Welcome rebels to RebLaw 26.

It’s been a hard year of struggle for people in movements and out of them, for people of color, for trans and queer people, for the environment and healthcare, for immigrants and asylum seekers, for poor people.

RebLaw this year is on a holiday traditionally associated with love, and in this letter we wanted to talk about radical and revolutionary love, mutual aid, and community self-defense. Rebellious lawyering has always been about love for the communities we’re part of and those we serve, and acting with love, compassion, and generosity is how we stay safe and protect each other.

We believe in lawyering that enforces radical equality, not hierarchy and domination. As lawyers, whether we’re fighting for immigrants, the climate, criminal defendants, those who have faced discrimination, activists, youth, accessibility, the houseless, racial justice, queer liberation, gender equality, or a world without borders, we will be just one part of a thriving community of activists, workers, organizers, and other everyday people; not above, not below, but a part.

There’s been a lot of talk about self-care and about burnout recently. It’s hard to be on all the time, and the world is in crisis around us. But with luck, we can find joy and freedom in one another. Gerald López says of progressive lawyering that “it must be anchored in the world it is trying to change.” He started a law practice along with three former public defenders, helping the disenfranchised. If it’s not about going out into the world and fighting like hell, what is it about?
Sure, the state is particularly reactionary right now, and that leads to unbridled horrors and endless harm. But even with a more progressive administration, if one comes, there will be profound injustice, and folks will have to be there to fight it. Lawyers and lawyering can’t be the center of that, but we can be an integral part of it if we act from a place of humility, courage, listening, and love. We will always be in struggle, and through struggle we will win.

We aspire to live from a place of fierce radical love, and we invite you to do the same. In the panels and keynotes you listen to, we invite you to think about how these principles are being lived out in the lives and actions of our speakers as they’ve travelled their journeys through the world.

In the words of Assata Shakur,

It is our duty to fight for our freedom.
It is our duty to win.
We must love each other and support each other.
We have nothing to lose but our chains.

Your heart is a muscle the size of your fist. Keep loving, keep fighting.

Pirzada Ahmad
Rhea Christmas
Brooke Dekolf
Eli Feasley
Olympia Karageorgiou
Pirzada Ahmad (he/him/his) tries to approach the practice of law from a critical race perspective and has a deep appreciation for the movement lawyering framework. When Pirzada is not busy with his clinics, he is probably playing with his cat, Mo.

Rhea Christmas (she/her) is a second year law student from New Jersey. She believes in the power of community organizing to effectuate change. A list of Rhea’s favorite things in no particular order include: smoothies, bad Netflix shows, CrossFit, trivia and hanging out with two of the most adorable bunnies in New Haven.

Brooke Dekolf (she/her) is a second year law student from New Jersey. She believes the law should be responsive to the needs of the communities it impaces; and she is passionate about climate politics and reproductive justice. In between responding to emails, Brooke spends her time baking bread and hanging out with her two bunnies.

Eli Feasley (they/he) loves collective liberation and mutual aid and hates prisons and policing. Eli has a long and storied past as an antifascist, a builder of adorable educational software, a subject of brutal arrests and a felony charge, and being a sweet transsexual. Eli is in too many clinics and teaches high school students Constitutional Law.

Olympia Karageorgiou (she/her) is a second year law student from Dallas, Texas. Olympia is now part of the Reentry Clinic, where she works on school discipline and special education cases in the K-12 space. Olympia is a proud member of the Black Law Students Association, Women of Color Collective, Clinical Student Board, and a first generation college student.
Registration, check-in, and t-shirt sales will be
Friday 1 - 6 & Saturday 9 - 2
in Room 122
Quiet room 110, Retreat rooms 108 and 112

**Friday, February 14th**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>3:30-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>4:00-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
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<td>5:45-6:45 PM</td>
<td>Opening Keynote - Judge Reeves</td>
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<td>7:00-8:30 PM</td>
<td>Caucuses</td>
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<td>9:00-2:00 AM</td>
<td>Social at Gryphon’s Pub</td>
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**Saturday, February 15th**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-9:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00 AM</td>
<td>Keynote - Kerry Ellington</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-11:45 AM</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45-1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:30 PM</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>1:30-1:45 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>1:45-3:15 PM</td>
<td>Session 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15-3:45 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45-5:15 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session - Justice Impact Bar</td>
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Friday Schedule

Session I, 2-3:30

Home is the Mouth of a Shark: The Roots of Forced Migration 120
How Social Media Surveillance Funnels Youth into the School-to-Prison Pipeline 127
Hope in Times of Crisis: Climate, Immigration and Criminal Justice Auditorium
Criminalizing the Right to Dissent: Movement Lawyering in Support of Black, Indigenous, and Palestinian Rights 129

2:45-3:45 Being Allies to Southern Communities and Movements Coffee Chat 124

Session II, 4-5:30

The South has Something to Say A Conversation Between the Jackson, MS Community and Yale Law Civil Rights Students Auditorium
How Corporate Constitutional Rights Harm You, Your Family, Your Community, Your Environment, and Democracy Itself 129
The Movement Lawyering Model 127
Abolishing Immigrant Detention 120
Systemic Violence, Rights Abuses, and Animal Agriculture 128

Judge Reeves Opening Keynote 5:45-6:45

Auditorium Overflow: 120 and 127

Caucuses (7:00-8:30)
FGP/Working Class~QPOC~Disability~Trans

Party at Gryphon’s (9:00 - 2:00)
**Saturday Schedule**

**Breakfast, 8-9**

**Kerry Ellington Keynote 9-10**
Auditorium
Overflow: 120 and 127

**Session 3, 10:15-11:45**
Collective Action and Environmental Justice
Auditorium
The Right to Seek Asylum Under Attack:
On-the-Ground Perspectives from Immigration Attorneys
Reclaiming Our Legal Education:
Alternatives By and For Progressive Law Students
Charting Your Own Path In Radical Lawyering
Immigration Public Defense in 2020:
Sustainability and Resilience in Direct Legal Services
Justice Impact Movement

**Lunch & Breakouts 12:00-1:30**
Impact Justice • People’s Parity Project • Climate Justice
Free Speech • Law and Political Economy • #NoTechForICE
Intergenerational Justice • Queer Liberation • Immigration
National Security • Movement Lawyering

**Session 4, 1:45-3:15**
Legislating Through Experience -
System Reform Powered by
Justice Impact Led Advocacy and Legislation
Stop Solitary-Connecticut
Decarceration, Abolition and Liberation:
We Don’t Need Police in Reproductive Justice
Youth Movement Leaders Speak: Our Rights
 Emerging Challenges to Free Speech
U.S. Immigration Enforcement at the Southern Border:
A Firsthand Account of the Legal and Humanitarian Crisis

**Plenary Session, 3:45-5:15**
Leading through Experience:
Formerly Incarcerated Lawyers Break Barriers and
Raise the Bar in Law and Justice for All
"Home is the Mouth of a Shark": The Roots of Forced Migration

This panel explores the United States’ role in the migration patterns driving people to this country, with an emphasis on U.S. foreign policy and climate change as a “threat multiplier.” The distinction between forced migration and voluntary migration hinges on a person’s agency in their decision whether or not to move. But when the forces causing individuals to migrate to the U.S. border — political strife, economic collapse, environmental destruction — are fueled by U.S. policy and capitalism, the causes of migration on both individual and systemic levels are often manifold. Who is defining and measuring agency, and why does this distinction matter? How does climate change affect this classification? (The title for this panel is an excerpt from the poem “Home” by Warsan Shire.)

Azadeh Shahshahani is Legal & Advocacy Director with Project South. Azadeh has worked for a number of years in the U.S. South to protect and defend immigrants and Muslim, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities. She previously served as president of the National Lawyers Guild and as National Security/Immigrants’ Rights Project Director with the ACLU of Georgia. Azadeh serves on the Advisory Council of the American Association of Jurists and on the Board of Directors of Defending Rights and Dissent. Azadeh has served as a trial monitor in Turkey, an election monitor in Venezuela and Honduras, and as a member of the jury in people's tribunals on Mexico, the Philippines, and Brazil. She has also participated in international fact-finding delegations to post-revolutionary Tunisia and Egypt as well as a delegation focused on the situation of Palestinian political prisoners. She is the author or editor of several human rights reports, including a 2017 report titled Imprisoned Justice: Inside Two Georgia Immigrant Detention Centers, as well as law review articles and book chapters focused on racial profiling, immigrants’ rights, and surveillance of Muslim-Americans. Her writings have appeared in the Guardian, the Nation, MSNBC, USA Today, Aljazeera, and HuffPost, among others.
DORIS REINA-LANDAVERDE immigrated to the United States from El Salvador in 2000. She has been a custodian at Harvard since 2006 and is an elected steward and a leading activist in her union, SEIU 32BJ. As an immigrant, Muslim, working mother and a recipient of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), she has struggled on many fronts and is a leader in the movement nationally and on campus as co-founder of the Harvard TPS Coalition.

As senior partnership officer for climate justice and crisis response at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Salote Soqo works to identify, develop and evaluate a human rights portfolio focused on environmental issues affecting vulnerable individuals and communities, with special emphasis on resource rights such as the human right to water, food sovereignty and climate change. Before joining UUSC, Soqo worked as a regional program coordinator in water equity and climate justice for The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW). She was also the climate and carbon management fellow with EJCW and the Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI); prior to that, she worked as an environmental consultant in Fiji. Soqo attained her undergraduate degrees from the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, and the University of the South Pacific, in Fiji. She also holds a master’s degree in environmental management from the University of San Francisco.

AMA FRANCIS is a 2018-2020 Climate Law Fellow at the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School. Ama focuses on developing legal solutions to disaster displacement and climate migration at the Sabin Center. She also analyzes and supports the implementation of adaptive measures in small islands and least developed countries, and researches topics related to international climate law. Since joining the Sabin Center, Ama has presented at the World Bank, the United Nations, the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and at multiple universities, including Columbia University. Ama graduated from Yale Law School in 2018 where she was an active member of Yale’s Environmental Justice Clinic, a student director of Immigration Legal Services, and led New Directions in Environmental Law 2018. She has interned at Earthjustice, Islands First, and Dominica’s Ministry of Health and Environment. Ama has also represented Dominica at the United Nations climate conference. A native Dominican, Ama is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated from Harvard University in 2011.
Social Media Surveillance Funnels Youth into the School-to-Prison Pipeline

There were at least 130 incidents of gunfire on school grounds in 2019, according to Everytown for Gun Safety. Of those, 80 were at facilities serving day care through 12th grade. As schools across the country grapple with the question of how to keep students in their care safe from gunfire, many are turning to one method as a solution: social media surveillance. In some communities, keeping tabs on students’ social media posts has alerted school officials to students in distress and presented opportunities for nonviolent intervention. But all too often, such surveillance is unevenly applied, disproportionately resulting in youth of color being criminalized for their online speech in a way that white youth are not. This panel seeks to expose the harms of a new kind of discrimination, and offer suggestions for how schools can protect students while also upholding their First and Fourth Amendment rights.

Sarah Hinger is a Senior Staff Attorney with the ACLU Racial Justice Program, where her work focuses on education and youth justice. She is the co-author of the report, Bullies In Blue: The Origins and Consequences of School Policing, and has litigated numerous cases challenging the criminalization and policing of youth of color in schools, including Sigma Beta vs. Riverside County, challenging a probation program targeting youth identified as “pre-delinquent,” Kenny v. Wilson, challenging the constitutionality of S.C.’s “disturbing school law,” used to arrest students, disproportionately Black students, for typical adolescent conduct, and Winston v. Salt Lake City, challenging the gang profiling of high school students. Prior to joining the ACLU, Sarah was a Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities Section, where she received the Assistant Attorney General’s Distinguished Service Award, a Marvin M. Karpatkin Fellow at the ACLU, and a fellow and staff attorney at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. She completed her J.D. at Columbia Law School, her M.Phil. at the University of Cambridge, and her B.A. at the University of Virginia.
Social Media Surveillance Funnels Youth: Room 127

DESMOND UPTON PATTON is a Public Interest Technologist at Columbia University who uses qualitative and computational data collection methods to examine the relationship between youth and gang violence and social media; how and why violence, grief, and identity are expressed on social media; and the real world impact these expressions have on wellbeing for low-income youth of color. He is the corresponding author of the article, Stop and Frisk Online: Theorizing Everyday Racism in Digital Policing in the Use of Social Media for Identification of Criminal Conduct and Associations. Dr. Patton’s research on ‘internet banging’ has been featured in the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, NPR, Boston Magazine, ABC News, and Vice. It was cited in an Amici Curiae Brief submitted to the United States Supreme Court in Elonis v. United States, which examined the interpretation of threats on social media.

HARSHA PANDURANGA is counsel in the Brennan Center’s Liberty & National Security Program. He frequently writes about discriminatory policing and social media surveillance, advocating against the Trump Administration’s policy of vetting immigrants’ social media profiles in making visa determinations. His work has been featured in press outlets including the Atlantic, Slate, Daily Beast, and Just Security. Panduranga received his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Michigan.
Hope in Times of Crisis: Climate, Immigration and Criminal Justice

Massive fires ravaging Australia, inhumane conditions in immigration detention, the growth of the prison-industrial complex. Living through these times may often feel like we are facing one crisis after another. This panel seeks to foster a conversation about how lawyers and activists working on a range of social justice issues navigate the current context and how they find resilience when it seems impossible to do so.

How do advocates think about their own work in times of crises and how do they maintain the stamina and energy to move forward, particularly in light of the current government and the setbacks it has promoted in climate and immigration policy, just to name a few. How do lawyers and activists conceive and implement their current strategies? How do different systems of oppression interact with each other and how can we build solidarity across movements in the current political context?

Sherrie Anne Andre, Sierra Club

Sherrie was previously a community organizer with and co-founder of The FANG Collective, a grassroots organization based in the Northeast dedicated to building, supporting, and escalating nonviolent resistance to the fracked gas industry while supporting other movements for justice. Sherrie is motivated by their Thai/Puerto Rican background and previous experience in the domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy world as they research and examine the social impacts of infrastructure development, cultural integration in community centered services, the survival tactics of mixed raced folx, and healing practices within direct action.
Ravi Ragbir, New Sanctuary Coalition

Ravi Ragbir is a NYC immigrant rights activist who has helped thousands of people as an organizer and now as the Executive Director of the New Sanctuary Coalition of New York. He works directly with those facing deportation to empower them in struggle to remain in the US. He has trained advocates from various immigrant and allied organizations and many faith-based organizations nationwide on the impact of our immigration policies, on creating sanctuary spaces, and on how to accompany immigrants through the challenging deportation process. Working with these groups Ravi has organized Beyond Your Rights and community forums to educate and train communities to advocate for the individual but more importantly to advocate for a fair and humane immigration policy.

Ravi has been called to testify before the New York City Council, has presented at both local and national conferences, and provides information on immigration to city and state agencies, and to consulates. He spearheaded the campaign for New York State legislation to confront the situation of children being brought to New York by Immigration and Custom Enforcement and most recently the targeted separation of children from their families. Ravi has first-hand knowledge of the deportation system because he is facing removal. He is fighting to remain here with his family, friends and supporters. He faces ICE check-in once again in late January 2020 with the ever present threat of deportation.
Hope in times of crisis: Auditorium

Jeanne Ortiz Ortiz, Pro Bono Net

Jeanne is a bilingual attorney and coordinates, develops and grows digital initiatives that strengthen the work of legal advocates and mobilize pro bono volunteers helping communities with their legal problems. For close to two years, she was Pro Bono Net’s Disaster Response Legal Fellow and organized initiatives to support disaster survivors and attorneys working on disaster relief and recovery efforts. Before joining PBN, Jeanne provided free legal representation and employment discrimination litigation on behalf of low-income LGBT individuals in Puerto Rico and worked as a legal fellow with the Central Alabama Fair Housing Center. She also founded an award-winning Ms. JD chapter in her law school and facilitated Know-Your-Rights community events to low-income and low-wealth communities in Puerto Rico. Jeanne is a member of the ABA-YLD’s Disaster Legal Services Program, where she volunteers to coordinate immediate and free temporary legal help to disaster survivors across the country.
Criminalizing the Right to Dissent: Movement Lawyering in Support of Black, Indigenous, and Palestinian Rights

Speakers from Black, Palestinian, and Indigenous movements and movement lawyering organizations will describe the wave of anti-protest legislation sweeping the nation. The panel will focus on the critical infrastructure bills attacking Black lives, water protectors, and climate justice activists, on anti-boycott legislation targeting Boycott Divestment and Sanctions for Palestinian rights (BDS), the court challenges so far, and the attacks on Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. The panel’s primary aim is to discuss how we will resist in joint struggle.

Marbre Stahly-Butts, Executive Director of Law for Black Lives, works closely with organizers, lawyers and legal advocates to build a responsive legal infrastructure for movement organizations and to advance and actualize radical policy. Marbre is a founding member of the National Bail Out Collective and Movement for Black Lives Policy Table and helped develop the Vision for Black Lives Policy Platform. Marbre was a Soros Justice Fellow and attended Yale Law School. Before law school Marbre received her Masters in African Studies from Oxford University and worked in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Meera Shah joined Palestine Legal in 2019. She supports the organization’s casework and public education and oversees the advocacy work on free speech, academic freedom, and the right to boycott. Meera has devoted her career to advancing human rights and social justice for marginalized communities. Before joining Palestine Legal, Meera was a Senior Legal Advisor at the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she helped launch a program to ensure the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls affected by conflict. Meera earned her JD from Columbia Law School. She also holds a MA in Arab Studies from Georgetown University and a BA in international relations from Stanford University.
Carl Williams is a movement lawyer dedicated to creating the conditions where people are free from all systems of oppression. Carl has practiced criminal and civil rights law in Massachusetts for over twelve years. He began his legal career as a criminal defense attorney with the Roxbury Defenders. More recently he served as a racial justice attorney with the ACLU of Massachusetts. And he is currently the executive director of the Water Protector Legal Collective, defending Indigenous movements that are defending the earth and water. He is a long time member of the National Lawyers Guild and has served as chair of its Massachusetts board. Carl was a Distinguished Lecturer on Public Interest Law at Northeastern University School of Law and a Practitioner-in-Residence at Cornell Law teaching a course on the history and theory of movement lawyering.

Luna Martinez, Berkeley Law. A Mexico City native, Luna’s political education cannot be separated from her family’s history of generational displacement, which instilled in her a deep-seated commitment to support struggles for collective liberation. Luna is a member of her school’s chapter of SJP, the Womxn of Color Collective, the Journal of African-American Law and Policy, and Queers United in Revolutionary Subversion.
Being Allies to Southern Communities and Movements
Coffee Chat

The south has historically remained an attractive destination for students, non-profits, political spaces and philanthropy for many reasons. The relationship between these entities and the southern people and communities has far too often been extractive, exploitative and inequitable. In this chat, as southern people, we invite the Reb Law community to hear from us about our self-determined framework of nurturing equitable allies.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Alex Lawson is the Corporate Project Manager at Hope Enterprise Corporation. Alex is a lifelong Mississippian who centers economic justice and racial equity at the core of how he moves and builds community.

Noel Didla is an immigrant single mom from South India making Jackson, Mississippi home. Noel will focus on the role of brown and white allies and the larger global context of political movements in solidarity.

This chat is co-sponsored by the Women of Color Collective and Yale Law Women
This panel will focus on the self determining of people’s agendas by deep southern communities. The panelists will discuss the Southern Mayors Agenda and share the human rights strategies that have been evolving to inform, build and shift power in southern communities. Yale law students who recently visited Jackson for a civil rights immersion will join Jackson panelists to share their experiences of learning to be mindful allies to the self determination shaping in the Deep South.

In this panel, ideas such as self determination, grassroots ideologies, movement and municipal relationships, people centered agendas, community organizing, southern civic engagement strategies and culture of accountability will be honestly discussed.

The panelists are hosting a coffee chat from 2:45-3:45 Friday in Room 124.

**Willie Jamaal Wright** is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Rutgers where his research and teaching interests include urban geography Black geographies, and the afterlives of Black political movements in the United States. Dr. Wright is a recipient of the Ford Foundation pre-doctoral Fellowship and the Urban Geography Journal’s Workshop/Seminar Award. He has published in the Southeastern Geographer, The Black Scholar, Antipode, and City & Society.

**Alex** is an education professional at his alma mater, Millsaps College. Alex is the co-chair of Mayor Lumumba’s millennial round table and the vice chair of the Jackson Redevelopment Authority. - Alex will contextualize the millennial engagement in economics and civic life and their participation on governance.
Alex Lawson is a financial services and community economic development professional passionate about helping marginalized communities reach their full potential by shifting norms in economic policy, social innovation, and business strategies. He is currently the Corporate Project Manager for HOPE (a family of nonprofit community development financial institutions consisting of Hope Enterprise Corporation, Hope Federal Credit Union, and Hope Policy Institute). In this role, Alex manages enterprise-wide projects related to affordable housing, healthy food access, small business development, corporate innovation, and disaster recovery. Prior to his current role, Alex helped HOPE raise more than $60 million as a member of the Investor Relations team where he played an integral role in developing the company’s blight elimination strategy for the Mississippi Delta and worked extensively with local, regional, and federal funders. Before joining HOPE, Alex was the Founding Director of Operations for a middle school in Jackson, MS, a Financial Analyst for a social media technology firm, and a higher education professional at his alma mater, Millsaps College. Alex is the co-chair of Mayor Lumumba’s millennial round table and the vice chair of the Jackson Redevelopment Authority. - Alex will contextualize the millennial engagement in economics and civic life and their participation on governance.

Noel Didla is an immigrant single mom from South India making Jackson, Mississippi home. Noel will focus on the role of brown and white allies and the larger global context of political movements in solidarity.
Harm of Corporate Constitutional Rights: Room 129

How Corporate Constitutional Rights Harm You, Your Family, Your Community, Your Environment, and Democracy Itself

The most dangerous and pervasive forms of corruption in American politics and government are excessive election spending and so-called corporate constitutional rights that include, but also transcend corporate influence in elections.

The corporate constitutional rights doctrine has no legal foundation, yet harm We the People because they supersede laws passed by the People’s elected representatives, causing harm to public health and safety, workplace safety, the environment and democracy itself. We the people are the ultimate sovereigns. The People’s will should not be overruled by unelected judges.

The proposed We the People Amendment, promoted by a growing grassroots national movement, will abolish all corporate constitutional rights. If corporate power is not controlled, corporations will continue to recklessly do whatever they can to maximize profits even if it endangers the economy, the nation, democracy itself and all life on earth.

Greg Coleridge, Outreach Director, Move to Amend Coalition; Principal with the Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy
Alexander Kolokotronis, Yale University PhD Candidate in Political Science, Connecticut Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) Ecosocialism Working Group member
Our panel will illuminate the widespread and systemic violence, forced labor, and rights abuses plaguing animal exploitation sectors. Our speakers bring years of diverse experience and zealous advocacy on behalf of people and nonhuman animals exploited most by these sectors. This panel will engage in a timely and important discussion about well-documented trafficking of vulnerable human communities including racial minorities, migrants, and children alongside nonhuman animals. Our goal is to highlight the role movement lawyers do and can play in challenging the structures that allow abuses to go unnoticed and unaddressed, as well as identify a path forward.

**Briana Beltran** teaches in the Farmworker Legal Assistance Clinic at Cornell Law School. Since joining the clinic in 2016, she has supervised students representing farmworker clients on immigration and employment matters in upstate New York, throughout the United States, and internationally, and has co-taught a lawyering skills seminar to Clinic students. Prior to joining Cornell Law School, she served as a staff attorney for nearly four years at Southern Migrant Legal Services, A Project of TexasRioGrande Legal Aid, Inc., in Nashville, TN. There, she represented migrant farmworkers in a six-state service area on a range of employment matters, including litigation in federal court and preparation of applications for immigration relief based on workplace abuses. The majority of her clients were workers present in the United States on H-2A temporary agricultural visas, and most of her clients’ claims were for violations of the H-2A program regulations, federal and state wage and hour law, and forced labor claims under federal anti-trafficking statutes. She also previously served as a law clerk in federal district court in the Middle District of Tennessee and has worked with workers’ rights organizations including the National Day Laborer Organizing Network and Domestic Workers United. She is a member of the Tennessee and New York State bars and a board member of the Worker Justice Center of New York. She is a graduate of Stanford University and New York University School of Law.
Cody Carlson is a staff attorney at Catholic Charities, where he represents individuals contesting removal proceedings and seeking humanitarian immigration relief. Before that he spent five years as a litigation and policy attorney for Mercy For Animals and The Humane Society of the United States, where he developed several impactful consumer class actions and helped pass some of the nation’s strongest animal protection laws. Before graduating magna cum laude from Brooklyn Law School and clerking in the Eastern District of New York, Cody became involved in animal issues while working as an undercover animal cruelty investigator at some of the nation’s worst factory farms and puppy mills, where he witnessed the suffering that these operations inflict on workers and animals firsthand. His writing on animal law issues has been published in outlets including The Atlantic, and his work has been profiled Rolling Stone, The Daily Show, and others. Cody lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Stephanie Harris is currently the senior legislative affairs manager for the Animal Legal Defense Fund. She has extensive experience in lobbying, strategy development, coalition building, and volunteer management. Previously, Stephanie worked at the Humane Society of the United States as the senior state director for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Additionally, she directed the 2016 Massachusetts ballot campaign to phase out cruel confinement of farmed animals as well as the sale of products coming from such confinement, worked on two wildlife protection ballot campaigns and numerous farmed animal protection legislative campaigns. In her free time, Stephanie enjoys hiking, kayaking, and binge-reading sci-fi. She works remotely in Cambridge, MA.
The Movement Lawyering Model

What is movement lawyering? Why is it a good model for community-based law practice? Is it a sustainable model across racial, cultural, and spatial contexts? This panel invites three inspiring founders of movement lawyering organizations to answer these, and other, questions.

Amanda Alexander, founding Executive Director of the Detroit Justice Center, is a racial justice lawyer who works alongside community-based movements to end mass incarceration and build thriving and inclusive cities. Originally from Michigan, Amanda has worked at the intersection of racial justice and community development in Detroit, New York, and South Africa for more than a decade. As a 2013-2015 Soros Justice Fellow, Amanda launched the Prison & Family Justice Project at University of Michigan Law School to provide legal representation to incarcerated parents and advocate for families divided by the prison and foster care systems.

Amanda received her JD from Yale Law School, her PhD in international history from Columbia University, and her BA from Harvard College. Previously she has worked with the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, the Bronx Defenders, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the Centre for Civil Society in Durban, South Africa. As an Ella Baker Fellow at the Center for Constitutional Rights, she assisted with litigation challenging stop-and-frisk policing. As a Fulbright-Hays Scholar, Amanda conducted research on land, housing, and inclusive cities in South Africa. Her advocacy and research have won the support of an Echoing Green Fellowship, Social Science Research Council Fellowship, Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, and other fellowships and grants. Her writing has been published in The Globe & Mail, Michigan Journal of Race & Law, Harvard Journal of African-American Public Policy, Michigan Child Welfare Law Journal, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Review of African Political Economy, and other publications.
Marbre Stahly-Butts works closely with organizers and communities across the country to advance and actualize radical policy. She currently serves on the Leadership Team of the Movement For Black Lives Policy Table and helped develop the Vision for Black Lives Policy Platform. Since graduating from Yale Law School four years Marbre has supported local and national organizations from across the country in their policy development and advocacy. She joined the Center for Popular Democracy as a Soros Justice Fellow in Fall 2013. Her Soros Justice work focused on organizing and working with families affected by aggressive policing and criminal justice policies in New York City in order to develop meaningful bottom up policy reforms. While in law school, Marbre focused on the intersection of criminal justice and civil rights and gained legal experience with the Bronx Defenders, the Equal Justice Initiative and the Prison Policy Initiative. Before law school Marbre received her Masters in African Studies from Oxford University and worked in Zimbabwe organizing communities impacted by violence and then in South Africa teaching at Nelson Mandela’s alma mater. Marbre graduated from Columbia University, with a BA in African-American History and Human Rights.
Meena Jagannath co-founded the Community Justice Project, Inc. in 2015. She is a movement lawyer with an extensive background in activism and international human rights. Prior to coming to Miami, she worked for the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where she coordinated the Rape Accountability and Prevention Project, which combined direct legal representation with advocacy and capacity building of grassroots women’s groups. While using her legal skills to build the power of movements locally in South Florida, she has also brought to bear her international human rights expertise in delegations to the United Nations to elevate U.S.-based human rights issues like police accountability and Stand Your Ground laws to the international level. Meena has published several articles in law journals and other media outlets, and has spoken in numerous academic and conference settings. She received her J.D from University of Washington Law School where she was a William H. Gates Public Service Law Scholar. She also holds a Master’s degree in International Affairs (human rights concentration) from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and a B.A. in International Relations and Peace and Justice Studies from Tufts University.
Abolishing Immigration Detention

Each year the Department of Homeland Security detains upwards of 400,000 immigrants for no reason other than a place of birth violation. This panel will provide background information on the racist, xenophobic underpinnings of this civil mass incarceration system, discuss the day-to-day havoc the system wreaks in our communities, and discuss potential legal challenges that could topple certain systemic pillars with the ultimate aim of full and immediate abolition of immigration detention.

Angelo Guisado is a Staff Attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, where he specializes in government misconduct, racial justice, and immigrants’ rights issues. His practice currently focuses on challenging oppressive state power and the denial of migrants’ rights at the U.S.-Mexico border. He is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law, cum laude, and is a former law clerk to the late-Judge Damon J. Keith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Sophia Elena Gurulé is Policy Counsel in the Immigration Practice at The Bronx Defenders as well as a public defender through the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project, the first public defender program in the country for currently incarcerated immigrants in deportation proceedings. She is a prison industrial complex abolitionist and graduate of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.
Judge Reeves will be discussing life, law, and doing justice in dialogue with Conor Dwyer Reynolds, Clinical Lecturer-in-Law at Yale Law School.

Carlton W. Reeves is a judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, appointed in 2010 by President Obama. Previously, Judge Reeves worked in private practice at his own firm, Pigott Reeves Johnson, in Jackson, Mississippi, and was Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Civil Division at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Mississippi from 1995 to 2001. A graduate of the University of Virginia Law School, Judge Reeves clerked for Justice Reuben Anderson of the Supreme Court of Mississippi.

The second African American to serve as a federal judge in Mississippi, Judge Reeves is the author of a number of groundbreaking decisions, including Campaign for Southern Equality v. Bryant, which struck down the state’s same-sex marriage ban, and Jackson Women’s Health Organization v. Currier, which struck down a state law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. In a speech last year at the University of Virginia, where he was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law, Judge Reeves spoke out against present-day attacks on the judiciary, and called for greater diversity on the federal bench.
RebLaw’s caucuses aim to provide a safe space for conference participants for whom aspects of their identities may create additional challenges in the legal profession and/or deeply inform their approach to social justice and lawyering. The caucuses will be an opportunity for people to share their experiences and discuss strategies for survival and possibilities for changing the larger law school and legal cultures.

Pizza will be provided

FGP/Working Class
Room 127

Trans
Room 128

QPOC
Room 120

Disability
Room 121
**Party at Gryphon’s**

9PM-2AM | Gryphon’s Pub @ 204 York Street
RebLaw is hosting a party at Gryphon’s and you’re invited. Come, dance, delight in the day, and discuss everything you’ve learned and find accomplices for your own rebellious plans.

Be sure to bring your RebLaw name tag to get in!

**People’s Parity Project**

9:00 - 11:00 PM | Rudy’s Bar @ 1227 Chapel Street
The People’s Parity Project is a nationwide network of law students and new attorneys organizing to unrig the legal system and build a justice system that values people over profits. As law students, we believe we have a responsibility to demystify—and dismantle—the coercive legal tools that have stacked the system against the people. We’re fighting for a justice system that works for working people, especially workers of color, women, and low-wage, precarious, immigrant, disabled, and LGBTQ+ workers. Join us!

**Connecticut Bail Fund**

9:00 - 10:00 PM | Barracuda @ 1227 Chapel Street
The Connecticut Bail Fund supports individuals, families, and communities seeking freedom from the criminal justice system, ICE, DCF, and other connected systems of punishment. Come learn about our Freedom Movement for Noah and Caleb, two youth who saw their friend being murdered by police and are now being targeted by the criminal legal system. We will also be sharing about the work of our Participatory Legal Self-Defense community group, our Inside-Outside initiative to strengthen relationships and organizing across prison walls, our womxn group Sisters United, and other organizing for justice against systems of oppression in Connecticut.
Kerry Ellington is a freedom fighter, grassroots community organizer and radical educator. Kerry currently serves as a Community & Economic Development (CED) Community Organizer at New Haven Legal Assistance Association and has held positions at non-profit organizations including Teach Our Children, Youth Rights Media, Common Ground High School, Congregations Organized for New Connecticut, and New Haven Public Schools.
As a native of New York City, Ellington originally came to Connecticut to study journalism at Quinnipiac University as a first generation undergraduate student. She spent close to five years teaching at Common Ground High School, Urban Farm and Environmental Education Center where she engaged the student body in political education and social justice work. During her time at Common Ground, Kerry developed experiential learning programs for students to attend culturally-relevant performances, lectures, conferences, protests and events that helped to deepen their consciousness and broaden their lens and language for social justice, liberation and anti-racism work. She played a key leadership role in advancing conversations around institutional bias, anti-racism and racial justice, and led efforts to transform the school culture, curriculum and organizational practices, with the goal of leading to greater access and equity for Black and Brown students and staff. As a founding member of the school’s Diversity Committee, she advocated for culturally competent pedagogy, and worked to build inclusive organizational systems, policies and practices. Prior to her work at Common Ground, Kerry was a youth organizer at Youth Rights Media, where she supported young people with organizing campaigns around alternative schools and the school-to-prison pipeline. She began her organizing career as an AmeriCorps member and Public Ally at Teach Our Children, a parent-led organizing group in New Haven working to eradicate punitive school based discipline policies and practices that uphold the school-to-prison pipeline. Kerry has maintained a deep personal commitment to grassroots community organizing outside of her professional work. Her watershed moment came in 2010 when friend and fellow organizer Jewu Richardson, who was unarmed, was shot by New Haven Police. Ellington helped launch People Against Police Brutality, a grassroots organization that fiercely organizes victims, families and communities impacted by police violence and advocates for police accountability across Connecticut. She continues to advocate for victims while helping to raise money for sufficient legal defense and bail funds. She is a key leader in the Justice for Jayson Coalition, fighting for greater police accountability and oversight following the death of 15 year old Jayson Negron, who was fatally shot by Bridgeport Police officers in 2017.
This panel will discuss the issue of modern environmental activism’s emphasis on individual responsibility, in the form of actions such as consumer bans, at the expense of forcing corporate actors to stop environmental degradation. What would a collectivist and democratic approach to environmental justice look like? Who does such an approach affect? How do we hold those organizations that are the biggest contributors to climate change responsible while not also contributing to existing environmental inequality? And finally, how should we shape environmental activism to be responsive toward, rather than in opposition to, community goals and radical democracy?

Karen Anderson, she/her, is a hub coordinator of Sunrise New Haven. Sunrise is a youth-led movement to stop the climate crisis and create millions of good jobs in the process. With more than 320 local hubs across the country, Sunrise is building people power and political power for a Green New Deal: a 10-year plan mobilizing every aspect of U.S. society to achieve 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030; a guaranteed living-wage job for anyone who needs one; and a just transition for both workers and frontline communities.

Ted Hamilton is a Ph.D. student in Comparative Literature at Yale and an attorney working on climate change and social movement support. His research focuses on environmental ideologies and social change in the United States and Latin America, with a focus on the way that the human-nonhuman divide is represented in law and literature. He is also a co-founder of Climate Defense Project, which represents climate change activists engaged in civil disobedience and provides legal support to the climate justice movement.
Joshua C. Macey is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Cornell Law School who specializes in administrative law, environmental law, energy law, bankruptcy, and the regulation of financial institutions. In July 2020, he will join the University of Chicago as an Assistant Professor of Law. His work has been featured in the Wall Street Journal and Harvard Law School’s Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, and has appeared or is forthcoming in the Stanford Law Review, the Stanford Law Review Online, the Pennsylvania Law Review, the Yale Law Journal, and the Michigan Law Review.

Gerald Torres is Professor of Environmental Justice at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Associated Professor at the Yale Law School. He is former President of the Association of American Law Schools and has taught at Stanford Law School and at Harvard Law School where he served as the Oneida Nation Visiting Professor of Law. Professor Torres served as Counsel to the Attorney General on environmental matters and Indian affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice. Professor Torres has served on the Board of the Environmental Law Institute, the EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council as well as the National Petroleum Council. He is board chair of EarthDay Network and founding Chairman of the Advancement Project, the leading Civil Rights advocacy organization in the country. He is a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council. He has served as a consultant to the United Nations on environmental matters and is a life member of the American Law Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.
The Right to Seek Asylum Under Attack: On-the-Ground Perspectives from Immigration Attorneys

Immigration attorneys from the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), a non-profit organization based in Chicago with a national reach, will speak about the unique challenges facing the populations they serve: detained and separated families, children in immigrant detention shelters, and families trapped in Mexico due to the “Remain in Mexico” policy. The session will also highlight how NIJC’s direct services inform the organization’s impact litigation work generally and more specifically in terms of the legal battles against the Trump administration’s recent asylum bans and other policies around detaining and deporting asylum seekers.

Colleen Kilbride is a senior attorney with NIJC’s Family Integrity Project, where she represents asylum seekers affected by the Trump administration’s family separation policy. Prior to joining NIJC, Colleen was a paralegal at Catholic Charities Legal Services to Immigrants in Milwaukee, where she worked with victims of domestic violence on U visa and VAWA cases. She also worked at Diocesan Migrant Refugee Services in El Paso as a family-based immigration paralegal handling extreme hardship waiver cases and served as an ESL and citizenship instructor. While attending law school at night, Colleen worked in the organized labor movement including a summer working for Culinary Workers Local 226 filing unfair labor practice charges against Trump Hotel in Las Vegas. Colleen graduated magna cum laude from Augustana College with a B.A. in Spanish. She received her J.D. with pro bono honors from Georgetown University Law Center and is licensed to practice law in Illinois.

Marie Silver is a supervising attorney with the Immigrant Children’s Protection Project, where she represents unaccompanied immigrant children in their removal proceedings and applications for relief. Marie received a B.S. in Spanish and a B.A. in communications from Northwestern University, and she graduated magna cum laude from DePaul University College of Law. While a law student, Marie interned at NIJC with the Immigrant Legal Defense Project, and at the Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights. She also participated in the DePaul Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic and the Human Rights Practicum in Chiapas, Mexico. Prior to law school, Marie worked as a senior case manager in the Heartland Alliance shelters for unaccompanied immigrant children and interned with the American Red Cross.
Reclaiming Our Legal Education: Alternatives By and For Progressive Law Students

The stifling standard law school curriculum is a major impediment to students pursuing justice-oriented work—and critical to the legal academy’s role in extending and entrenching inequality and racialized and gendered subordination. The 1L course of study is often heavy on law and economics and features abstract cases divorced from their real-world consequences. The first year is also the time that so many students who enter law school seeking to promote justice turn away from their intended career.

Students at a number of law schools are taking action to reclaim their legal education. Some of this is happening through groups in contact through the Law and Political Economy student network and other efforts are being led independently by like-minded students through their NLG chapters. The alternative curriculums created by these students center justice, fighting inequality, and demystifying the exercise of power through law. And these efforts can be replicated and built on by students anywhere in the country.

This panel will present stories of efforts led by students over the past year to take back their legal education, as well as practitioner and academic perspectives. Its focus and purpose, however, will be as an organizing effort to share tools for pursuing progressive curricular change, including starting reading groups, proposing seminars, and more. The panel will also share syllabi and suggested readings as well as collect the contact information of attendees so that we can continue to provide support and pursue change together.

Corinne Blalock is the Executive Director of the Law and Political Economy Project and an Associate Research Scholar at Yale Law School. Prior to joining the LPE Project, she was a fellow at the Center for Race, Law, and Politics at Duke Law School while completing a JD/PhD. Her dissertation, The Privatization of Protection: The Neoliberal Fourteenth Amendment uses studies of political economy alongside analysis of doctrinal sources to explore how the importation of market rhetoric and private law models into public law transforms and limits the ways we imagine our society and the role of government in it.
Emma Caterine is a consumer rights attorney at The Law Office of Ahmad Keshavarz in Brooklyn, NY, specializing in abusive and deceptive practices in debt collection and credit reporting. Emma is also on the board of the Modern Money Network, a nonprofit seeking to provide information to the public on financial, fiscal, and monetary policy. Emma is a proud member of the Democratic Socialists of America. Before graduating from CUNY School of Law, Emma was a community organizer and lobbyist, and co-authored the first public report on New York’s Human Trafficking Intervention Courts. You can follow her on Twitter @emmacaterinedsa.

Sarang Shah is a second-year law student and the founder of the Law and Political Economy Society at Berkeley. Prior to enrolling in law school, Sarang worked as a writer and editor at MapLight, Crowdpac, and Palantir. His academic training prior to law is in theoretical physics. This summer, he will take up the Louis Brandeis Law and Political Economy Fellowship at the Open Markets Institute in Washington, D.C. Sarang can be reached at sarang.shah@berkeley.edu and www.sarangshah.com.

Maddie Seales graduated from Amherst College in 2009 with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, concentrating in Political Science, Sociology, and Black Studies. Prior to law school, she was an actress in Los Angeles and an Immigration Case Manager at the International Rescue Committee and BronxWorks in New York. At Miami Law, Maddie co-founded the Alternative Legal Theories Reading Group and has served as the Vice-President of the National Lawyers Guild chapter, the Community Service Co-Chair of the Black Law Students Association, and an intern in the Environmental Justice Clinic. Currently, she is the research assistant to Prof. Tamara Rice Lave. She spent the past two summers as a law clerk at the Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender and will return as a post-bar law clerk this coming fall.
Kurt Walters is a 2L at Harvard committed to combating the abuses of powerful economic actors, particularly in finance, the fossil fuel industry, and Big Tech. He is a founding board member of Harvard’s Law and Political Economy Group, an organizer holding corporate law firms accountable for promoting climate disruption, and is active with People’s Parity Project, the American Constitution Society, and the Harvard Law & Policy Review. Before law school, Kurt worked for seven years in progressive advocacy and activism, including as campaign director of Demand Progress, digital lead for Sen. Brian Schatz’s 2014 campaign, and as a research analyst for a money-in-politics reform group. He is excited to be back for his third time at RebLaw. You can follow Kurt on Twitter @kurtdwalters.
This conversation with practitioners in the field who have found their own way will focus on theories of political change, personal journeys, maintaining and building community trust and accountability as a movement lawyer, and general advice from people who have found what finding their own path in the fight for collective liberation means to them. We will discuss how each panelist became a movement practitioner, financial and emotional stability and self-care as a small or solo practitioner, and the personal cost of going up against the state in terms of being subjected to surveillance and state-sponsored harms. We will also discuss systemic barriers to starting such a practice, such as patriarchy and white supremacy. Finally, we will take on the challenge for all radical lawyers - how can we be radical in such a conservative field, and what are the most promising theories of change? Is all lawyering harm reduction at best? How can you balance your own political and legal goals and those of your client in a fight for human rights?

Moira Meltzer-Cohen’s vision of the relationship between law and justice is shaped by her commitment to radical social movements. She believes that the law is but one small tool in struggles for collective liberation. She aims to share her legal expertise with clients, who have their own skills and expertise, in order to increase their opportunities for self-determination. Moira’s law practice focuses on using the courts in the struggle for meaningful justice, including helping people to win parole release, advocating for health care for elderly or trans people who are incarcerated, and fighting criminal or civil charges brought against members of the press, protesters, grand jury resisters, and individuals alleged to have engaged in terrorist activity based on their political beliefs. She also enjoys facilitating quality of life planning, especially for non-traditional families. Moira provides legal support and education for social movement groups pushing for fundamental transformation of oppressive systems. As a former teacher, who watched as students were funneled into prisons – some as corrections officers and some as prisoners – Moira feels her legal work must have an educational mission. After doing Know Your Rights education for protesters during Occupy Wall Street, she helped to found Just Info, a free 24-hour hotline that provides the same kind of legal information, service referrals, and community organizing connections to all people in the five boroughs.
She is also a founding member of Mutant Legal, a collective devoted to popular education on matters of legal import, including community legal organizing. In addition to doing ongoing popular education, Moira has taught preschool, high school, and most recently, undergraduate criminal law at Hunter College.

**Lamis Deek** is a Palestinian born, New York based Human Rights Attorney, Advocate and Strategist whose practice has handled criminal and civil, domestic and international matters. Lamis has litigated Palestinian, Arab and Muslim civil rights and criminal issues ranging from Free Speech and Free Worship to State repression and trumped up and manufactured “Terrorism” cases. Internationally. Her practice is now primarily dedicated to crisis response, strategy development, consultancy and complex litigation for matters related to national security, anti-Corruption, human rights and commerce.

Some of Lamis Deek’s notable NY based achievements include what were some of the most widely covered, terrorism cases; she was key in decoding the illegal Demographics unit and successfully defending and protecting countless targets of that unit; she defeated key players of the anti-mosque movement and protected mosque construction; has defended countless students and protestors against government and Israeli lawfare, and against illegal pervasive surveillance and prosecution, was on the frontlines defending BLM protestors in courts and streets, has represented Latino and East Asian activists in New York, and has trained numerous law students and legal workers in legal and quasi-legal defense. She has and continues to advise high profile and high-value national and international organizations, movements and actors.

Lamis has been an advocate and organizer for socio-economic and political rights for oppressed communities with a focus on Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim communities domestically and internationally.

Lamis has also been a human rights organizer and adviser for almost 20yrs. Some of her notable work in this regard includes her co-organzing of the 2003 Iraq antiwar Rally, co-organzing the US arm of the 2009 Viva Palestina medicine convoy to Gaza, crafting global legal and civil society strategies for victims of high profile Israeli raids and main and murder victims she helped secure the release of some of the first Egyptian Arab Spring activists, and is leading several international (legal and political) initiatives related to Palestine and Arab issues and is currently helping develop cross continental legal networks and strategies.

Lamis’ work has been presented at several international and expert strategy meetings.
The Justice Impact Movement (JIM) believes that an equal education is crucial for the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated people into society, which benefits justice-impacted people themselves as well as their families and communities. In the face of growing research evidencing the racial nature of punitive school disciplinary policies that disproportionately impact certain student groups – namely students of color – and the power of education in reducing recidivism, we believe it is of paramount importance that gateways to higher education, such as admissions practices, do not disproportionately discriminate against justice-impacted individuals who have already served their time. As we are still a new organization (founded in the fall of 2019), we are creating a solid foundation for JIM within Yale University (as JIM is a subsector of Yale’s Undergraduate Prison Project) in order to create a nation-wide movement working towards the common goal of making justice-impacted people a protected class.

Salih Israil is a formerly incarcerated software engineer who learned to code during his incarceration while earning his BA in Language and Literature with the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI). Upon returning home in 2016, Salih became a Data Analyst with the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund before formerly joining the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) team in July of 2017. As Advisor to the Directors of BPI, Salih played an instrumental role in the establishment of the no-cost-to-students Bard Microcollege at Brooklyn Public Library. After developing over a dozen web/mobile applications and APIs as a part-time freelance programmer, Salih left BPI in May of 2019 to launch ReEntry Connect Technologies, for which he is the Founder and CEO. He recently served as the Consulting CTO and sole developer for the DYI micro-webpage platform Super Social, and is in the final phases of publishing a reentry resource/networking mobile app for formerly incarcerated returning citizens.
Phil Miller is an advocate for positive change no matter the context. He has extensive experience working with at-risk youth in an effort to help them avoid making decisions that could lead to incarceration. For people whose decisions have already led to incarceration, Phil strongly believes that college and theater programs inside of prisons, along with supportive reentry services on the outside, can provide the foundation they need to change their lives.

Phil Miller is formerly incarcerated and developed a passion for law while working as a “jailhouse lawyer” for 17 years of his 20-year sentence. He was a litigation paralegal for many years, working on legal issues related to prison conditions and criminal defense, and he has worked most recently at the Legal Action Center assisting individuals who experience employment and housing discrimination as a result of their criminal histories.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Corporate Communications from Baruch College; he speaks four languages; and when he’s not working he enjoys tango and photography.

Dieter Tejada is the Executive Director and Founding President of the National Justice Impact Bar Association (NJIBA), the first organization to represent the justice impacted community within the field of law. Dieter joined this community when, at 17, he was wrongfully convicted.

While incarcerated, Dieter devised the blueprint of a plan that led him to ascend to his current position—as a national leader for his people in the legal field and justice reform at the intersection where law meets governance, community organizing, public policy, and advocacy.

Following his release from prison, Dieter overcame the odds, making his way into college first as a Presidential Scholar at the University of Connecticut. Then with his degree in political science he went onto Vanderbilt University School of Law, attending as a Chancellor’s scholar. By the time he started law school, Dieter had gained experience in legislative and public policy as an intern for the ACLU-CT and in direct services through internships with both the CT Public Defender office and Bridgeport Family Reentry. During and after law school, he held positions and internships at direct legal service providers including: the Legal Aid Society of NYC, CT Public Defenders, and Nashville Defenders.
Dieter has held--and sometimes pioneered--leadership positions with a multitude of organizations including the ACLU and American Constitution Society, advising and guiding successful national reform campaigns.

As the Executive Director and Founding President of NJIBA, Dieter works toward the NJIBA mission: To promote real justice in and through the legal profession for the justice impacted community in all its diversity, and to advance the administration of justice for all. He views this duty as his greatest privilege.

Jack Bardales is a formerly incarcerated litigation paralegal, and alumnus of the Yale Prison Education Initiative (YPEI). During his 12-year sentence, he worked as a “jailhouse lawyer”, assisting individuals in writing civil complaints, motions, petitions, and letters, as well as performing legal research. He became a self-taught ghost-litigator for inmates representing themselves and believes that this was a contributing factor, together with his experience taking courses with the YPEI, that resulted in his early release, after serving a little over 4 and a half years. After his release, a legal brief he drafted caught the attention of a practising attorney visiting her client in prison, who immediately offered him a job as a paralegal at Carswell Law Offices, where he is still working to this day. He hopes to one day be able to attend Yale Law School.
In the face of heightened immigration enforcement and fear-mongering, millions of non-citizens are at risk of extended incarceration and deportation. Unlike in the criminal setting, non-citizens are not guaranteed a right to counsel in their deportation proceedings against the state, which is always represented by counsel. Expanding legal representation for immigrants facing detention and deportation has thus become a crucial last line of defense for our immigrant communities within a much larger immigrants’ rights movement in this country.

Session participants will learn about the growing national movement for universal representation, i.e., publicly funded legal representation for non-citizens in deportation proceedings regardless of their criminal history and with a priority on those who are detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Panelists include an attorney, a social worker, and a non-citizen who recently won asylum who will speak to the day-to-day work of an immigration public defender, how various forms of oppression show up in different stages of deportation proceedings, and how to build trust and resilience practices in a fast-paced, high-trauma setting. One intention is to shift the narrative of direct legal services from one of martyrdom to mutual care. Skills learned in this session may also apply to other direct legal services fields.

Courtney M. Lee (they/she) is a Senior Program Associate at the Vera Institute’s Center on Immigration and Justice. In this role, they help to create and sustain a network of immigration public defender offices across the country as part of a nationwide campaign for universal representation. Prior to this role, they worked as a Staff Attorney with the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) at The Bronx Defenders representing non-citizens in their deportation proceedings. Courtney hails from Houston, Texas and earned their J.D. at the Georgetown University Law Center.
Immigration Public Defense in 2020: Room 121

Imogene Mankin (she/her) is a NYIFUP Staff Attorney at The Bronx Defenders, where she defends clients detained by ICE in deportation proceedings. Previously, she was an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow with The Bronx Defenders. Imogene has worked in immigration legal services since 2010, as a receptionist, paralegal, law student, and now as a lawyer. She earned her J.D. from UC Berkeley School of Law. While in law school she interned with the East Bay Community Law Center Immigration Clinic, Berkeley Law Post-Conviction Advocacy Project, Orleans Public Defenders, The Bronx Defenders Immigration Practice, and the National Immigration Law Center.

Rebekah Espinoza (she/ella) earned her Masters in Social Work and minor in law from Columbia University, where she concentrated on program development and evaluation. While pursuing her degree, Rebekah interned with Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, where she worked with victims and survivors of domestic violence. She has worked with refugee families at the International Rescue Committee, and Casa de Paz, an organization that provides shelter and support to individuals leaving immigration detention in Aurora, Colorado. Rebekah was also a middle school teacher, a program coordinator for military and protective services, and a counselor for young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Originally from El Paso, Texas, Rebekah earned her undergraduate degrees from the University of Denver.

John Akerele (he/him) was in deportation proceedings from 2016 to 2019 after escaping extreme violence in Nigeria for being bisexual. He was arrested by ICE at the U.S.-Mexico border where he requested asylum and was then transferred to a county jail in New Jersey where he received free legal representation through NYIFUP at The Bronx Defenders. A NYIFUP team secured his release from ICE custody which ultimately helped him win asylum. John lives safely in New Jersey and is currently enrolled in a graduate engineering program. He recently marched in his first-ever Pride parade.
RebLaw’s breakout sessions hope to generate more discussion amongst participants. These discussions aim to be smaller than the panels and workshops, and provide a space for people to discuss how more narrow concerns inform and challenge their approach to social justice and lawyering.

People’s Parity Project  Sarah Levine  129  
Free Speech  George Ciccarello-Mayer  128  
Law & Political Economy  Luke Herrine  127  
Intergenerational Justice  Kevin Cremin  124  
Climate Justice  Karen Anderson  121  
Impact Justice  Mike Ogego  120  
Queer Liberation  Julia Geiger and Leila Blatt  113  
Movement Lawyering  Andrew Ntim and Kathleen Olds  112  
#NoTechForICE Campaign  Divya Babbula  109  
Immigration  Hannah Duncan  108  
National Security  Dana Khabbaz and Hirsa Amin  Lounge
In recent years, mounting media attention has thrust police brutality to the fore as one of the most pressing issues of our generation; at the same time, reproductive justice has brought into light the injustices that the prison-industrial complex has done to our communities’ reproductive autonomy. In this workshop we will imagine and devise how we in the reproductive justice movement should now place broad decriminalization, decarceration, and ultimately, divestment from the prison state front and center of our liberation framework.

Moira Tan (she/her) is a reproductive justice organizer and legal scholar. A Hampshire College graduate, her Division III research investigated the limits of reproductive rights jurisprudence. After graduation, she joined the National Women’s Law Center as the Program Assistant for Reproductive Rights & Health. She is a proud alumna of Civil Liberties & Public Policy’s Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps and CLPP Student Group and the National Network of Abortion Funds’ Movement Makers Leadership Program. Moira is the Abortion Rights Fellow for Data for Progress and serves on the Leadership Council of the Young Womxn of Color 4 Reproductive Justice Collective at Advocates for Youth.

Desireé S. Luckey, Esq., (she/her/hers) is currently a Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellow at the National Women’s Law Center, focusing on issues of health equity. As a law student at Georgetown, she worked alongside the inaugural Director of Georgetown University Law Center’s Office of Equity & Inclusion, served as Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division of Barristers’ Council, and served as a Member-at-Large of BLSA. Outside of work, Desireé is Secretary of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee to the Office of LGBTQ Affairs in Washington, D.C., serves on the Race and Equity Task Force for the City of Hyattsville, and is Co-Founder and Principal of The ACD Strategy Group, a progressive political consulting firm.
Legislating Through Experience - System Reform Powered by Justice Impact Led Advocacy and Legislation

The criminal justice system and its flaws are best known by those who have been through it. Up until recently, this group of people have lacked access and empowerment to legislators and policy makers despite their inherent expertise. In the past few years however number of successful campaigns of legislative advocacy have been led by justice impacted individuals or relied on the power and guidance of the community. This panel discusses the power, recent success, and potential of this burgeoning movement.

William C. Bastuk founded It Could Happen to You Inc. in 2010 as a result of having been wrongfully prosecuted and subsequently exonerated after a rogue prosecution. As the organization's chair and executive director, he has built a national coalition that, over the course of several years, doggedly and successfully advocated for legislation creating the nation’s first State Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct, which was passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2018. It Could Happen To You was also at the forefront of a campaign for progressive New York State Discovery Reform Rules passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2019.

It Could Happen To You is now engaged in campaigns to establish Commissions on Prosecutorial Conduct in the States of California, Pennsylvania and very shortly will kick off a campaign in the State of Connecticut. It Could Happen To You also operates the Freedom Tour which features the true stories from the wrongfully convicted and prosecuted.

Before being trapped in a legal nightmare, Bill Bastuk served as a Monroe County, NY legislator, Town of Irondequoit council member, president of the local Kiwanis Club and a director of the Irondequoit Chamber of Commerce. He also worked on public policy for the New York State Legislature. For many years he was employed by Larsen Engineers of Rochester NY managing projects in the areas of environmental sustainability and justice. Bill graduated from George Washington University with a degree in urban affairs and earned a master’s degree in Community Service Administration from the University of Rochester.
JEFFREY DESKOVIC, JD, MA, is an internationally recognized wrongful conviction expert and Founder of The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice, which has freed seven people and passed three laws aimed at preventing wrongful conviction. Jeff is an advisory board member of the coalition group “It Can Happen To You” which spearheaded the passage of the country’s first Commission On Prosecutor Conduct, and then worked in an even bigger coalition group to helped pass discovery reform. Jeff also serves on the Global Advisory Council for Restorative Justice International. Jeff is a co-host of the podcast, “It Can Happen To You! Exposing Injustice With The Deskovic Foundation”, which explores a myriad of criminal justice topics, as well as a co-owner of the Recharge Beyond The Bars ReEntry Game, which assists the formerly incarcerated with reconnecting with their family and friends. The motivation for Jeff’s advocacy work is that he was exonerated by DNA evidence after 16 years in prison—from age 17 to 32 for a murder and rape he did not commit. Jeff recently graduated law school and passed the bar exam in pursuit of his dream of exonerating others as an attorney.

TIHEBA BAIN is Executive Director of Women Against Mass Incarceration, a grassroots organization empowering justice involved women and girls. She also works for The National Council for Incarcerated and formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls as a community organizer. Tiheba played integral role in passing legislation for incarcerated women and girls in the State of Connecticut. Tiheba was appointed to sit on mass incarceration sub-committee for Governor Ned Lamont’s Transitional Policy committee. She has spoken at several press conferences with former Governor Daniel Malloy, State Representative Robyn Porter and state senator Gray Winfield and the ACLU Smart Justice campaign to introduce the anti-discrimination act. Tiheba is a public speaker who has sat on panels at Yale University, UCONN, IMRP annual Building Bridges Conference, and conferences in other states.

While obtaining her undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Women and Criminal Justice, she was published as a contributing author to Race Education and Reintegration. Ms. Bain is an alumni of Columbia University’s Justice-in-Education Scholar program at the Heyman Center for the Humanities.
State Representative Robyn Porter was first elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in April 2014 following a special election. Since winning the 94th Assembly District seat, Porter has championed legislation that has provided fair wages and work spaces for Connecticut’s workers, reformed the state’s criminal justice system and increased protections for domestic violence victims.

Porter has been a member of both the Appropriations and Judiciary committees. She has authored and sponsored legislation that restores respect, dignity and fairer treatment for incarcerated women, prohibits a judge from setting bail for those charged with misdemeanors, outlaws the solitary confinement of minors, requires more data from prosecutors and strengthens transparency between law enforcement and the public.

At the beginning of her second full term in January 2017, Porter was named House chairwoman of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Under her leadership, Connecticut workers have benefited from tremendous progress in the workplace. Representative Porter has Championed legislation that strengthened gender pay equity laws, which had not been updated since 1963. Led a 14-hour debate in the House to raise the minimum hourly wage to $15 an hour by 2023. Led a nearly 8-hour debate that establishes the Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Program, the most generous paid leave program in the country to date. Led the creation of the Council on the Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record. Expanded Workers’ Compensation Benefits to firefighters and police officers diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In her role as the co-chair of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force, Porter has worked tirelessly on legislation to ensure that school boards employ at least 250 new minority teachers and administrators across Connecticut, and also helped to champion the passage of African-American and Latino studies in the public school curriculum.

Porter graduated from Gateway Community College with an Associate’s Degree and later obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Charter Oak State College. She completed both programs with honors and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International and the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Societies.
She was employed by the Communication Workers of America from 2001 to 2017, is a longtime community activist who served as co-chairwoman of the Steering Committee for the Newhallville Community Resilience Team (NCRT). During her tenure at NCRT, the committee focused on increasing public safety by building social cohesion.

Porter is the proud parent of two adult children, Akeem and Aminah, and the spirited grandmother of Alana and Amir. She is a native New Yorker who has resided in New Haven, CT since the summer of 2000 and proudly calls it home.

**Dieter Tejada** is the Executive Director and Founding President of the National Justice Impact Bar Association (NJIBA), the first organization to represent the justice impacted community within the field of law. Dieter joined this community when, at 17, he was wrongfully convicted.

While incarcerated, Dieter devised the blueprint of a plan that led him to ascend to his current position—as a national leader for his people in the legal field and justice reform at the intersection where law meets governance, community organizing, public policy, and advocacy.

Following his release from prison, Dieter overcame the odds, making his way into college first as a Presidential Scholar at the University of Connecticut. Then with his degree in political science he went onto Vanderbilt University School of Law, attending as a Chancellor’s scholar. By the time he started law school, Dieter had gained experience in legislative and public policy as an intern for the ACLU-CT and in direct services through internships with both the CT Public Defender office and Bridgeport Family Reentry. During and after law school, he held positions and internships at direct legal service providers including the Legal Aid Society of NYC, CT Public Defenders, and Nashville Defenders. Similarly, in the 11 years that have passed since his initial arrest, Dieter has held—and sometimes pioneered—leadership positions with a multitude of organizations including the ACLU and American Constitution Society, advising and guiding successful national reform campaigns.

As the Executive Director and Founding President of NJIBA, Dieter works toward the NJIBA mission: To promote real justice in and through the legal profession for the justice impacted community in all its diversity, and to advance the administration of justice for all. He views this duty as his greatest privilege.
The panel of speakers include a “survivor” of solitary confinement, two medical professionals who were formerly involved with care at Ct Dept of Corrections and the Executive Director of Ct ACLU. Solitary confinement is defined as torture when time spent in solitude exceed 15 days and when used as a punishment. The United Nations Convention on Torture dictates no prisoner should be treated in a degrading, cruel or inhumane manner. Us signed and ratified that agreement. On a daily basis across this nation over 80,000 people are held in solitary confinement with little to no regard for the mental well being of those held. Prolonged solitary creates mental illness and exacerbates mental illness for those already suffering. After a few days in solitude the brain begins to function in a different manner and after 15 days the damage could be irreversible. Medicating all of these people comes at an enormous financial and health costs. Side effects of anti psychotic medications include increased risk of diabetes, heart problems, liver problems, involuntary movements and sexual dysfunction.

Harvey Fair is a long time resident of New Haven Connecticut now residing in Wallingford Connecticut. He is married to Karen Byrd Fair. He is a former auto salesman, former Treasury Department employer, and is currently a Recovery Support Specialist and a Life Coach in New Haven with Continuum Care. He is a member of NAACP and member of Masonic Lodge, Lake Hall #33. He was a panelist for Solitary confinement and Guess Speaker for The Life Connection Reentry Program. Harvey enjoys singing karaoke, reading, and playing chess.

Dr. Kapoor is Associate Professor of Psychiatry in the Law & Psychiatry Division, where her clinical work and scholarship focus on the intersection of mental illness, violence, and the criminal justice system. She has expertise in the psychiatric evaluation and treatment of violent and justice-involved individuals in a variety of treatment settings (e.g., prisons, jails, forensic hospitals, and the community). In addition, she serves as Associate Program Director for the Yale forensic psychiatry fellowship, teaching and supervising fellows in the country’s largest training program for forensic psychiatrists. Dr. Kapoor has lectured nationally and internationally on forensic psychiatry and holds leadership positions in several professional organizations. She is the immediate past president of the International Association for Forensic Psychotherapy,
an Executive Councilor of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, a member of the American Psychiatric Association’s Council on Psychiatry and Law, and a past president of the Connecticut Psychiatric Society. Prior to joining the Law & Psychiatry faculty, Dr. Kapoor completed residency training in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, a forensic psychiatry fellowship at Yale, and medical school at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

Kebra Smith-Bolden is a true trailblazer, a respected healthcare professional with the vision, purpose and drive to transform the nascent cannabis industry. A registered nurse, Kebra leveraged her medical knowledge and decades of professional experience to create CannaHealthTM, the first and only Connecticut cannabis business owned by an African-American. Its innovative community based business model offers disadvantaged communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs education about medicinal cannabis, as well as safe and legal access through medical marijuana program evaluations. She uses her platform and background in mental health to support disadvantaged communities by studying the use of cannabis in conjunction with therapy for those suffering from complex traumas. The presenting symptoms of people living in high-crime communities are similar to those seen in post combat war veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Kebra is currently studying to be an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at Simmons College in Boston, MA, and was recently inducted into the National Nursing Honor Society, as a Nurse Leader.

Currently she works as a Cannabis Nurse Educator at my Medical Cannabis Certification Center(s), CannaHealth and as a Hospice Home Care On Call Nurse at Masonic Home Health and Hospice and Constellation Home Health and Hospice and teaches at Gateway Community College. A lifelong Connecticut resident, Smith Bolden is a proud mother and grandmother and resides in New Haven with her family.
**David J. McGuire** joined the ACLU of Connecticut as a staff attorney in 2007 and served as its legislative and policy director from 2015 through 2016. In 2016, McGuire was chosen to lead the organization as its executive director. In his decade-plus with the ACLU-CT, McGuire has litigated cases to protect incarcerated people's rights, separation of church, and state and free speech rights. He also played a leading role in advocating for police accountability, and successfully pressed for the passage of dozens of laws to protect civil rights and liberties. A past recipient of Connecticut Magazine’s “40 Under 40” award, McGuire also is the chair of the Connecticut Special Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, serves on the state’s Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board, and is a member of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. McGuire received his B.A. in history from Purdue University and graduated cum laude from Western New England University School of Law.

**Barbara Fair**, born and raised in New Haven. Attended NH public Schools. Graduate from Albertus Magnus with BA in Sociology and went on the Southern Ct State University where she received a Masters degree in Clinical Social Work specializing in Children and Family Services. Later received State Licensure. Spent decades working to change the culture of policing and prisons. Currently a member of Stop Solitary - Ct, a campaign to end solitary confinement in Ct beginning with the shutting down of Northern Supermax located in Somers where many young people’s spirits were crushed and their minds shattered as a direct result of the state sanctioned abuse they experienced through the practice of isolating people for weeks, months, and years in what many survivors call a dungeon. A former member of People Against Injustice for over 13 years and founded My Brother's Keeper, both organizations focused on reshaping the criminal justice and penal system into one that is compassionate, humane and just.
Youth Movement Leaders Speak: Our Rights

This panel brings together diverse youth movement leaders and organizers working in the anti-war, anti-carceral, educational justice, and voting rights spaces to share about the state of youth rights in 2020 and their visions for change. Panelists will discuss the state of the law and the intersectional lived realities of how the law impacts young people, as well as how adult allies and movement lawyers can provide resources, expertise and networks to support youth movements.

In lieu of panelist biographies below, we offer information about each of the youth movement organizations that are present on the panel today. Please check out their websites, continue to follow their work, and get involved!

**Boston Student Advisory Council** (youthonboard.org/bsac) is a citywide body of elected student leaders representing most Boston Public Schools high schools. BSAC organizers work to identify and address pertinent student issues, thereby putting students at the center of the decisions that affect them the most. BSAC acts as the student union of the district, leading organizing efforts, forging relationships with district and city-leaders, impacting policy change, and transforming school culture across the board.

**Citywide Youth Coalition** (cwyc.org/about) is a network of over 500 youth-serving staff, community stakeholders and individuals in the New Haven urban region (i.e New Haven, East Haven, Hamden, and West Haven). CWYC was founded by way of grassroots organizing in the summer of 1976. As we move forward, CWYC is vested in supporting youth organizing to include youth as partners in leading change in New Haven.
Dissenters (dissenters.net) is leading a new generation of young people to reclaim resources from the war industry, reinvest them in life-giving institutions, and repair collaborative relationships with the earth and people around the world. Dissenters uses decentralized, nonviolent direct action campaigns to force institutions and elected officials to divest from war and militarism. The vision of the organization is to stigmatize militarization and to get political officials to take action.

IntegrateNYC (integratenyc.org) is a youth-led organization that stands for integration and equity in New York City schools. They have developed and are advocating for the 5 Rs of Real Integration (racial integration, resource allocation, relationships across group identity, restorative justice, and teacher representation) as well as Real Representation of young people in decision making at local, city, state, and federal levels.

Students for Educational Justice (students4edjustice.org) is a youth-led, intergenerational organizing body that drives efforts for racial and educational justice in Connecticut. SEJ hosts its members in weekly political education trainings about institutional racism, adultism, anti-Blackness, and other oppressive systems, as well as organizing-related trainings. SEJ cultivates self-pride in young BIPOC (Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color) and drives racial justice through education and youth-led organizing.

The Fair Play Coalition (fairplayforall.com) stands together for all high school students in New York City public schools to have equitable access the PSAL (Public Schools Athletic League), and to all athletic fields and courts controlled by the DOE — regardless of the size of the school, the borough in which the school is located, or the demographics of the school. Fair Play embraces all forms of advocacy — including legislative advocacy and lobbying, public education efforts, media and press strategies, organizing through actions, and potential legal recourse — to achieve demonstrable systemic change within the DOE and PSAL.

Vote16USA (vote16usa.org) is a national campaign, organized by Generation Citizen, that aims to support efforts to extend voting rights to 16- and 17-year-old on the local level, help start new local campaigns, and elevate the issue’s prominence on a national level.
This panel brings together practitioners to discuss the most significant challenges to free speech in our modern era. Drawing from their collective litigation, legislative, and community engagement experience, panelists will discuss strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP), gag orders, right to receive information about government proceedings, access to information via state public records acts, and more.

Dan Barrett is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Connecticut’s legal director. His interests in the law include anonymous speech, freedom of movement, mass surveillance, and maximizing democratic control of government through open courts and open records. Prior to coming to the ACLU of Connecticut in 2015, Dan directed the litigation at the ACLU of Vermont for seven years and clerked for the Hon. Janet Bond Arterton of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Deborah Jeon is the Legal Director of the ACLU of Maryland. Debbie has litigated dozens of complex cases in state and federal courts, including important cases involving voting rights, gender and race discrimination, criminal justice reform, and police misconduct, among others. A graduate of Yale Law School, she served immediately following law school as judicial clerk to U.S. District Judge Myron H. Thompson, in the Middle District of Alabama. After that she worked as an attorney at a labor and civil rights law firm in Little Rock, Arkansas. Debbie joined the staff of the ACLU in 1990, to establish an ACLU office and manage the organization’s race and poverty legal work on Maryland’s Eastern Shore – an area reminiscent of the Deep South, where civil rights laws had been resisted by many white residents for decades. Her work shifted statewide in 2005, when she began directing the ACLU’s entire legal program. Among other honors, she is the recipient of the Maryland Daily Record’s “Leadership in Law” Award, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Dream Keepers” Award.
Jennifer Safstrom joined the ACLU of Virginia in September 2018 as the Dunn Legal Fellow. She received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2018, where she served as Editor in Chief of the Georgetown Journal of Law & Modern Critical Race Perspectives, Employer Outreach Chair for the Latin American Law Student Association, and member of the Appellate Litigation Clinic. She earned her B.A. in International Studies from the University of Miami in 2011. Her legal scholarship has been published in the Georgetown Law Journal, Yale Journal of Law & Feminism, Harvard Latinx Law Review, Barry Law Review, Georgetown Immigration Law Journal, and Loyola University Chicago’s Annals of Health Law & Life Sciences. She has also been quoted by the Washington Post, City Lab, and Breitbart, as well as other local and national publications.

Jim Davy is a staff attorney at Equal Justice Under Law. Previously, he has worked at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project and the Lewisburg Prison Project, where he litigated class action and individual civil rights claims on behalf of prisoners and other detainees, on issues including inadequate medical care, physical and sexual assaults, use of “dry cells,” and bars to family visitation. Prior to that, Jim clerked for the Honorable L. Felipe Restrepo, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, where he also assisted returning citizens as part of Judge Restrepo’s Reentry Court. Jim graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2015. In between graduating law school and clerking, Jim was a law fellow at the National Education Association, engaging in litigation and advocacy on behalf of teachers across the country. Outside of work, Jim has served as co-chair of the Young Friends of the Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project—where he has also worked on mitigation materials for former juvenile lifers’ re-sentencing hearings—and sits on the legal committees of the ACLU affiliates in Pennsylvania and Delaware. He has also represented the Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania, several associations of plaintiff-side employment lawyers, and digital justice organization Upturn, as amicus curiae counsel. During law school, Jim also worked in Georgetown’s Institute for Public Representation clinic on behalf of families trying to make prison phone calls more affordable, and spent his second summer interning at the Southern Poverty Law Center, advocating for sentencing reform to benefit prisoners serving long terms because of a “three strikes” law.
On January 1, 2020, the Migrant Protection Protocol, otherwise known as ‘Remain in Mexico’ was extended along the border of Mexico and the US to include the Tucson, Arizona sector which includes one of the busiest ports of entry – Nogales, Sonora. This policy is designed to deter asylum seekers from appearing in US immigration courts and denying them access to legal services available in the United States. Desperate, lacking basic necessities, and vulnerable to the criminal element in these poor cities, migrant suffering at the border is abundant. By all accounts this draconian policy is achieving its intended effect. Last year, during my four month sabbatical from law teaching I worked as a volunteer lawyer at the southern border of Mexico and Arizona with the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. I was inside all four of the detention centers, which house approximately 4000 men and women detained by the Department of Homeland Security. My representation involved helping mostly asylum seekers adjudicate their cases in Immigration Court in Arizona, a jurisdiction with a denial rate of between 92-95%. During these 4 months I also did a lot of volunteer humanitarian aid with migrants in the desert and in shelters both in Mexico and in Tucson, AZ. The direct assistance to migrants on both sides of the border was so impactful. If you want to get involved in this struggle, come to this presentation and find out ways in which you can make a difference.

HILLARY FARBER is a law professor at the University of Massachusetts. She is a former public defender, who was in need of getting back into the trenches to fight for people who are being maligned and mistreated by our current administration when she took her first sabbatical. Without any knowledge and background in immigration law, she went to work for a fabulous organization representing detained immigrants in Arizona – the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. She wants to tell
Our national justice system needs to be reformed. One in three Americans has been directly impacted by the system. This community of justice impacted people understand the inherent problems within our system because they have lived them. Yet, for years this community has lacked access and empowerment to execute solutions. Recently, however, a number of successful campaigns of reform have been led by justice impacted individuals or relied on the power and guidance of the community. This trend has turned into a movement. The National Justice Impact Bar Association is the first organization of its kind, and expands this movement directly into the field of law. During this event, founding leaders from the Bar discuss and showcase the power and promise that the justice impact background brings to the field of law and the practice of justice for all.

Dieter Tejada is the Executive Director and Founding President of the National Justice Impact Bar Association (NJIBA), the first organization to represent the justice impacted community within the field of law. Dieter joined this community when, at 17, he was wrongfully convicted.

While incarcerated, Dieter devised the blueprint of a plan that led him to ascend to his current position— as a national leader for his people in the legal field and justice reform at the intersection where law meets governance, community organizing, public policy, and advocacy.

Following his release from prison, Dieter overcame the odds, making his way into college first as a Presidential Scholar at the University of Connecticut. Then with his degree in political science he went onto Vanderbilt University School of Law, attending as a Chancellor’s scholar.

By the time he started law school, Dieter had gained experience in legislative and public policy as an intern for the ACLU-CT and in direct services through internships with both the CT Public Defender office and Bridgeport Family Reentry. During and after law school, he held positions and internships at direct legal service providers including: the Legal Aid Society of NYC, CT Public Defenders, and Nashville Defenders. Similarly, in the 11 years that have passed since his initial arrest, Dieter
Plenary: Saturday 3:45-5:15

Keeda Haynes

Keeda Haynes is native of Franklin Tennessee, but has resided in Nashville, TN since 2006. Currently she works as the Legal Advisor at Free Hearts, a Non-Profit Organization led by formerly incarcerated women. There they provide support, education and advocacy for families impacted by incarceration and deportation.

Prior to her employment at Free Hearts, Keeda served her community for the past six and a half years as an Assistant Public Defender at the Metro Nashville Public Defender’s Office, where she devoted all of her professional energies and passion representing those charged with crimes. She brought a unique perspective to criminal defense and the justice system, as she herself, had spent almost four years in federal prison as inmate number 00017-011 for her alleged involvement in a drug distribution ring.

In 2002, Prior to graduating from Tennessee State University with a degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology, Keeda was convicted by a federal jury of aiding and abetting a conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Due to the harsh Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Laws, she was sentenced to serve eighty-four months (7 years) in a federal prison. After several years of appeals, Keeda, was resentenced sixty months (5 years) in federal prison. After serving four years and ten months, Keeda was released from federal prison.

Upon her release, Keeda received her law degree from Nashville School of Law in 2012 and completed her LLM through Stetson University. Keeda’s story has been featured in several publications. In 2019, she signed a book deal with Seal Press to publish and release her memoir entitled Living Proof. She has also spoken at several conferences and events regarding various issues in the criminal justice system. She is very active in the community and is currently running for US Congress for the 5th District in Tennessee.
Antonio Reza was released from jail in 2012 newly convicted of the charge felony second-degree armed robbery and received a strike. Upon his release Antonio was determined to NOT become a statistic. Instead, he took advantage of his newfound freedom as a second opportunity and decided to turn his life around. In 2013, he enrolled at Ohlone College where he was involved with the basketball team, student government, peer elected vice president of a club, got inducted into the honor roll society Sigma Chi Eta, earned student of the year, and made dean’s list and honor roll every semester. When it came time to graduate Antonio had earned 3 Associate Degrees, multiple certificates, and maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Antonio transferred to the University of San Francisco where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies, minoring in Legal Studies and Sociology. During his time at USF he continued to make the dean’s list and honor roll every semester, volunteered at a halfway house, became president of a club, got inducted into 3 honor roll societies: Alpha Sigma Nu, Lambda Pi Eta, and Delta Alpha Pi. Has spoken on many panels and presented primary research on the criminal justice system. Upon graduation in 2018 he had earned EVERY award offered by his department and was valedictorian.

Currently, Antonio is in his first year of law school, attending Santa Clara University School of Law. Is the first student president and an executive board member of the National Justice Impacted Bar Association and an Executive board member of the California System Impacted Bar Association. Has given a Ted Talk titled From Felonies to 4.0s as a TEDx speaker and is a recent recipient of the ChangeLawyer scholarship.

Wesley Caines is a Bronx native of Caribbean heritage and the proud father of two children, Ashley and Gregory. A graduate of Bard College and New York Theological Seminary, his life’s journey has enriched him with a perspective on the importance of human connection and community engagement. Wes is a frequent speaker at colleges and universities as well as on panels and in conferences across the country on his exceptional personal journey and how it informs his work in criminal justice reform.
As Chief of Staff, Wes spearheads the organization’s systemic reform efforts which includes overseeing the policy, impact litigation and community organizing teams. Prior to his current role, he was Director of Reentry & Community Engagement, roles which allowed him to work closely with directly impacted communities in understanding and developing strategies to overcome barriers that perpetually punish those ensnared in government systems.

Before joining The Bronx Defenders, Wes worked at Brooklyn Defender Services and launched the Records Accuracy Project which utilized local area law students to identify and correct RAP (records of arrest and prosecution) sheet errors. To date, he has trained nearly 50 law students in the complex world of reentry and reentry policy work. Wes sits on the boards of the Correctional Association of New York, Inside Change, Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, and Network Support Services, Inc.,--leveraging his expertise in the furtherance of helping those who are economically and socially disadvantaged to improve their systems involvement outcomes. Wes is a member of the New York City Bar, Reentry Subcommittee, a former member of the American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, and a founding member of the National Justice Impacted Bar Association. Wes’ life goal is the empowerment of underserved and marginalized communities as they become creative self-advocates who challenge policy-makers’ notion of the social contract.

Jeffrey Deskovic, JD, MA, is an internationally recognized wrongful conviction expert and Founder of The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice, which has freed seven people and passed three laws aimed at preventing wrongful conviction. Jeff is an advisory board member of the coalition group “It Can Happen To You” which spearheaded the passage of the country’s first Commission On Prosecutor Conduct, and then worked in an even bigger coalition group to helped pass discovery reform. Jeff also serves on the Global Advisory Council for Restorative Justice International. Jeff is a co-host of the podcast, “It Can Happen To You! Exposing Injustice With The Deskovic Foundation”, which explores a myriad of criminal justice topics, as well as a co-owner of the Recharge Beyond The Bars ReEntry Game, which assists the formerly incarcerated with reconnecting with their family and friends. The motivation for Jeff’s advocacy work is that he was exonerated by DNA evidence
Formerly Incarcerated Lawyers - Auditorium

Jeff, after 16 years in prison - from age 17 to 32 - for a murder and rape he did not commit. Jeff recently graduated law school and passed the bar exam in pursuit of his dream of exonerating others as an attorney.

Mary Kaye Holmes is a role model for anyone who needs the encouragement to reinvent their lives. She comes from humble beginnings in Bridgeport, Connecticut to imprisoned former human trafficking victim, and is now an award-winning law school graduate and rising human rights attorney. Since she discovered her purpose and passion to become a change agent in the legal system, Mary Kaye has completely turned her life around, and today serves as a powerful voice for self-transformation.

Mary Kaye started her legal career as a paralegal, graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in psychology and was accepted into every law school she applied to - eventually receiving over $120,000 in scholarships despite her criminal record. She attended New York Law School where she served as an associate for the Center of International Law, studied International Human Rights, and interned for Mayor Bill de Blasio’s homelessness prevention unit. She also volunteered as a student attorney for the Courtroom Advocates Project and the Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic, where she assisted in overturning a conviction for her first client. In 2018, Mary Kaye was awarded the Mid-Atlantic Region Public Interest Award by Equal Justice Works for leveraging her law career to further her commitment to community advocacy. Mary Kaye graduated law school in 2019 and passed the bar exam that same year. As she awaits bar admission, she serves as an Empathy Network Partner for #cut50 under the leadership of Van Jones as a restorative justice advocate.

Mary Kaye is the author of several books, including her memoir, Stripped: A Journey From Rejection to Redemption. Stripped has been endorsed by Valerie Jarrett, former Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama; CT State Senator Marilyn Moore, Real Housewives of Atlanta star, Kenya Moore; and R&B sensation Lil’ Mo.

Mary Kaye’s story has been featured on CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, News 12, WBL, 94.3 WYBC and she has spoken on platforms such as Harvard Law School, The Congressional Black Caucus, Rev. Jesse Jackson’s Wall Street Project, The Success Conference with Robin Roberts and Lisa Nichols, and many others. Mary Kaye strives to help others realize their potential, purpose, and passion and serves as a true testament that there is life beyond trauma.

Mary Kaye resides in New York with her husband Terry.
For their guidance and generous support, which made RebLaw 2020 possible, we are grateful to:

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Our Panel Organizers, for their vision and dedication

The RebLaw 2019 Directors, for their guidance and support

Finally, we thank our many volunteers and hosts, without whom this conference would not have been possible.
Do I need my nametag?
Yes! Please keep it with you. You will need it to get into the law school, attend panels and workshops, enjoy events, meals, and beverages, and use Yale’s shuttle services.

How do I get online?
Select “YaleGuest” from your network options, and open your browser. Click on “guest login” and follow the instructions.

What will you feed me, and when?
All of our food is vegetarian, and there will always be gluten-free, kosher, and vegan options available. We provide coffee on Friday, and breakfast and a bag lunch on Saturday. On the first day you’re on your own for dinner unless you’re in a caucus in which case you will get pizza. Locally-owned restaurants are listed near the end of the program.

Who should I contact for accessibility assistance?
Please call or text (732)-766-8408 or come by the Registration Room (Room 122).

Where are the restrooms?
There are no restrooms on the main floor. There are gender neutral bathrooms, including accessible bathrooms, in the basement. To access these, walk toward the dining hall and follow the signs for “Restrooms” or take the elevator near the dining hall. Additional bathrooms are located on the second floor.

Where can I chill out?
We have decompression rooms located in 108 (silent), 110, and 112 where you can sit, talk quietly, and color.

I have other questions!
Please ask a friendly RebLaw volunteer in a RebLaw shirt, or come by the registration room, Room 122, and we will help you
TRANSPORT

Parking

You can park for free after 4PM on Friday and all day Saturday at Lot 78, located at Ashmun Street and York Square Place, at the rear of Payne Whitney Gym. You can access the lot from Ashmun Street. Enter “Lot 78, New Haven, CT” into your map app). Parking is also available during those times in Lot 78w at Lake Place. Enter “Lot 78W, New Haven” into your parking app.

The street parking close to the law school is all metered spaces.

Transport from Train Station

The Union Station shuttle connects the New Haven Green, various downtown locations, parking, and Union Station every 20 minutes.

The Yale Shuttle provides service between Union Station and campus destinations.

Transport from YLS

Yale operates a shuttle service which you can view on the DoubleMap app, which also has a real time version.

The Yale Law School Shuttle departs from the near the northwest corner of Wall Street and College Street every half hour after normal shuttle service ends. Make sure you know the intersection you want to go to so you can tell the bus driver.
**Locally Owned Restaurants**

9th Square Market Caribbean

- Anaya Sushi
- Basil
- BBQ Chicken
- El Amigo Felix
- House of Naan
- Ivy Wok
- Jeera Thai
- Kasbah Garden
- La Cosinita Mexican Cafe
- Lalibela
- Main Garden
- Mecha Noodle Bar
- Miya’s Sushi

Pho Ketkeo

- Rubamba
- Sesame Felafel
- Sherkaan
- Sitar
- Soul de Cuba
- Sushi Mizu
- Tandoor
- Tikkaway
- Tomatillo
- Yamasaki Teriyaki
- York Street Noodle House
- Zaroka