



Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers' Network
2024 Symposium and CLE
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Fordham University School of Law
150 West 62nd Street, New York, NY

Reparative Justice in the United States: Human Rights in Practice



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Center on Race,
Law and Justice

Speaker Biographies

Keynote Conversation

Speakers: Margaret Burnham and Justin Hansford

Margaret Burnham

Margaret Burnham is Distinguished Professor of Law, Director and Founder of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, and Faculty Co-Director of the Center for Law, Equity, and Race at Northeastern Law. She is an internationally recognized expert on civil and human rights, comparative constitutional rights, and international criminal law. Attorney Burnham serves as a member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, an independent federal agency tasked with examining unsolved murders of African Americans between 1940 and 1979. She is the author of *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners*, which won the 2023 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for history and was recognized as a "best book of the year" by, among others, *The New Yorker* magazine, Kirkus, and Publishers Weekly. Attorney Burnham has a B.A. from Tougaloo College and an LL.B. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Justin Hansford

Justin Hansford is an Associate Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law and Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center. He is a leading scholar and activist in the areas of

critical race theory, human rights, and law and social movements, and is a member of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. Attorney Hansford was previously a Democracy Project Fellow at Harvard University, a Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, and an Associate Professor of Law at Saint Louis University. He is a co-author of the forthcoming Seventh Edition of *Race, Racism and American Law*, the celebrated legal textbook that was the first casebook published specifically for teaching race-related law courses. He has a B.A. from Howard University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Session One

Moderator: JoAnn Kamuf Ward

JoAnn Kamuf Ward is Deputy Commissioner for Policy and External Affairs for the NYC Commission on Human Rights. Prior to her work on the Commission, she served as a Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law School and as the Director of the Human Rights in the U.S. Project of the law school's Human Rights Institute. She also worked as an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP and as a fellow at Fordham Law School's Leitner Center for International Law and Justice. She has a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.

Panelists: Brad Branham, Nicholas Cummings, Joseph Feaster

Brad Branham

Brad Branham was appointed City Attorney for the City of Asheville, North Carolina in March 2019. In this role, he serves as the Chief Legal Officer for the City and primary legal counsel for the Asheville City Council, Mayor, and the City Manager. He is an active member of the North Carolina Municipal Attorney's Association and the International Municipal Lawyers Association. Prior to his work in Asheville, Attorney Branham served as an assistant city attorney for the City of Charlotte, and as lead legal counsel for the City of Charlotte Real Estate Acquisition Division and the Charlotte Area Transit System. Attorney Branham has litigated hundreds of real estate cases on behalf of municipalities. Attorney Branham has a B.S. and a B.S. from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and a J.D. from the Wake Forest University School of Law.

Nicholas Cummings

Nicholas Cummings is the founder of Osiris Professional Services, LLC, and the former Corporation Counsel/City Attorney for the City of Evanston, the first person of color to serve in the role. Prior to being appointed as Corporation Counsel, Cummings served as the Deputy City Attorney, where he advised Evanston's Reparations Subcommittee regarding the legal hurdles facing restorative justice programs. Prior to his work for the City of Evanston, he was a Chief Attorney in the Chicago Transit Authority's Law Department, where he was responsible for complex litigation of personal injury cases and an Assistant States Attorney for Cook County. Attorney Cummings has spent his entire legal career providing advice, counsel, and representation to municipal entities on various legal matters. He has a B.S. from DePaul University and a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Joseph Feaster

Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Of Counsel to the law firm Dain/Torpy/LeRay/Wiest/Garner PC., has been practicing law for 48 years, and has expertise in corporate law, employment and labor law, real estate law, contracts, licensing and zoning law, and probate law. He previously served as the court-appointed Receiver for Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center, as the Interim Town Manager of the

Town of Stoughton, and as the Interim Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority. Attorney Feaster is also President of Feaster Enterprises, a strategic planning, organizational development, and community outreach consulting firm. He currently serves as chair of the City of Boston Reparations Task Force, as a commissioner of the City of Boston Black Men & Boys Commission, as an executive committee member of the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc., and on the Advisory Council of Samaritans. Attorney Feaster has a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.

Session Two

Moderators: Cynthia Soohoo and Marbré Stahly-Butts

Cynthia Soohoo

Cynthia Soohoo is a Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic at CUNY School of Law. She has authored submissions to the U.S. Supreme Court, appellate courts and international forums on access to abortion, forced sterilization, criminalization of reproductive choices and pregnancy outcomes, remedies for trafficking survivors, and youth in the adult criminal justice system. Attorney Soohoo co-edits the Reproductive Rights Prof Blog and serves on the Board of Directors for Partners for Dignity and Rights and the Lawyering Project. Attorney Soohoo has a B.A. from Williams College and a J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

Marbré Stahly-Butts

Marbré Stahly-Butts is an Associate Professor of Law at the City University of New York School of Law. She is a movement lawyer, and an abolitionist with expertise in criminal legal policy and a long history of supporting radical movement formations. She is the co-founder and former Executive Director of Law for Black Lives, the co-founder of the Leadership Team of the Movement for Black Lives Policy Table, one of the chief architects of the Vision for Black Lives Policy Platform, and a co-founder of the National Bail Out Collective and the People's Coalition for Safety and Freedom. She has a JD from Yale Law School, an MA from Oxford University, and a BA from Columbia University.

Panelists: Randall Adams, Roxanna Altholz, Joey Mogul, and Silvia Yee

Randall Adams

Randall Adams is a partner at Schulte Roth & Zabel in New York City. His practice focuses on commercial and business disputes, shareholder activism litigation, and securities class actions. Adams is involved in many pro bono matters including the representation of the last three survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. He was awarded Schulte's Howard Godnick Public Service award in 2022. Attorney Adams is a co-chair of Schulte's LGBTQ+ Affinity Group and was recognized in 2017 by the LGBT Bar as one of the "Best LGBT Lawyers under 40." He was named a "Rising Star" in 2023 as part of the New York Legal Awards. Attorney Adams previously served as a law clerk to the Honorable Katherine B. Forrest and as an associate at Jenner & Block. He has an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Roxanna Altholz

Roxanna Altholz is a Clinical Professor of Law, Director of the Human Rights Clinic, and Co-Director of the Clinical Program at Berkeley Law. Attorney Altholz is an international human rights lawyer and scholar with extensive experience in both national and international forums. She has won several groundbreaking judgments from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, provided expert testimony before UN human rights groups, and initiated legal actions on behalf of human rights victims in U.S. federal

courts. Attorney Altholz previously served as a legal advisor for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and a staff attorney at the Center for Justice and International Law in Washington, D.C. Attorney Altholz has a B.A. from Brown University and a J.D. from Berkely School of Law.

Joey Mogul

Joey Mogul became the Director of Movement Partnerships at Movement Law Lab (MLL) in 2024. Prior to joining MLL, Mogul was a partner (and is currently of counsel) at the People’s Law Office in Chicago. For over twenty-five years, Attorney Mogul has sought justice for Chicago Police (Burge) torture survivors; she successfully represented these individuals in criminal post-conviction proceedings and in federal civil rights cases and presented their cases to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) in Geneva, Switzerland. Mogul drafted the City Council Reparations Ordinance that was filed in 2013 on behalf of an organization Mogul co-founded, Chicago Torture Justice Memorials. In 2015, the Chicago City Council unanimously passed the ordinance. Attorney Mogul co-founded the Chicago Torture Justice Center, which is engaged in implementing the ordinance. Attorney Mogul has a B.S. from Oberlin College and a J.D. from City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law.

Silvia Yee

Silvia Yee is a senior staff attorney at Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) where her work includes projects to increase physical and programmatic accessibility and disability awareness in the delivery of health care services, as well as impact litigation to increase access for people with disabilities in myriad aspects of public and private life. Over the past decade, Ms. Yee has presented and written on how health and healthcare disparities, civil rights, public health, social drivers of health, pre-natal genetic testing and engineering, and data collection/storage/use practices affect people with disabilities who also experience intersecting characteristics of race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+ status, age, and low income. Of particular interest in this context, she has been active in advocacy to secure reparations for individuals in California sterilized through the state’s actions. Ms. Yee received her B.M., M.A., and LL.B. degrees from the University of Alberta.

Lunch Keynote

Introduction: Jamil Dakwar

Jamil Dakwar is the director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Human Rights Program (HRP). He conducts advocacy before the U.S. government on human rights issues, with a particular focus on the domestic implementation of U.S. human rights obligations. He represents the ACLU before the United Nations and leads the ACLU’s international advocacy before other regional and international bodies, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Mr. Dakwar was one of ACLU’s first observers to the military commission system at Guantanamo Bay in 2004. In 2020, he was appointed to the New York State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He is a graduate of Tel Aviv University and NYU School of Law. He is an adjunct professor at New York University and Hunter College.

Keynote Speaker: Gay McDougall

Gay McDougall has spent her career working on issues of race, gender, and economic justice in the United States and in the global context. She is serving her 10th year on the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and was Vice-Chair in 2018-2019. She was the first UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues; during her 6 years in that role she visited 17 countries to monitor their

laws and practices on the rights of minorities. She also served as UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Systematic Rape, Sexual Slavery and Slavery-like Practices during Armed Conflict from 1995 to 1999 and in 2001 played a leadership role in the UN Third World Conference against Racism held in Durban. As Director of the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers Committee for 15 years she worked with South African lawyers to free thousands of political prisoners and later was appointed to the South African body created to administer its first non-racial elections in 1994, which resulted in the historic election of President Nelson Mandela. In 2015 the Government of South Africa bestowed on her their national medal of honor for non-citizens, the Order of O.R. Tambo Medal, for her extraordinary contributions to ending apartheid. She also spent 15 years as Executive Director of Global Rights. Attorney McDougall is currently a Distinguished Scholar in Residence and Adjunct Professor at Fordham School of Law. She received a J.D. from Yale Law School, an LL.M. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Honorary Degrees from nine institutions.

Session Three

Moderator: Cathy Albisa

Cathy Albisa is the Vice President for Institutional and Sectoral Change at Race Forward and serves on the Human Rights Commission in New York City. She is a constitutional and human rights lawyer with significant experience partnering with community organizers to leverage human rights standards to strengthen advocacy in the United States. Attorney Albisa is the co-founder and former Executive Director of Partners for Dignity & Rights, and she has published widely on economic and social rights, racial and gender justice, and human rights. She received a B.A. from the University of Miami and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Panelists: Tabitha Bonilla, Kamilah Moore, Sushma Raman, Robin Toma

Tabitha Bonilla

Tabitha Bonilla is an Associate Professor at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Dr. Bonilla studies political behavior and communication and examines how elite communication influences voter opinions of candidates and political policies. Dr. Bonilla has worked with Northwestern's research collaborative to study Evanston's government-funded reparations programs, focusing on changes in public opinion concerning reparative justice initiatives. Her work incorporates a range of quantitative methods including experiments and text analysis. In 2023 she received the 2023 Adaljiza Sosa-Riddell Mentor Award for Exemplary Mentoring of Latino/a Graduate Students in Political Science. After earning her Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University she worked as a postdoctoral scholar and teaching fellow in the political science department at the University of Southern California. She has an M.A. from Stanford University, and a B.S. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kamilah Moore

Kamilah Moore was the Chair of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, which issued its final report in 2023. She is a reparatory justice scholar and an attorney. Attorney Moore previously contributed to human rights reports related to domestic and international human rights, including racial inequality in Brazil; the human right to sanitation in Lowndes County, Alabama; and the human right to remedy for indigenous Black women affected by racialized gender violence in Papua New Guinea. While studying at University of Amsterdam, Attorney Moore wrote a master's thesis about international law and reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade,

chattel slavery, and their legacies. She holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School, a LL.M. degree in International Criminal Law from the University of Amsterdam, and a B.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Sushma Raman

Sushma Raman is the President and CEO of the Heising-Simons Foundation and serves on its Board of Directors. She is an interdisciplinary and experienced philanthropic leader with over two decades of experience launching, scaling, and leading social justice and philanthropic programs and collaboratives. Her work includes building the capacity of grassroots human rights organizations and their leaders. She has taught graduate courses in the public policy schools at UCLA, USC, Tufts Fletcher School, and Harvard's Kennedy School. Ms. Raman is a Board Member of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and, prior to joining the Heising-Simons Foundation in 2023, was the Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University. Ms. Raman has a B.A. from Smith College, an M.A. from UCLA, and an M.P.A. from Harvard Kennedy School.

Robin Toma

Robin S. Toma is the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. He serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies and the California Association of Human Relations Organizations, having served as president of both. He is a Senior Fellow of UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, and previously served on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission's California Advisory Committee. Mr. Toma was a member of the Obama Administration's 2010 delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva. Earlier in his career, Robin was an ACLU staff attorney in L.A. for almost 7 years and litigated a wide range of human rights and civil liberties cases. He was also lead attorney in a successful class action lawsuit that addressed the internment and other ill-treatment of Japanese individuals from Latin America during World War II. Mr. Toma received a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a J.D. degree and M.A. degree from UCLA.