Northeastern University
School of Law
Center for Law, Equity and Race

2025 Hope Lewis Distinguished Lecture Program

March 25

Musical Tribute, Danielle Ponder '11
6-8 p.m. ET.
Curry Center Ballroom

March 26

Hope Lewis Distinguished Lecture: Human Rights and the UN System, with Gay McDougall
12:45-2 p.m. ET
250 Dockser Hall | Online

Professor Lewis, an extraordinary advocate and mentor to students and colleagues, was internationally recognized for her scholarship in the area of human rights, the rights of non-citizens, and persons with disabilities.

This program is made possible by a gift from the estate of Hope Lewis and Blossom Stephenson to the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University School of Law. Hope Lewis was a beloved professor of law at Northeastern University from 1992 until her untimely death in 2016.

2025 HOPE LEWIS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE & PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Curry Center Ballroom, 360 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115

MUSICAL TRIBUTE BY DANIELLE PONDER '11

Time	Event/Session
6 PM	Reception
6:30 PM	Opening and Welcome Remarks Deborah A. Jackson, Managing Director, CLEAR Deborah Ramirez, Faculty Co-Director CLEAR Sonia Rolland, Professor of Law Kaleema Al-Nur '08
6:50 PM	Performance by: Ryaken Nakamoto, alto saxophone and band leader; Joshua Piatok, piano; Vedant Mundhra, drums; Michael Bikker, bass
7:10 PM	Song by Damian Lee
7:20 PM	Introduction of Danielle Ponder
7:25 PM	Performance by Danielle Ponder
7:55 PM	Closing Remarks from Margaret Burnham, Faculty Co-Director, CLEAR Launch of the Hope Lewis Endowment

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
250 Dockser Hall, 65 Forsyth St, Boston, MA 02115 | Online

KEYNOTE LECTURE WITH GAY MCDOUGALL

Time	Event/Session
12:3O PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	Opening and Welcome Remarks Deborah A. Jackson, Managing Director, CLEAR, James Hackney, Dean Margaret Burnham, University Distinguished Professor of Law, Faculty Co-Director, CLEAR
1 PM	Gay McDougall, Distinguished Professor in Residence, Fordham Law School Moderator: Zinaida Miller, Professor of Law, Co-Faculty Director, Center for Global Law and Justice
1:40 PM	Q&A
1:55 PM	Closing Remarks

SPEAKERS

Gay McDougall is a human rights leader, attorney and distinguished scholar in residence at Fordham Law's Leitner Center for International Law and Justice.

Zinaida Miller is a Professor of Law and International Affairs, Faculty Co-Director of the Center for Global Law and Justice, Fa.ulty Co-Director for the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, at Northeastern University.

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About the Program

On an annual basis, a nationally recognized advocate for the rights of persons, who have been impacted by racially discriminatory policies and practices, will come to Northeastern to deliver an address on an issue or issues impacting the fundamental rights of persons from racially marginalized communities, migrant communities, or persons with disabilities who face countless obstacles.In addition to the public address, the Visiting Lecturer, who may be a practitioner or scholar, will have an opportunity to engage with members of the law school community in small groups to share their expertise and encourage students to pursue potential opportunities in their field.

Background

Hope Lewis was a professor at Northeastern University School of Law from 1992 until her untimely death in December 2016. She was a passionate advocate for human rights, particularly for persons of color, persons with disabilities, and immigrant communities. Professor Lewis was also a beloved teacher, an esteemed colleague, and a brilliant thinker. Her work was seminal to the field of global human rights and the global economy, and her writings addressed themes in critical race theory as well as globalization and social development. A founder of the of the law school's Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, she served as faculty director of the Global Legal Studies Program. Her passion and activism were also evident in her teaching. She served tirelessly as a mentor to scores of students and to her colleagues, and established longstanding relationships with students that she nurtured well into their professional careers. Despite her health challenges, over the years she remained a vigilant advocate for the rights of underserved and underrepresented communities.

Beyond the law school, Professor Lewis was internationally recognized for her scholarship on human rights. She played a key role in the formative activities of Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL). Her publications include the seminal text, co-authored with Jeanne Woods, Human Rights and the Global Marketplace: Economic, Social and Cultural Dimensions (Brill, 2005). She cofounded the feminist blog, IntLaw Grrls and she contributed to it frequently and energetically. A prolific writer, Lewis addressed with equal vigor and incisiveness current events and human rights theory. On behalf of Northeastern's Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE), Professor Lewis drafted the Boston Principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Non-citizens.

Professor Lewis was an indefatigable contributor to the community of progressive human rights scholars and practitioners. She was a founding co-chairperson of the American Society of International Law's (ASIL) International Disability Rights Interest Group and served on the ASIL executive council. She served on the board of governors of the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), and in 2015, she received from SALT the prestigious M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award. The daughter of Jamaican parents, Professor Lewis anchored her scholarship in the experiences of her younger years, as well as the challenges she faced navigating the academic world as a person with a visual impairment.She described these influences in the following terms:

As an African American feminist law professor who is visually impaired and the daughter of immigrants, I am often torn as to which social justice organizing conference to attend first on any given day. Many characteristics at the core of my identity are under attack in the United States and globally, and may continue to be in the twenty-first century. I learn more each day about survival in the intersection of racism, sexism, abel-ism, and nativism. Perhaps that is the basis for my attraction to the international human rights movement.[1]

Blossom Stephenson, Hope Lewis' mother, cared for her only child in the last decades of her life. A professional nurse who was born and educated in the country of Jamaica, Ms. Stephenson's unstinting support made it possible for Professor Lewis to remain professionally productive, and in the process, Blossom Stephenson became, herself, a dedicated fan of Professor Lewis' community of friends and colleagues here at Northeastern, and a promoter of the school's programs. She was determined to safeguard the legacy of Professor Lewis at the school to which she dedicated her entire academic career. This project is, hence, in tribute to Blossom Stephenson's life and vision.

[1] Hope Lewis, Global Intersections: Critical Race Feminist Human Rights and Inter/national Black Women, 50 Me.L Rev. 309, 309-10 (1998).

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THANK YOU

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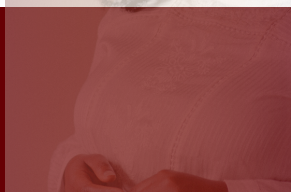

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