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 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.

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The center also 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

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.

**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**

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
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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.


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
- 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.

**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.

**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 intersection of law and inequality, with a particular focus on race-based inequality, and federal officials’ long-term role in extending racial segregation.

_Thomas Frampton_ studies criminal law and constitutional criminal procedure in light of racial inequality, social hierarchies, and the expansion of the carceral state.

**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.

From top left clockwise: Professor Andrew Block, Trust Kupupira ’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.