés is a 2016 graduate of the Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law, where he was the recipient of the Emil Joseph Stache Scholarship and served as Senior Editor of the *UCLA Law Review*.

During the summer of his first year of law school, Andrés was a legal intern at The Bronx Defenders, supporting public defenders and immigration experts who seamlessly integrated criminal-immigration representation. Since beginning his second year, through legal internships at the ACLU SoCal, Andrés led an effort to strengthen the representation of poor immigrants charged with crimes in Southern California. This work has brought about the expansion of immigration expertise within Southern California public defender offices, including the fivefold expansion of the Immigration Unit of the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office.

Since 2019, Andrés has coordinated the Check the Sheriff coalition (CTS), which has become a powerful intersectional alliance among organizations in the immigrants’ rights movement and the criminal legal system reform and abolition movements, labor unions, and individuals and families directly impacted by the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department (LASD). The coalition’s Zero ICE Transfers campaign in 2020 ended warrantless ICE transfers in L.A. County, the nation’s largest county that was among the first to embrace the federal government’s deportation programs, at one point transferring more people to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) than any state except for Texas. This policy has ensured families remain together and has saved lives: compared to about 1,500 individuals LASD transferred to ICE in 2018-2019, there were zero ICE transfers in 2021-2022. In addition, CTS developed the first sheriff-related L.A. County charter amendment in 20 years, which became Measure A and passed in a landslide in 2022, establishing meaningful civilian checks and balances of the paramilitary office of the sheriff.

Andrés’s publications include *Defending Criminal(ized) “Aliens” After Padilla: Toward a More Holistic Public Immigration Defense in the Era of Crimmigration*, 63 *UCLA L. REV.* 1034 (2016), *DEFEND L.A.: TRANSFORMING PUBLIC DEFENSE IN THE ERA OF MASS DEPORTATION*, ACLU SO. CAL. (MAY 2018), and *Measure A and sheriff accountability in LA County*, *DAILY JOURNAL* (Oct. 31, 2022).



SHAUNA I. MARSHALL | Shauna Marshall is Professor Emerita and Co-Director of the Center for Racial and Economic Justice at UC College of Law, San Francisco (UC Law SF). She joined the faculty in 1994, was the first Black woman to gain tenure, and served as its Associate Academic Dean from 2000 – 2002 and Academic Dean from 2005 – 2013.

Professor Marshall began her career as a trial attorney for the US Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, prosecuting price fixing and other anticompetitive practices. Five years later, she joined Equal Rights Advocates as a staff attorney representing low-income women and women of color in major lawsuits and working with them on mobilizing campaigns and policy initiatives. She litigated *Davis v. City and County of San Francisco* (the historic desegregation case of the San Francisco Fire Department), *Colombano v. City and County of San Francisco* (challenging severe sexual harassment of one of San Francisco’s first woman police sergeants), and a lawsuit to establish manufacturer liability for unpaid wages to garment workers toiling in Chinatown sweatshops.

Professor Marshall then spent four years as a member of the Stanford Law Faculty and as Executive Director of East Palo Alto Community Law Project. She taught civil rights and rebellious community law practice clinic and helped develop the Lawyering Against Subordination/Lawyering for Social Change Curriculum at Stanford Law School. Under her leadership, working with Black, Latinx, and Pacific Islander residents, the East Palo Alto Community Law Project stopped a redevelopment project that exploited the community and, in its place, developed with an alternative project that brought jobs, affordable housing, and an increased tax base to East Palo Alto. And sharing leadership with communities, she worked to ensure that residents had access to decent and affordable housing and children to equal educational opportunities.

As Academic Dean as UC Law SF, Professor Marshall was the chief academic officer for the College, oversaw the development and implementation of the curriculum, admissions and financial aid policies, career services, and all educational support and co-curricular programs. During her years as Academic Dean, she led the faculty's development of a strategic curricular plan that integrated theory and practice (integrated in practice and not just in theory). And she worked with a wide range of constituencies to strengthen the clinical program and develop a robust pro bono program. Her recent scholarship includes "Rebellious Deaning: One African American Woman's Vision of a Progressive Law School," *Clinical Law Review* (2017).

Professor Marshall's greatly enjoys mentoring future social justice advocates, meeting with amazing former students, traveling with her family, reading novels, taking Zumba classes, and spending weekends at her home in Clayton, California.



YUMARI MARTINEZ | Yumari Martínez is the Founding Executive Director of Catalyze Justice. He previously co-Directed the Columbia Justice Lab's Youth Justice Initiatives team and has consulted with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Earlier, Yumari was the Associate Commissioner for the New York City Administration for Children's Services - Division for Youth and Family Justice, where he helped implement Close to Home, an initiative that gave the City oversight over youth placed in custody. He also served as the Associate Director of the Vera Institute of Justice's Center on Youth Justice, a Senior Project Director at the Center for Community Problem Solving at NYU School of Law, and he represented youth as an attorney at the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Division.



ANA NÁJERA MENDOZA | Ana Mendoza is the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants from Los Angeles, California and has been an advocate to promote racial and social justice in communities for over 15 years.

She is currently a Statewide Education Equity Team Co-Lead and Senior Staff Attorney with the ACLU Foundation of Southern California's Education Equity Project, where she litigates and advocates to protect the educational rights of California's students. As a community lawyer, Ana has partnered with students, families, and community-based organizations to advocate for equity-focused solutions in schools, including supporting the campaign to end the use of mandatory metal detector searches in Los Angeles Unified School District, supporting demands to end the use of policing and surveillance in schools, and providing technical assistance to families and immigration advocates to ensure undocumented students can enroll in schools

Ana is a 2014 graduate of UCLA School of Law, where she focused on Critical Race Studies. Since law school graduation, Ana has been recognized for her commitment to social justice advocacy. In 2018, she was awarded the *Daily Journal's* California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY) Award as part of team that litigated and negotiated an education funding case that resulted in a \$150M settlement against the largest school district in California and directed the settlement funds to 50 of the highest need schools in the district for services to support low-income students, English learners, and foster youth. In 2018, Ana was also recognized for her leadership by the New Leaders Council of Los Angeles and was honored as an Alumna of the Year by UCLA School of Law's La Raza Latinx Law Students Association in 2019.

Ana is a past board member of the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA), where she led an outreach program to connect Los Angeles students to legal professionals in hopes of inspiring the next generation of diverse attorneys and increase the pipeline of future diverse law school students. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the UCLA Law Alumni Association and as an advisory board member to the Santa Monica College Pathways to Law Program and to Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM), a program aimed at supporting students in under-resourced communities to study advanced mathematics and inspire them to enter careers in STEM. She also serves as an Education Equity Panelist and mentor in a legal career pipeline program called Legal Education Access Pipeline (LEAP).



DALE MINAMI | Dale Minami is a Senior Counsel with Minami and Tamaki in San Francisco. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from USC in 1968 and received his J.D. in 1971 from the UC Berkeley.

He has been involved in significant litigation involving the civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities, including *Korematsu v. United States*, overturning a 40 year old conviction for refusal to obey exclusion orders aimed at Japanese Americans during WWII, *United Pilipinos for Affirmative Action v. California Blue Shield*, the first class action employment discrimination lawsuit on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans, *Spokane JACL v. Washington State University*, a class action to establish an Asian American Studies program at Washington State University and *Nakanishi v. UCLA*, a claim for unfair denial of tenure which resulted in the granting of tenure.

Mr. Minami was a co-founder of the Asian Law Caucus, the first Asian American community law firm in the country, the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, an incorporator of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, CAPA21, a political action committee, and the Minami, Tamaki, Yamauchi Kwok and Lee Foundation. He was appointed by President Clinton as Chair of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and has served on State and Federal judicial screening committees, taught at U.C. Berkeley and Mills College and was the Executive Producer of “Life Tastes Good”, a feature film which premiered at Sundance in 1998.

He has been recognized as a Super Lawyer for each year from 2004 through 2023 in the Personal Injury category, one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers for Northern California in 2005 and from 2007 to 2023, and in the Top Ten Super Lawyers in the Personal Injury Category from 2013 through 2018 in the Personal Injury category.

Minami is the recipient of numerous awards, including the ABA Medal, the highest award given by the ABA, ABA’s Thurgood Marshall Award and ABA’s Spirit of Excellence Award, NAPABA’s Trailblazer Award, the ACLU Civil Liberties Award, honorary Juris Doctor degrees from the University of San Francisco and McGeorge Schools of Law, designation of a dormitory at U.C. Santa Cruz as the Queen Liliuokalani-Minami Dormitory, Berkeley Law’s Citation Award, the naming of a public interest fellowship in his name at Berkeley Law, the Kristi Yamaguchi Always Dream Foundation and awards from the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Asian Pacific Fund, the Japanese American Citizens’ League, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Asian Law Alliance and the Asian Law Caucus, among other awards.

He is married to Ai Mori and has two daughters, Ellie (13 years old) and Lina (11 years old). He is a late bloomer.



BRENDA MONTES | Brenda Montes graduated from UCLA in 2011 and has been an immigration attorney for the past twelve years. She opened her own immigration law practice Montes Law Firm in 2018, her office is currently located in Pasadena, California. Ms. Montes practices in numerous areas of immigration law: deportation and removal defense in Immigration Court, immigration bond hearings, asylum, family petitions, consular processing, family petitions, naturalization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), humanitarian requests, U-Visas, and several other forms of relief.

Drawing on her own and her family’s experiences as undocumented immigrants, Ms. Montes works regularly with immigrant communities and their allies on many fronts. She has successfully led campaigns against media personalities who aim to vilify immigrants and thwart humane immigration reform. She led the coalition – including Southwestern Law School and the National Lawyers Guild -- to initiate the first cross-sectional Immigration judge database, shared by non-profit and private practitioners. The “IJ Database” gathers information about Immigration judges across California to provide better advocacy tools for litigants in Immigration Court.

Ms. Montes’ essay on practicing rebelliously – “A For-Profit Rebellious Immigration Practice in East Los Angeles” – appeared in a Rebellious Symposium published by the Clinical Law Review. She is currently serves on the Mexican American Bar Association Immigration Committee. She has helped develop and put on rebellious trainings in various parts of the country, serves as an adjunct professor at CSU, Northridge teaching Constitutional Issues in the Chicana/o Department, and offers support to rebellious immigration practitioners.



MAISHA NELSON | Maisha Nelson, SPHR, is the Director of Human Resources & Administration for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in San Francisco. She is also the Founder & CEO of Partnerships with Purpose (P2). P2 is a consulting firm working to reduce and remove barriers to employment for the formerly incarcerated. The firm also develops individualized pilot programs for companies to hire formerly incarcerated people. Maisha is an experienced human resource professional with almost 20 years of for- and non-profit work, ranging from working at a boutique asset management firm on Wall Street to healthcare leadership at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. She is on the National Association for African Americans in Human Resources, Northern California Chapter board, and serves as Treasurer for the Northern California Land Trust. She is a proud ant eater from the University of California, Irvine.



SUNITA PATEL | Sunita Patel is an Assistant Professor of Law and the founding Faculty Director of the UCLA Veterans Legal Clinic. Her current scholarship examines the intersection of policing and institutions of care and learning. More generally, her research and teaching interests lie in policing, social movements, race, and inequality.

Professor Patel received the UCLA Community and Service Praxis Award in 2022—an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion honor for faculty with innovative community focused approaches to teaching, service, and scholarship. Under Professor Patel’s leadership, the UCLA Veteran’s Legal Clinic staff and students has supported hundreds of former service members receive disability benefits, remove fines and fees connected to quality-of-life citations, and obtain housing assistance.

Since joining UCLA, Professor Patel has been a core faculty member for the Critical Race Studies program and Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. Professor Patel is also an affiliated faculty member of the UCLA Law School Promise Institute for Human Rights and the Criminal Justice Program. She is the faculty advisor to the South Asian Law Students Association and *UCLA Disability Law Journal*. In addition, Professor Patel served on the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools Civil Rights Section from 2020 to 2021.

Prior to joining UCLA, Professor Patel held clinical teaching positions at American University Washington College of Law and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. An experienced litigator, she has appeared before administrative bodies; state, federal, and appellate courts; and human rights tribunals. Professor Patel’s litigation experience includes cases involving racial and ethnic profiling, criminal justice reform, immigration detention and immigration enforcement, open records challenges, and matters involving prison conditions. Professor Patel has also provided legal counsel to numerous grassroots social justice organizations in the United States and globally.

Professor Patel served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Ivan L. R. Lemelle in the Eastern District of Louisiana and was previously awarded a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship. She graduated from law school magna cum laude (order of the coif), and her most recent publications include:

Transinstitutional Policing, 136 *Harv. L. Rev.* __ (forthcoming) (selected for the Yale/Harvard/Stanford Juniors Workshop); Embedded Healthcare Policing, 69 *UCLA L. Rev.* 808 (2022)

Jumping Hurdles to Sue Police, 104 *Minn. L. Rev.* 2257 (2020) (awarded the AALS Civil Rights Section Junior Scholar recognition and reprinted in Vol. 37 of the *Civil Rights Litigation and Attorney’s Fees Handbook*)



GARY PECK | Gary Peck is a longtime civil rights and social justice advocate who has spent nearly 25 years working for and with non-profit organizations, labor unions, community groups, and other individual and institutional stakeholders to help advance the cause of progressive change. Gary earned a doctorate in Sociology at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in a multidisciplinary program on the State, Politics & Public Policy at the University of Chicago, and served on the faculties of universities and colleges before deciding to attend Stanford Law School.

While at Stanford, Gary was introduced to the rebellious vision of practice being developed, refined, and constantly re-examined by Jerry López and the many students and faculty and community residents who brought their own experiences and smarts to that project. After earning a JD and clerking for a Federal District Court Judge, Gary embarked on the second phase of a career that included stints as National Education Director for a radical rank-and-file union, Executive Director of the Nevada ACLU, and Executive Director of the Nevada State Education Association that included more than 30 locals representing public school teachers and support staff in the Silver State.

Gary is currently working with individuals and organizations on criminal justice, police abuse and accountability, and homelessness issues in Las Vegas Valley and elsewhere throughout Nevada. He is also trying to be the most loving and supportive father of his wonderful daughter, who begins her first year in college this fall.



ASCANIO PIOMELLI | Ascanio Piomelli is Associate Dean for Experiential Education and a clinical professor at UC College of Law, San Francisco (UC Law SF). He teaches the Community Group Advocacy & Social-Change Lawyering Clinic and co-teaches the Individual Representation Clinic and the Social Justice Lawyering concentration seminar. His writing centers on efforts by attorneys and other activists to foster progressive social change, exploring the models of lawyering and social change informing that work, the relationships between lawyers, clients, and communities, and the impact of race, class, and gender on those efforts. He is a leading exponent and analyst of a “collaborative,” “rebellious,” or what he and others label a “democratic” approach to social-change lawyering—in which lawyers work with, rather than on behalf of, individual and organizational clients, activists, and communities to collectively press for social change. His work has explored the participatory democratic vision, values, and practices that underlie such efforts.

He attended Stanford University (A.B. History) and Stanford Law School (J.D.). Before joining UC Law SF to help launch its new Civil Justice Clinic (now the Community Justice Clinics), he worked as a legal services attorney in Fresno, California, where he litigated on behalf of low-income workers and tenants. He also served as an attorney and later executive director of the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, then Stanford Law School’s primary clinical outplacement. There he worked to enforce the city’s rent stabilization law, improve housing conditions, and facilitate citizen participation in local land-use decisions—as part of community efforts to resist gentrification and residential displacement.



IAN STRINGHAM | Ian Stringham graduated from the UCLA School of Law in 2018 and was awarded the inaugural UCLA Law Criminal Justice Program Award. He is the recipient of a UC President’s Public Service Fellowship and a Justice Catalyst Fellowship. After graduating he established California Legal Research, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to law libraries in California prisons and jails. Currently he works as an attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and the DOORS Reentry Center.



MONA TAWATAO | Mona Tawatao joined EJS as Legal Director of the Equal Justice Society in 2019. Mona directs EJS’s litigation and advocacy on behalf of and in coalition with community-based organizations and families to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and to fight race discrimination and promote equity in K-12 and higher education, the justice system, and other institutions.

Mona was previously Senior Litigator at the Western Center on Law & Poverty where she pursued health, housing, land use, and civil rights litigation and advocacy throughout California. She also worked for 22 years on housing and land use advocacy as a legal services attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County and then Legal Services of Northern California, where she co-founded its Race Equity Project.

Mona’s honors include EJS’s 2008 Racial Equity Award as a co-honoree with Bill Kennedy and the 2007 Heber-Smith Award from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association for her housing and race equity advocacy. Mona currently serves on the National Center for Youth Law board of directors as Vice President and is a member of APIs Rise Fund (Sacramento), a giving circle that supports community engagement and power building.

Mona received her J.D. from UCLA School of Law in 1986 and later served as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Consuelo B. Marshall in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

Mona co-authored “Brief for Twenty-Five Diverse, California Bar Association, Lawyers Associations, Civil Rights Organizations, and Community Foundations as Amici Curiae in Support of Respondents.” Filed with the Supreme Court of the United States in *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, 2022.



SHEROD THAXTON | Sherod Thaxton is Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law, and former Faculty Director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. He also holds courtesy appointments in the Department of Public Policy at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, and in the Departments of African American Studies and Sociology at the UCLA College of Letters and Sciences. Professor Thaxton teaches Business Crime, Capital Punishment, Criminal Adjudication, Criminal Law, Federal White Collar Crime, Habeas Corpus, and Introduction to Legal Analysis. His scholarship centers on quantitative empirical legal studies, with a substantive focus on criminal law, criminal procedure, and the sociology of crime and punishment. Prior to joining the law faculty, he was the Earl B. Dickerson Fellow and Lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago Law School and an attorney in the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Sacramento, California.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of California at Davis, Professor Thaxton enrolled in the sociology program at Emory University and studied under the direction of Robert Agnew. While pursuing his graduate studies, he was the principal investigator of the Death Penalty Tracking Project for the Office of the Multi-County Public Defender in Atlanta, Georgia. At Emory, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees—specializing in criminology and social psychology—and was selected as a finalist for the American Sociological Association Dissertation Award. Professor Thaxton received his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School where he was a John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Economics, an Academy of Achievement student honoree, and a Public Interest Law Prize recipient. He was also an editor of the University of Chicago Law Review and the University of Chicago Legal Forum. Prior to law school, he was a Soros Justice Postgraduate Fellow at the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation in New York, and a Law and Social Science Doctoral Fellow at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago.

Professor Thaxton co-authored “Brief of Empirical Scholars as Amici Curiae in Support of Respondents.” Filed with the Supreme Court of the United States in *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, 2022.



We don't want to be stars,
but parts of constellations.”

Gloria Anzaldúa, *“The New Speakers”*

Dear Jerry,

We are stronger, wiser and more steadfast in our commitment to justice for being your friends and your colleagues. May you continue, in your retirement, to speak truth to power with your signature passion and love.

In solidarity,
the CRS Faculty



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GERALD P. LÓPEZ
AND ALL REBELLIOUS PRACTITIONERS

Critical Race Studies
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Health Law, & Policy**

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From the Coalition to Free Eyvin Hernandez

Eyvin Hernandez: A Life of Service and a Wrongful Detention

Eyvin Hernandez's journey began in the midst of turmoil in El Salvador, where his family sought refuge from civil war. They migrated to the United States, where Eyvin grew up in the vibrant, working-class neighborhoods of Los Angeles. He graduated from Leuzinger High School in Lawndale. His dedication and pursuit of knowledge led him to El Camino Community College and eventually transferring to UCLA, where he earned a B.S. in Physics and Mathematics in 2001. Eyvin's thirst for learning led him back to UCLA, this time to attend law school, where he became an associate editor for the Chicana-Latinx Law Review. Upon graduating from UCLA Law in 2005, he embarked on a career at the L.A. County Public Defender's Office, dedicating his life to justice and advocacy.

A Nightmare Unfolds: Eyvin's Wrongful Detention

In March 2022, Eyvin embarked on a two-week vacation to Colombia, where he remotely attended a novel writing class through UCLA's Extension Program. Just days before his planned return to the United States, a friend asked Eyvin to accompany her to Cúcuta, a Colombian city near the border of Venezuela. There, on a dusty road, Eyvin's life took a terrifying turn. Four armed men demanded a \$100 bribe, which Eyvin refused. Upon revealing his American identity, he was violently kidnapped and whisked away in the back of a truck.

Since then, Eyvin has been unjustly detained in a maximum-security military prison, DGCIM, in Caracas, Venezuela. The Venezuelan government has accused him of criminal association and conspiracy, charges that could lead to a staggering 16-year imprisonment. However, the U.S. government recognized Eyvin's wrongful detention in late October 2022, and now, his family and friends passionately implore both the U.S. and Venezuelan governments to secure his immediate release.

A Hero Behind Bars: Eyvin's Unwavering Advocacy

Even under the direst of circumstances, Eyvin Hernandez's spirit remains unbroken. Behind bars, he continues to be a beacon of hope:

1. **Lights Out for Rest:** Eyvin successfully advocated for the warden to turn off the blinding white lights above the detainees' heads at night, ensuring they could rest.
2. **Compassionate Care:** He cared for Osman Khan, another wrongfully detained American suffering from seizures, until Osman's release in a humanitarian exchange in October 2022. Osman now regards Eyvin as a brother.
3. **Emotional Support:** Eyvin provided crucial emotional support to Jerrel Kenemore, another wrongfully detained American battling mental health challenges worsened by captivity. When Jerrel embarked on a hunger strike that lasted over 50 days, Eyvin urgently sought U.S. government intervention to prevent irreparable harm.
4. **Safety and Well-being:** Imprisoned Americans request Eyvin's presence during wellness checks, as they feel safer with him by their side.



CRS alumni and members of the Bring Eyvin Home Coalition advocating for his release in Washington, D.C.

5. **Advocating for All:** Even in captivity, Eyvin pleads with President Biden to lift sanctions on Venezuela, recognizing the devastating impact they have on ordinary people, including the guards and their families. He passionately believes in the well-being of all, regardless of circumstance. He reported, "The sanctions are devastating. The guards tell us they have nothing to feed their families, their kids, and no money for school uniforms or books. They are being paid \$7 a month and rely on food boxes to survive. There is no education for their children...young people have to leave to have a future. It's time to stop the sanctions."



CRS alumni and members of the Bring Eyvin Home Coalition being filmed for a documentary about Americans detained around the world.

How Can You Help Free Eyvin?

The Coalition to Free Eyvin Hernandez invites you to join our mission to secure Eyvin's release and reunite him with his loved ones. Here's how you can contribute:

- 1. Media Contacts:** Eyvin's story needs to be heard far and wide. If you have media or influencer contacts who can help elevate his story, please reach out to us at bringeyvinhome@gmail.com or (323) 744-1383. Your connections can make a significant impact.
- 2. Access to Power:** Do you have contacts with access to the President, National Security Council staff, or other White House personnel? Connect with us to explore avenues for assistance. Every voice matters in the fight for justice.
- 3. Write to President Biden:** Craft a heartfelt letter to President Biden, urging Eyvin's release. Email it to National Security Council (NSC) staff at David.J.Cotter@nsc.eop.gov with a request to forward it to the President. Find a template letter on the bringeyvinhome.org website.
- 4. Engage Congressional Representatives:** Encourage members of Congress to contact David Cotter at NSC and request President Biden's intervention. Support Congressional resolutions (H. Res. 578 and S. Res. 320) urging the President to utilize all available means to bring Eyvin home. You can find the text of these resolutions on our website under the Action Items and Documents tab.
- 5. Financial Support:** Assist Eyvin and our campaign by donating to cover advocacy expenses, food, and supplies for Eyvin at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Bringeyvinhome>.
- 6. Amplify Our Message on Social Media:** Follow and share our campaign on social media to raise awareness:

Website: <https://bringeyvinhome.org/>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/bringeyvinhome/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bringeyvinhome

Twitter: twitter.com/BringEyvinHome

Change.org Petition: www.change.org/p/bring-eyvin-hernandez-home

Your support is invaluable, and together, we can bring Eyvin Hernandez home. Stand with us in this crucial endeavor.



Bring Eyvin Hernandez Home!

bringeyvinhome.org

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Thank you for attending the 2023 CRS Symposium!

Please support the work that the Critical Race Studies Program does to host important programming on urgent issues, train the next generation of racial justice advocates, leaders, and scholars, and continue challenging injustice in all its forms.

You can donate here



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For more information on CRT Forward, our new initiative tracking the attacks on Critical Race Theory, go to: crtforward.law.ucla.edu