PROFESSOR ALEX M. JOHNSON JR. leads the Center for the Study of Race and Law. An expert in critical race theory, property, trusts and estates, and real estate transactions, Johnson’s recent research has examined the social construction of race and ethnicity and its impact on law and legal issues. He formerly served as dean of the University of Minnesota Law School and vice provost for faculty recruitment and retention at the University of Virginia.

RACE AND LAW

LAWYERS CANNOT FULLY UNDERSTAND the American legal landscape without studying the impact of race. The Law School founded the Center for the Study of Race and Law in 2003 to provide opportunities for students, scholars, practitioners and community members to examine and exchange ideas related to race and law through lectures, symposia and scholarship. The center also coordinates with the Law School to offer a concentration of courses on race and law, and serves as a resource for faculty whose teaching or scholarship addresses subjects related to race.

CURRICULUM Virginia offers courses in civil rights and anti-discrimination law, but equally important is a wide array of courses in constitutional law and history. These offerings reflect the ways in which the struggle for civil rights shaped — and continues to shape — our country and institutions. Each year the Center for the Study of Race and Law brings a visiting professor to teach a short course.

PAST VISITORS INCLUDE:

RICHARD BANKS, Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law, Stanford Law School
DOROTHY BROWN, professor of law, Emory Law School
DEVON CARBADO, professor of law and former vice dean of the faculty, UCLA School of Law
MICHAEL KLARMAN, Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

BEFORE BROWN, V. BOARD OF EDUCATION, the early civil rights movement explored avenues to create equality for African-Americans that have mostly been abandoned today, argues PROFESSOR RISA GOLUBOFF in her groundbreaking book on the history of civil rights law. “The Lost Promise of Civil Rights” explores the fight for black economic and labor rights from the 1930s until the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing “separate but equal” schools set the stage for looking at race through the lens of integration in education. The result of abandoning this path to civil rights, Goluboff claims, is an inability to resolve the troubling legacy of racial economic inequality that remains today.

“Brown isn’t only the end of segregation, it’s the end of an era of experimentation. In pushing us in that one direction, we lose the other possible directions that had existed before Brown. And in particular we lose images of civil rights and civil rights claims that were more concerned with economics, that were more concerned with material inequality than with stigma or classifications on their own.”
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The Center for the Study of Race and Law coordinates and promotes the substantial array of existing School programs on race and law, and enhances these offerings through sponsoring events that address issues of race and law. Recent center-sponsored events include:

- A two-day conference on increasing diversity in the legal profession that featured NAACP General Counsel KIM KEENAN ’87 and Virginia Supreme Court Justice CLEO POWELL ’82.
- A debate between Ward Connerly, the founder and president of the American Civil Rights Institute, and UVA law professor Kim Forde-Mazrui on the legality of affirmative action in higher education.

COURSES

African-American Lawyers from the Civil War to the Present
American Legal History
American Social and Legal History
Civil Rights Litigation
Civil War and the Constitution
Constitutional History I: American Revolution to 1865
Constitutional History II: The 20th Century
Crime and Punishment in American History
Criminal Adjudication
Criminal Investigation

Criminal Procedure Survey
Education Law, Policy and Inequality
Employment Discrimination
Family Law
Immigration Law
International Human Rights Law
Judicial Role in American History
Juvenile Justice Reform
Land Use Law
Law and Education
Law and Social Movements: Insights From Critical Race Theory
Lawyers and the Civil Rights Movement

Local Government Law
Native American Law
Profiling
Race and Law
Race and Law: Landmark Cases
Refugee Law and Policy
Rule of Law: Controlling Government
Slavery and the Constitution
Social Science in Law
Special Education Law
Urban Law and Policy

CLINICS

Immigration Law Clinic
International Human Rights Law Clinic

EVENTS

The Center for the Study of Race and Law coordinates and promotes the substantial array of existing Law School programs on race and law, and enhances these offerings by sponsoring additional programs, often in partnership with interested student organizations. Recent center-sponsored events include:

- THE SUPREME COURT, SOCIAL CHANGE AND POLITICAL BACKLASH, with Harvard Law School Professor Michael Klarman

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REVISITED: FISHER V. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, a debate between Ward Connerly, the founder and president of the American Civil Rights Institute, and UVA law professor Kim Forde-Mazrui on the legality of affirmative action in higher education.

RACE AND LAW

www.law.virginia.edu/race

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