



# 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.



PROFESSOR **KIM FORDE-MAZRUI** leads the **CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND LAW**. His scholarship focuses on equal protection, especially involving race and sexual orientation, and has addressed issues such as affirmative action, remedies for past discrimination, racial profiling, and the role of race in juries and adoption.



**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.

## THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND LAW

each year brings a visiting professor to teach a short course. **PAST VISITORS INCLUDE:**

- **RALPH RICHARD BANKS** — *Stanford Law School*
- **KHIARA M. BRIDGES** — *UC Berkeley School of Law*
- **MOHAMMAD FADEL** — *University of Toronto Faculty of Law*
- **MICHAEL J. KLARMAN** — *Harvard Law School*
- **MARI MATSUDA** — *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law*
- **JUAN F. PEREA** — *Loyola University Chicago School of Law*
- **CAMILLE GEAR RICH** — *USC Gould School of Law*

### PLAINTIFFS

in the *Sines v. Kessler* federal lawsuit, including lead plaintiff **ELIZABETH SINES '19**, recently claimed a significant victory against white supremacists who organized the infamous 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville. "A jury convened by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia found the

defendants liable under Virginia law, for both civil conspiracy and racial, religious and ethnic harassment. The result was an award of more than \$25 million for the nine plaintiffs.

In January, Sines joined an online panel hosted by the school's Center for the Study of Race and Law to talk about holding the white supremacists accountable. Now an attorney at Venable



in Baltimore, she explained why she decided to participate in the lawsuit.

"It felt like I was in a position to be able

to stand up and use my voice to speak out against this hatred," she said. "And I felt like I should do that in any forum or in

any way that I could, whether that be counterprotesting or joining this lawsuit. And I knew that there would be people who couldn't

join this lawsuit — who didn't feel comfortable for safety concerns."

After the victory in court, Sines wrote in an email to the Law School, "I am so grateful for the never-ending support the UVA Law community has shown me over these four years. It has meant the world to me and made me all the more proud to be a UVA Law alum."

# THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND LAW

and other Law School organizations often host events that bring **EQUITY** to the **FOREFRONT**.



## EXPLORING RACE THROUGH DISCUSSION

UVA LAW RECENTLY HONORED THE LEGACY OF ITS **FIRST BLACK STUDENT, GREGORY SWANSON**, with a ceremony and the creation of the Gregory H. Swanson Award, which recognizes students with traits that Swanson embodied, including a commitment to justice within the community. **JAH AKANDE '19** and **TOCCARA NELSON '19**, pictured with **DEAN RISA GOLUBOFF**, were the inaugural recipients of the annual award.



Harvard Law professor **RANDALL L. KENNEDY** delivered the McCorkle Lecture at UVA Law, on the topic "From Protest to Law: Triumphs and Defeats in Struggles for Racial Justice, 1950-1970."



**ELAINE JONES '70**, the first Black woman to graduate from UVA Law and the first to lead the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, recently spoke about her career during a ceremony marking the hanging of her portrait at UVA Law.

### COURSES AND SEMINARS

American Legal History Seminar  
Asian Americans and the Law  
Civil Rights and Anti-discrimination Law  
Civil Rights Litigation  
The Civil War and

the Constitution  
Criminal Adjudication  
Criminal Investigation  
Criminal Procedure Survey  
Critical Race Theory  
Designing Democracy: Participation  
Education Law Survey  
Employment Discrimination  
Family Law  
Identity, Law and

Politics Seminar  
Immigration Law and Policy  
International Human Rights Law  
Land Use Law  
Latinos and the Law  
Law and Inequality Colloquium  
Law of Place and Place of Law  
Law, Inequality and Education Reform

Native American Law  
Poverty in Law, Literature and Culture  
Poverty Law, Advocacy and Policy  
Race and Criminal Justice  
Race and Slavery on UVA's North Grounds  
Race, Education and Opportunity  
Race, Law and Democracy

Racial Ambiguity  
Blues  
Racial Justice and Law  
Regulation of the Political Process  
Reparations: Identity, Law and Politics  
Reproductive Rights and Justice  
Social Science in Law  
Urban Law and Policy

### CLINICS

Civil Rights Clinic  
International Human Rights Law Clinic  
Project for Informed Reform Clinic

*These courses represent the 2020-23 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.*

## FACULTY RESEARCHING THE CUTTING EDGE



**THOMAS FRAMPTON** studies criminal law and constitutional criminal procedure in light of racial inequality, social hierarchies and the expansion of the carceral state.



**CRAIG KONNOTH** explores issues of health and civil rights, and health data, in his scholarship. His work looks broadly at minority and marginalized communities, including the LGBT community.



**JOY MILLIGAN** studies the inter-section of law and inequality, with a particular focus on race-based economic inequality, and federal officials' long-term role in extending racial segregation.



**KIMBERLY JENKINS ROBINSON**, editor of the book "A Federal Right to Education," is an expert on how federal and state law and policy can close educational opportunity gaps.

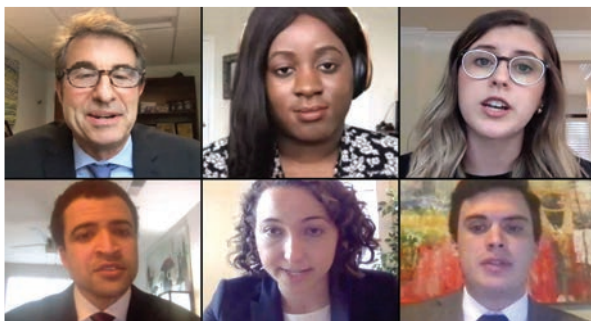


**BERTRALL ROSS** focuses on constitutional law and theory, election law, and legislation and statutory interpretation, and is concerned with the inclusion of marginalized communities in administrative and political processes.

## WORKING TOWARD SOLUTIONS ON RACIAL DISPARITIES

**UVA LAW STUDENTS** recently worked on a series of reports recommending policy changes to reduce racial inequity in Virginia.

Released in 2021 and 2022, the reports by the Commission to Examine Racial Inequity in Virginia Law recommend changes in laws and policies involving housing, education, criminal justice, health, environmental justice and agricultural equity.



FROM TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE: **PROFESSOR ANDREW BLOCK, TRUST KUPUPIKA '22, KELSEY MASSEY '21, WES WILLIAMS '22, JULIET BUESING '21 and CHRIS YARRELL '22** presented to the Governor's Commission to Examine Racial Inequality in the Law.

Former Gov. Ralph Northam created the commission in 2019 to look at laws and regulations

in Virginia that were either explicitly racist or had negative and disparate impacts on people of color.

Several students worked on the project as research assistants and through the State and Local

Government Policy Clinic under the direction of Professor Andrew Block, who also served as the commission's vice chair.

Law student Chris Yarrell '22 said the experience was a unique opportunity. "This project has served as a sobering reminder of the lasting, intergenerational impact of state-sponsored racism in our systems and structures," Yarrell said.



law.virginia.edu/race

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