

WEAVING IT ALL TOGETHER

HAIR, HEALTH, LAW & POLICY

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2025
3320 MARKET ST.
PHILADELPHIA, PA



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Thomas R. Kline
School of Law



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Center for Law, Policy
and Social Action




Drexel
Law Review

Thomas R. Kline School of Law



KLINE & SPECTER PC



In innumerable ways, hair matters. Hair is connected to our identity formation and expression, exercise of freedom, educational access, professional prospects and economic security, as well as our health and well-being. Hair influences society, law, policy, advocacy, and movements—contemporarily, historically, domestically and internationally.

The Drexel Kline Law Review in conjunction with the Drexel Kline Center for Law, Policy, & Social Action and the Drexel Kline Health Law Program is excited to host the first symposium examining the intersections between hair, health, law, and policy. This dynamic symposium, “Weaving it All Together: Hair, Health, Law, and Policy,” will explore these linkages. “Weaving it All Together” is a uniquely action-oriented symposium, animated by the clear goal of inspiring greater education, engagement, collaborations, and advocacy that will yield social, legal, and personal transformation.

This symposium is convening a diverse group of health care professionals, hair care professionals, researchers, policy makers, advocates and scholars from the U.S. and abroad who will interrogate the role of hair in law, policy, and advocacy.

These rich, inter-disciplinary discussions will engage numerous areas of law and policy including but not limited to: federal, state, local, and transnational legislation and regulation; multi-district and class action civil litigation; health equity; reproductive rights; consumer protection; corporate governance and accountability; children’s rights; educational administration and leadership; professional education and licensure; family and domestic relations law; constitutional law and history; labor and employment; insurance and employee benefits; tax; human and civil rights movements; criminal justice and law enforcement; economic justice and equality; and participatory law.



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

September 25, 2025

Drexel University, Thomas R. Kline School of Law
3320 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

**Re: Greetings from the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
The Honorable Joanna E. McClinton**

Dear Drexel Law Review Symposium Participants:

It is with great pride and heartfelt admiration that I extend my warmest greetings to each of you attending this year's Drexel Law Review Symposium, ***Weaving It all together: Hair, Health, Law and Policy***. What an extraordinary gathering of brilliant minds and passionate voices, all coming together to explore the profound connections between the way we wear our hair, the health of our communities, and the laws and policies that shape our daily lives.

As a Black woman and as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I know deeply that **our hair is a part of who we are**. It is far more than a style or fashion choice, it is our identity, our heritage, our culture, and a part of our sense of pride. For black communities in particular, our hair tells the story of generations. It is a celebration of resilience and creativity, a reflection of family and ancestry, and truly our **Crowning Glory**. Yet, as history reminds us, it has also been the target of unfair scrutiny, discrimination, and policies designed to control how we show up in the world.

This is why the conversations that will take place during this conference are so critical. The choices that we make about our hair have had health implications (physical and mental), social meaning, and far too often legal consequences. From classrooms to boardrooms to athletic fields, Black people, especially those with Afro-textured hair have far too often been judged, penalized, or excluded simply for wearing or styling our hair in its most natural forms.

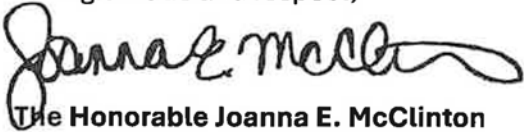
In Pennsylvania, we in the legislature are working to change that. In the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, **House Bill 439**, known as the **CROWN Act** ("Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair"), has passed the House and now awaits a vote in the Pennsylvania Senate. This legislation will ensure that every person in the Commonwealth can show up as their authentic self, in schools, workplaces, social settings, or on the playing field; without fear or reprisal, bias, or

discrimination based on how they choose to wear their hair. It is a simple but powerful affirmation of what we all deserve: the basic human right to be accepted exactly as we are.

As you gather for this important symposium, I applaud each of you for engaging in these vital conversations and for advancing the movement to create a world where everyone is welcomed, valued, and free to live and wear their truth. To coin a phrase, **"We Are Not Our Hair"**, but it is a significant part of who we are. By weaving together, the threads of hair, health, law and policy – we are shaping a more inclusive and equitable future.

Thank you for your commitment to justice, dignity, health, and the celebration of culture. May your discussions inspire new ideas, forge meaningful connections, and strengthen our shared resolve to protect and uplift the beauty and diversity of every person.

With gratitude and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joanna E. McClinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honorable Joanna E. McClinton

Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Pennsylvania State Representative, 191st Legislative District

Friday, September 26th

8:00-8:30am

Registration, Light Breakfast and Coffee Room 140

8:30-8:45am

Welcome Room 140

Donald Tibbs, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law

D. Wendy Greene, Professor of Law & Director of the Center for Law, Policy and Social Action, Drexel University Kline School of Law

Liz Kukura, Associate Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law

8:45-10:15am

Panel 1: Hair and Legal History Room 140

Moderator: Rose Corrigan, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Associate Professor of Law and Associate Professor of Politics, Drexel University Kline School of Law

Dr. Wendy Woloson, Professor of History, Rutgers University (Camden)

Thomas Joo, Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law, University of California (Davis) School of Law

Alex Pearl, Chickasaw Nation Endowed Chair in Native American Law & Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law

Telia Mary Williams, Assistant Professor of Law, South Texas College of Law

10:15-10:30

Coffee Break

10:30-11:45am

Panel 2: Health Equity, Hair Justice, and the Regulation of Hair Products Room 140

Moderator: Liz Kukura, Associate Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law

Moriah Daniels, J.D., Lewis & Clark Law School

Jamille Fields Allsbrook, Assistant Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law

Danielle McCarthy, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

12:00-12:15

Pick Up Lunch

12:15-1:15pm

Keynote Address Room 140Ashlei Spivey, Nebraska State Senator and Founder, *I Be Black Girl*

1:15-1:30

Break

1:30-2:30pm

Panel 3A: Children's Rights: What's Hair Got to Do With It? Room 340

Moderator: Patricia Okonta, Staff Attorney, Student Civil Rights Project, Public Justice

Jeremiah Chin, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Washington School of Law

Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy, Dean, Carlos Montezuma Professor of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University

Diane Kemker, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Loyola University of Chicago School of Law

Julia Steggerda-Corey, Visiting Assistant Professor of Lawyering and the Donald Gaines Murray Teaching Fellow, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

1:30-2:30pm	<p>Panel 3B: Hair and Health Matters: Proposals for Federal Law and Policy <i>Room 140</i></p> <p>Moderator: Assistant Dean Richard Frankel, Drexel University Kline School of Law</p> <p>Tracy Pearl, William J. Alley Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law</p> <p>Stacey Tovino, John B. Turner LLM. Program Chair in Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law</p> <p>Dale Cecka, Assistant Professor of Law and Director, Family Violence Litigation Clinic, Albany Law School</p> <p>Kayla Strauss, Associate Attorney, Mesidor PLLC and Adjunct Professor, Howard University School of Law</p>
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-4:15	<p>Panel 4: Workplace Discrimination, Health, & Well-Being <i>Room 140</i></p> <p>Moderator: David S. Cohen, Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law</p> <p>Dr. Myriah Hampton, Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, World Afro Day Team Member, and Hair Rights Advocate</p> <p>Joseline Hardrick, Associate Professor of Law, Cooley School of Law</p> <p>Margaret Zhang, Assistant Professor of Law, Widener University Delaware Law School</p> <p>Yaron Covo, Assistant Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law</p>
4:25-5:45pm	<p>Fireside Chat on Chemical Relaxer Litigation <i>Room 140</i></p> <p>Moderator: Tom Kline, Partner, Kline & Specter, P.C.</p> <p>Sherrell L. Dandy, Associate Attorney, Kline and Specter, P.C.</p> <p>Kevin McKie, Attorney, Environmental Litigation Group, P.C.</p> <p>Tobi Millrood, Partner, Kline & Specter, P.C.</p>
6:00-7:00pm	<p>Reception</p> <p>Drexel University Kline School of Law, 3rd Floor Gallery</p> <p><i>Special Video presentations featuring Gloria Tabi, Michaela Angela Davis, and Dr. Gillian Scott-Ward throughout the program.</i></p>

Saturday, September 27th

8:15-8:45am **Registration, Light Breakfast and Coffee**

8:45 -10:00am **Panel 5: Policing Hair and Hair Coverings in the Workplace** *Room 140*
Moderator: Nicole Iannarone, Associate Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law
 Tanner Fisher, J.D., University of Kentucky College of Law
 Dr. Ingrid Banks, Associate Professor, Department of Black Studies, University of California—Santa Barbara
 Zeba Huq, Supervising Attorney & Lecturer in Law, Federal Litigation Program—Stanford Law School

10:00-10:15 **Coffee Break**

10:15-11:45am **Panel 6: Status, Authority, & Autonomy** *Room 140*
Moderator: Susan Brooks, Professor of Law Emerita, Drexel University Kline School of Law
 Angela Dixon, Associate Professor of Law, Mississippi College School of Law
 Etienne Toussaint, Associate Professor of Law, Joseph F. Rice School of Law at University of South Carolina
 Yvette Butler, Associate Professor of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law
 Nicholas Serafin, Assistant Professor of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law

11:45-12:00 **Pick Up Lunch**

12:00-1:00pm **Joint Address: Free the Hair from Markets for Black Pain** *Room 140*
 D. Wendy Greene, Professor of Law & Director of the Center for Law, Policy and Social Action, Drexel University Kline School of Law
 Cary Martin Shelby, Ralph Brill Endowed Chair Professor of Law, Chicago Kent College of Law
Special Remarks: Jodi Allyn Odum, President and CEO of Firstline® Inc.

1:00-1:15 **Break**

1:15-2:30pm **Panel 7: Reimagining Health and Safety in Natural Hair Care Through Education, Legislation, and Coalition Building** *Room 140*
Moderator: Natasha Gaspard, Founder of Mane Moves Media Inc. and Chief Empowerment Officer, Natural Hairstyle & Braid Coalition, Inc.
 Diane Bailey, Co-Founder of Natural Hairstyle & Braid Coalition, Inc. Founder and CEO of Emerge: Natural Beauty Industry Alliance
 Erin Maybin, Educator, Published Writer, Co-Founder of the Natural Hairstyle & Braid Coalition, Inc.
 Diane DaCosta, Co-Founder, Natural Hairstyle & Braid Coalition, Inc.
 Debra Hare-Bey, CEO of Oh My Heavenly Hair and Co-Founder, Natural Hairstyle & Braid Coalition, Inc.
 Kadidja Dosso, Founder of Dosso Beauty organic braiding hair and hair care products; Owner, The Dosso Beauty Experience hair braiding salon and retail store in Philadelphia

2:30-2:45 **Break**

2:45-3:45pm

Panel 8A: Tackling Hair Bias at the Root—Law, Health, and Equity *Room 140*

Thalia González, Professor of Law & James Edgar Hervey '50 Chair of Litigation, University of California—San Francisco Law School

Paige Joki, Esq., Staff Attorney at Education Law Center-PA (ELC) and Leader of ELC's Black Girls Education Justice Initiative

Alana Burman, Director Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, & Mediation, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

Amaiya-Monet Parker, Undergraduate Research Scholar, George Mason University

2:45-3:45pm

Panel 8B: Action & Advocacy Through the Lens of Healthcare Professionals and Caregivers *Room 240*

Moderator: Lauren Katz Smith, Director of the Andy and Gwen Stern Community Lawyering Clinic & Assistant Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law

Dr. Tammy Jolivet, CEO and Founder of The Texture of Me®

Tammy Ehimwenma, Meharry Medical College School of Medicine

Adeola Animasahun, Meharry Medical College School of Medicine

Dr. Gillian Scott-Ward, Licensed Psychologist and Director of *Back to Natural: A Documentary Film*

2:45-3:45pm

Panel 8C: The Power of Hair Stories *Room 340*

Moderator: Dr. Charlene Makita, Analytical Chemist; Founder of Natural Aura Hair Care Brand; World Afro Day Team Member; and Hair Rights Advocate

Erika George, Associate Dean for Equity, Justice & Engagement and Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law

Alyssa Dairsow, Founder and Executive Director of Curly Me! Non-Profit Organization

Michaela Angela Davis, Producer of "Hair Tales" documentary, Author of *tenderheaded: A Memoir*, and C.R.O.W.N. Act Champion

Guylaine Conquet, Natural Hair Artist, Hair Rights Advocate, and Founder of JustAfro

3:45-4:00

Break

4:00-5:00pm

Panel 9A: Redefining the Crown: The Healing, Hair Loss, and Advocacy Journeys of Breast Cancer Survivors *Room 140*

Moderator: Dr. Versha Pleasant, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Director of Breast Health & Cancer Genetics Clinic at University of Michigan

Tamara Myles, Breast cancer survivor, Activist, President of Sister's Network Detroit

Veleria Banks, Breast cancer survivor, Activist, Member of Sister's Network Detroit

Odessa Norwood, Owner of Odessa's Hair Salon in Philadelphia

4:00-5:00pm

Panel 9B: Black Hair Beyond White Borders: Black Hair, Reproductive Health, and Policies in Africa *Room 240*

Moderator: Dr. LaToya Brackett, Associate Professor of African American Studies, Race & Pedagogy Institute, University of Puget Sound

Dr. Melvin Lee Rouse, Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Puget Sound

Gertrude Goh, Independent Researcher, Ghana

5:05-5:15pm

Closing Remarks



Jamille Fields Allsbrook

Professor Fields Allsbrook joined the Howard University School of Law in the Fall of 2025. She started her full-time academic career at Saint Louis University in the Center for Health Law Studies, and previously, she has been an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law and a clinical fellow at the Harvard Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation. Before joining the academy, Professor Allsbrook spent a decade in Washington, D.C., with experiences in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in various nonprofit organizations including the Center for American Progress, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and the National Health Law Program. Relatedly, Professor Fields Allsbrook research and scholarship centers on advancing health equity for women, people of color, and people with low-incomes.



Adeola Animasahun

Adeola Animasahun is a third-year medical student at Meharry Medical College dedicated to advancing health equity. She earned her B.S. in Natural Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.S. in Biomedical Sciences from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. Her research interests span health disparities and equity, with current projects including investigation of H3K27me3 expression in follicular lymphoma and co-leading survey-based studies on hair care practices and alopecia in Black communities. Adeola aspires to a career center

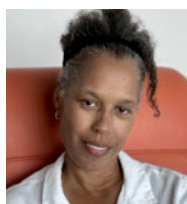


Diane Bailey

For Diane Bailey natural hair is more than a hairstyle, it is a way of being and a lifestyle. She is known as a “Master Pioneer” in the natural hair industry and has been called the “God-Mother of Natural Hair”. Ms. Bailey has spent more than 25 years as a salon entrepreneur as the president and art director of Tendrils Hair Spa, one the first salons in New York City to feature chemically free services for textured hair. As an appointed advisor to the state of New York, she has advised the state on the development of the nation’s first natural hair styling license. In 1999, Ms. Bailey wrote the first textbook *Natural Hair and Braiding* by Milady and has created several professional curriculums to teach the art and science of natural hair styling. Ms. Bailey has a new edition textbook, *Milady Natural Hair and Braiding*, which launched in Spring 2014.

Diane Bailey is a celebrity hair stylist and has been honored to work with Beyoncé Knowles, Lauryn Hill, Terry McMillian, Iyanla Vanzant, including many other creative artists.

Ms. Bailey has a new vision for the industry. Currently, Ms. Bailey is the Founder and CEO of Emerge: Natural Beauty Industry Alliance; a trade association which will be the industry’s resource to develop leadership and ensure economic, political, cultural, social and educational empowerment to the community. She is also currently outlining a new curriculum for an educational institution to provide natural hair and braiding certification.



Ingrid Banks

Ingrid Banks is an Associate Professor in the Department of Black Studies and Associate Dean in the Division of Social Sciences at University of California, Santa Barbara. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Banks’ main research and teaching areas are within African American Studies and include race, gender, beauty culture, and politics of the body. She is the author of *Hair Matters: Beauty, Power, and Black Women’s Consciousness* (New York University Press, 2000). Dr. Banks’ commentary has appeared in a number of media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *New York Newsday*, *Air America*, *the BBC*, *The Guardian* (London), *The Root.com*, *CNN.com*, to name a few. She is currently completing a book manuscript based on a multi-city ethnographic study that examines contemporary black beauty salon culture.



Valeria Banks

Valeria Banks is a Member of Sisters Network Inc. Greater Metropolitan Detroit Chapter. Sisters Network® Inc. is committed to increasing local and national attention to the devastating impact that breast cancer has in the Black community. Valeria was first diagnosed with breast cancer after her annual mammogram in 2021. Valeria is a breast cancer survivor and has redefined her own crown.



LaToya T. Brackett

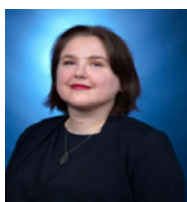
LaToya T. Brackett is an Associate Professor of African American Studies at the University of Puget Sound, in Tacoma WA. She earned her Ph.D. in African American and African Studies from Michigan State University where she also earned her master's in Counseling. She began her journey in Black Studies at Cornell University where she earned her Bachelor's. LaToya is a member of the Race & Pedagogy Institute's leadership team, and member of the 2024-2025 Humanities Washington Speaker's Bureau. Her research interests span Black popular culture topics and contemporary issues in the ever-changing African Diaspora. Her recent edited book, *Working While Black: Essays on Television Portrayals of African American Professionals*, focuses on Black professionalism in scripted TV. Her current research takes her across the African continent as she engages with Black hair in Black places. And most essential for her, as a Black female academic, she strives to be able to say that she spoke up even when no one else would, a key foundation to why she remains dedicated to her discipline—Black Studies.



Bryan Brayboy

Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy (Lumbee) is Dean of Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy and the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Education and Social Policy. His 25-year academic career has been an investment in people within higher education and the work they will do with its resources, well beyond the institution. Brayboy earned his bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and his master's and PhD (with distinction) at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the father of two sons.

He is the author or co-author of more than 100 scholarly documents, including nine edited or authored volumes, dozens of articles, book chapters, and policy briefs for the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the National Academy of Sciences. Over the past 17 years, he and his team have helped prepare more than 165 Native teachers to work in American Indian communities and more than 41 American Indian Ph.D.s.



Alana Burman

Alana M. Burman serves as the Director of Policy, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Mediation (PIM) for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Burman comes to this role with a wealth of social justice and social equity experience centered around mediation, community relations, and policymaking.

Burman's education includes a Bachelors of the Arts in Printmaking and Drawing, summa cum laude, obtained from Rutgers University – Mason Gross School of the Arts. As well as a Masters in Developmental and Abnormal Psychology from Rutgers University – New Brunswick, magna cum laude, and a Certificate in State and Local Government from the Eagleton Institute of Government and Politics.

Burman started her career as a public-school English and Art teacher stationed in the Mississippi Delta with Teach for America which she uses as a foundational experience for her social justice work to this day. After leaving K-12 teaching, Burman designed and helped pass NJ's restorative justice discipline pilot program for the state's public schools and continued to advocate for social equity policies and bills while holding roles in Government, Public Advocacy and Government

Alana Burman

Affairs roles. Her passion for public services extends beyond paid roles as she has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children and on the Essex County LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board, both in New Jersey.

In her free time Alana enjoys spending time with her local Jewish community, spoiling her cats, playing videogames, and embroidery.

**Yvette Butler**

Yvette Butler is an Associate Professor at Indiana Maurer School of Law. Her scholarship examines how the law, particularly the U.S. Constitution and interpretations of liberty, protect or hinder the survival and resistance strategies of marginalized groups. A large part of her scholarship examines the impact of narratives on the creation, interpretation, and operation of the law. She seeks to understand how the stories of individuals impacted by the law, in turn have an impact on what laws that legislators write and the way judges interpret those laws. Professor Butler is particularly interested in exploring how legal definitions of economic liberty that support or undermine considerations of economic security, economic self-determination, and greater autonomy for historically subjugated groups.

**Dale Margolin Cecka**

For over two decades, Dale Margolin Cecka has devoted her legal career to expanding access to justice for survivors of domestic violence and children in foster care, while advocating for systemic reform of family courts and child protective services. She currently serves as an asst. Professor of Law and Director of the Family Violence Litigation Clinic at Albany Law School, where she trains the next generation of lawyers to represent survivors in high-stakes matrimonial, custody, and child support matters and protective orders.

Cecka's legal scholarship has influenced courts, lawmakers, and the broader public discourse. Her work has been cited by the Virginia Court of Appeals, Iowa Court of Appeals, Ohio Court of Appeals, and the Alabama Supreme Court, and referenced in legislation passed in New York, California, Texas, and beyond. She is the author of *Virginia Practice Series: Family Law*, updated annually since 2018, and contributes regularly to academic journals, including *Maryland Law Review*, *CUNY Law Review*, and *South Carolina Law Review*. Her article *Abolish Anonymous Reporting to Child Protective Services* has been especially influential, shaping policy debates across multiple states and featured in Human Rights Watch's 2022 report.

A regular voice in national media, Cecka has published op-eds in *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Salon*, *Governing*, and *Common Dreams*, among others. She is frequently quoted in *Reuters*, *Bloomberg*, *The Associated Press*, *Forbes*, *Newsweek*, and *The 19th*, and appears on podcasts such as *Above the Law's Jabot*, *The Sidebar*, and NPR's *Talk of the Nation*.

Cecka holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and Columbia Human Rights Fellow, and a B.A. in Urban Studies with Honors from Stanford University.

**Desiree Chang**

Desiree Chang serves as the Director of Education & Outreach for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Desiree has been with the PHRC for over five years. Prior to becoming the Director of Education & Outreach, she worked as a Civil Rights Mediator with the PHRC Mediation Division. During her tenure at the PHRC, Desiree has received the Director of Excellence Award (2020), PHRC Social Justice Team Award (2021) and the Employee of the Year, Central Office (2023). Most recently, she was recognized as one of the 2024 PA City & State Above & Beyond honorees. She is a graduate of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Institute (2021) and the Commonwealth Leadership Institute (2023). Desiree has been recognized for her participation on several committees and community social justice collaborative efforts.

Desireé Chang

Desireé is an experienced content curator and facilitator, specializing in equity, civil rights, and trauma related to discrimination. She has been featured annually at multiple state and national conferences. Skilled in leading impactful workshops and fostering inclusive dialogue. Adept at creating brave, engaging spaces for diverse audiences. Committed to advancing social justice through education and collaboration.

Prior to the PHRC, Desireé worked as an adult Probation and Parole Officer with a specialized caseload of individuals with neurodevelopmental and mental health disabilities. In addition, she has a background in substance abuse counseling. She has served as a facilitator for trauma informed responses and has been a certified trainer in Motivational Interviewing and Moral Recognition Therapy. She enjoys public speaking and volunteering at women's shelters. She currently serves as Chair on the Equity Advisory Council for HEAL PA.

Desireé's educational acquisitions include an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, summa cum laude, obtained from HACC Lancaster. As well as, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Master of Legal Studies from Drexel University, both magna cum laude.

**Jeremiah Chin**

Jeremiah Chin is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law, where he teaches Constitutional Law and Race and the Law. His research focuses on race, law, and governance at the intersections of children's rights, expressive and associational rights, equal protection, and Federal Indian Law.

**Guylaine Conquet**

Guylaine Conquet is a French visual artist, activist, and cultural ambassador whose work explores Black identity, natural hair, and cultural resilience. A former television journalist, she transitioned from media to art as a way of reclaiming her natural hair and challenging Eurocentric beauty norms.

Her exhibitions, including *From Embarrassment to Pride* and *Shades of Indigo*, celebrate Black hair as both a personal crown and a collective archive of memory. Conquet is also the initiator of the landmark 2024 French bill banning hair discrimination, making France the first country in Europe to recognize such protections in law.

Now based in Atlanta, she continues to bridge art and advocacy through her nonprofit Just Afro Inc., educational workshops, and international exhibitions. Her mission is to affirm the beauty, dignity, and rights of people of African descent worldwide.

**Yaron Covo**

Yaron Covo is an Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University Faculty of Law. Covo's research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of disability law, health law, and private law. Covo's scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Stanford Law Review*, the *Columbia Law Review*, and the *University of Chicago Law Review*. Covo recently co-authored a book chapter (with Professor Abbe Gluck and Dr. Linda Fried) entitled *The 100-Year-Old American and Our Health System*, which was published in the book *Law and the 100-Year Life* (Cambridge University Press). Prior to joining CWRU Law, Covo served as a Senior Academic Fellow at the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School, and as a fellow at Harvard Law School's Project on Disability. Covo obtained his LL.B. from Tel Aviv University and his LL.M and J.S.D from Columbia Law School, where he was a Fulbright Fellow.



Diane DaCosta

Diane Da Costa is the original “Go-to-Curly Girl” for the beauty industry, a celebrity stylist, and a curly textured hair guru to thousands of Curlies and Naturalistas of all nationalities. Diane is a pioneer in the textured space and she believes “Texture is a lifestyle! True beauty comes from within, and it is not only determined by your hair texture or the color of your skin.” A beauty and lifestyle expert, Ms. Da Costa is the author of *Textured Tresses, The Ultimate Guide to Maintaining and Styling Natural Hair*, (Simon and Schuster, June 2004). She truly believes it is her calling to educate, inspire and motivate both consumers and professionals as a textured advocate.

Diane is the CEO and founder of SimpleeBEAUTIFUL™ the first clean lifestyle brand with an eco-friendly retail boutique; and the CurlyTexturedBAR, a curly consult bar and texture hair care salon located in Harlem, NYC. She is the former owner of Dyaspora Salon Spa in New York City, the first leading multi-textured Aveda Concept salon founded in the late 90s to early 2000s.

With over 30 plus years in the beauty industry, Ms. Da Costa brings innovative textured styles to the forefront of today’s multi-textured hair movement. Her styles have graced the beauty and fashion pages of *British Elle*, *French Vogue*, *Essence*, *O Magazine*, *Uptown & Vibe*, *Essence Total Makeover*, and Harriette Cole’s *Jumping the Broom*. Some of her celebrity clients have included Lenny Kravitz, Lauryn Hill, Cindy Blackman-Santana, Roy Hargrove, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Blair Underwood, just to name a few.



Alyssa Dairsow

Alyssa Dairsow, MPA is a nonprofit leader, policy advocate, and visionary founder committed to empowering Black girls in spaces where they are often underrepresented. As the Founder and Executive Director of Curly Me!, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Utah and now expanding into Georgia, Alyssa has created vital programs for girls ages 5–18 focused on career exploration, self-identity, and community connection.

Originally from the East Coast, Alyssa relocated to Utah in 2013 in pursuit of graduate studies. As a newcomer, she quickly recognized the lack of culturally affirming resources for Black children—especially girls. That realization sparked a journey of purpose and impact. What began as an idea and a trademarked logo became a movement: Curly Me! was born out of her deep desire to fill the gaps she once felt herself.

Since 2018, Alyssa has led the development of events like Change the World with Her, connecting girls and other youth to professionals in diverse industries, and High Tea with a Twist, which celebrates self-expression and joy. The organization now offers year-round programming including mentoring cohorts, book clubs, and confidence-building excursions for girls and their caregivers. These programs reflect Alyssa’s belief that representation, access, opportunities and self-love are powerful tools for transformation.

Alyssa’s work extends beyond community programming. She previously served as Utah’s Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator within the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, where she led policy initiatives and civic engagement trainings statewide. She is a skilled speaker and facilitator who has worked with government officials, school leaders, and advocates on equity and youth empowerment. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where she looks to continue to grow Curly Me!’s reach and impact.

Alyssa holds a Master’s in Public Affairs from the University of Utah and a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University. She has served on multiple advisory boards, including the Bennion Center at the University of Utah and Board Trustee of Tracy Aviary. Her leadership has been recognized by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Utah Business Magazine, and the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce.

When she’s not working, Alyssa enjoys traveling, karaoke, historical museums, and spending time with her husband, Meligha.



Sherrell L. Dandy

Sherrell L. Dandy is an associate at Kline & Specter law firm, where she advocates for justice for victims who have suffered catastrophic injuries. Dandy is also an adjunct professor at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law, where she teaches Introduction to Trial Advocacy.

A Philadelphia native, Dandy began her career at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, where she held several positions, including assistant supervisor of the Major Trials Unit and the Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Unit. Dandy also served as an Assistant United States Attorney at the United States Attorney's Office in Roanoke, Va. During her tenure, she led federal investigations and prosecuted various federal crimes. A recipient of the City & State Pennsylvania's 40 under 40 award, Dandy spent most of her career fighting for victims during her time as a state and federal prosecutor.

Dandy earned her bachelor's degree from Ursinus College and was among the earliest graduates of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law, where she was a member of the Inaugural National Trial Team and National Moot Court Board. She won several awards for excellence in trial and appellate advocacy, including the Best Trial Advocacy Student Performance Award, the Best Oralist Award at the John J. Gibbons National Moot Court Competition, Moot Court Best Oral Advocate Award, the Pro-Bono Service Award and the Kline & Specter Trial Advocacy Award.



Moriah Daniels

Moriah Daniels is a recent graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, where she focused on environmental and climate justice. Her work centers on advancing equity at the intersection of race, environment, and health, including efforts to address toxic exposures in hair care products marketed to Black women.



Michaela Angela Davis

Michaela Angela Davis is a writer, creative director, producer and image activist focusing on the intersections of gender, race, fashion, culture, beauty, and identity. She is the creator and executive producer of HULU's, NAACP Image Award nominated, *The Hair Tales*, a dynamic six part docu-series celebrating Black women's identity, beauty, culture and humanity, uniquely expressed through the stories in hair featuring fellow executive producers Oprah Winfrey and Tracee Ellis Ross among others. Davis collaborated with Mariah Carey on the instant #1 New York Times Bestseller--*The Meaning of Mariah Carey*--a memoir of identity.

She has spoken globally and has been a cultural contributor and writer for *The Atlantic*, *Allure*, CNN, MSNBC, and The BBC. Davis directed and co-executive produced *Something About Sumter* a short documentary film about the historic Clyburn's Beauty Salon. She is co-founder of the Sumter CROWN Act Coalition and GUCCI Changemaker councilmember. She is currently residing in her maternal ancestral home Sumter, South Carolina, where she wrote *tenderheaded: A Memoir* coming October 7th, 2025.



Angela Dixon

Professor Angela Dixon joined the faculty of Mississippi College School of Law in the fall of 2021, having taught as adjunct faculty at three different schools, both online and face to face, for twelve years prior thereto. Her scholarly and research interests include: criminal procedure (particularly the criminal justice system), health law, ethics, law and religion, and the various intersections thereof. She teaches Criminal Procedure, Health Law, and Ethics and Professional Responsibility. Professor Dixon earned her Bachelor of Arts in English, cum laude (with honors) from Vanderbilt University, receiving numerous honors and awards. Thereafter, she graduated from Vanderbilt Law School where her honors included the Dean's List and a Book Award. In subsequent years, she earned a Master of Public Health (MPH), with a specialization in Health Policy and Management (HPM) and a Master of Divinity (MDiv), with a Certificate in Faith and Health, both from Emory University.

**Kadidja Dosso**

After a severe allergic reaction to braids, Kadidja Dosso decided to start her own clinically tested non-toxic, hypoallergenic braiding hair and organic hair care line of products, Dosso Beauty. She has sold hypoallergenic hair extensions and organic hair care products to over 200,000 people and has earned \$3MM in sales revenue over the past 7 years in business. Most recently, after the release of the Consumer Report unveiling toxic chemicals in the legacy braiding hair brands in the market, Dosso Beauty was able to grow their revenue by 800%. Her products are sold online at dossobeauty.com, Amazon, GoPuff and 60+ retailers and salons around the world. In July of 2024, Kadidja opened The Dosso Beauty Experience, the first luxury hair braiding salon and retail store in her hometown Philadelphia.

Prior to building Dosso Beauty, Kadidja by trade was a Management Consultant at Accenture LLP for over 6 years in New York City. After winning Pharrell Williams Black Ambition HBCU Grand Prize of \$250K, along with \$75K for her Alma Mater Hampton University, Kadidja decided to pursue her business full time. Since Black Ambition, Kadidja has been able to procure over \$900,000 in non-dilutive funding to grow Dosso Beauty.

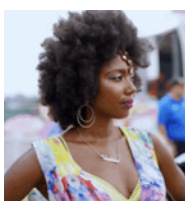
Kadidja has been featured in the following publications: Forbes 30 Under 30, The Philadelphia Business Journal, NY Magazine, Black Enterprise, Hello Beautiful, Refinery29, REVOLT, The Daily Press, and Essence among others.

**Tammy Ehimwenma-Point Du Jour**

Tammy Ehimwenma is a third-year medical student at Meharry Medical College from Long Island, New York. Her research focuses on hair disorders in Black children, with an emphasis on health equity and disparities in dermatology. She has presented her work at national meetings, including the Society for Investigative Dermatology.

**Tanner Fisher**

Tanner Fisher is a 2025 graduate of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law. Kentucky born and raised, Tanner has lived his entire life within the Bluegrass state, attending a small rural high school and attending Morehead State University for his undergraduate education. He now lives in Covington, Kentucky with his wife, Hathlyn Chapman, and has recently started his career as transactional lawyer for Keating, Muething & Klekamp PLL in Cincinnati, Ohio. In his free time, Tanner enjoys reading books, hunting, and traveling to Major League Baseball parks across the country.

**Natasha Gaspard**

Natasha Gaspard is an Emmy Award-winning television producer with over fifteen years of experience in creating compelling video content for multiple media outlets. She is an excellent communicator who writes, produces, and directs all forms of video content such as documentaries, web series and events. Natasha has produced in a variety of settings from on-location to live-in-studio productions covering a myriad of issues from mass incarceration to homelessness to natural hair discrimination. Natasha's mission is to use her knowledge, expertise, and network to help businesses and organizations authentically connect with Black women consumers.

Her years of experience in covering the natural hair movement gives her unique insight into what truly resonates with Black women. As an advocate in the natural hair movement, her work uses natural hair as the gateway to addressing Black women's physical, mental, and emotional health. Natasha is on a mission to change the narrative around natural hair which is why she decided to create her own media organization, Mane Moves Media, Inc.



Erika George

Erika R. George joined the Boston University Law faculty in 2024 from the University of Utah to serve as the associate dean for equity, justice, & engagement and the R. Gordon Butler Scholar in International Law. Professor George, the daughter of a public-school teacher and a corrections officer/security guard originally from Louisiana, was born in Chicago and is the first in her family to graduate from law school. She grew up on the South Side of Chicago and developed an interest in understanding and addressing the racial inequality and segregation she became aware of as a child. It was this interest that first inspired Professor George to become an attorney.

In addition to law, she is interested in history, literature, culture and the arts. So, when she was appointed to direct the Tanner Humanities Center in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah, Professor George worked to enhance public humanities engagement, expanded and diversified audiences for public humanities programs, advocated for academic freedom and the right to read, and enriched campus and community engagement through outreach and research. After she learned about state legislative efforts to ban books the shelves of public schools and libraries, she co-founded the PEN America Utah Chapter to protect access and prevent censorship so authors from all walks of life can share ideas with different audiences.

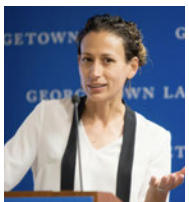
She is passionate about environmental justice and serves as a trustee of Earthjustice. She is the recipient of numerous awards for her advocacy, including the Society of American Law Teachers' M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award, the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission Human Rights Award, and the Inclusion Center for Community and Justice Service Award. Before joining the legal academy, Professor George was a fellow with Human Rights Watch in New York and conducted investigations in South Africa on the right to education.

She believes her legal education opened doors for her and she is grateful for the ability it has given her to open doors for others.



Gertrude Goh

Gertrude currently serves as the programs lead for the Africa Makerspace Network, a non-for-profit organization that brings together makerspaces for capacity building and collaboration on building a sustainable Africa. She also serves on the African Hair Stories Research Project as a research assistant and project manager. She has over the years gathered experience in marketing, corporate social responsibility, public relations, research, event organization and project management.



Thalia González

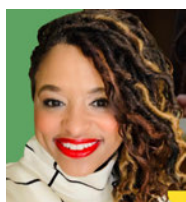
Thalia González is a Professor of Law and holds the James Edgar Hervey '50 Chair of Litigation. Professor González is faculty co-director of the Center for Racial and Economic Justice, Senior Scholar in the UCSF/UC Law SF Consortium on Law, Science & Health Policy, and a faculty affiliate with the Center on Race, Immigration, Citizenship, and Equality, and Center for Social Justice.

Professor González is nationally recognized scholar whose research in restorative justice, education law, health justice, juvenile justice, critical race theory, and adultification bias has been published in leading academic journals including *Boston College Law Review*, *American University Law Review*, *Wisconsin Law Review*, *Utah Law Review*, *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, *Stanford Law Review Online*, *UCLA Law Review Discourse*, *Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Theory Perspectives*, *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change*, *Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics*, *Contemporary Justice Review*, and *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*. Additionally, her applied research has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *NPR* and she is cited extensively in multiple fields. Professor González has received grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Grantmakers for Girls of Color, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Spencer Foundation, and Atlantic Philanthropies.

Thalia González

In recognition of her significant contributions to the field of restorative justice, Professor González received the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Research Award in 2022.

Presently, Professor González serves as Co-Chair, ABA Criminal Justice Section, Diversion & Restorative Justice Committee, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Public Health Advocates, and Chair, Board of Directors, National Association of Community and Restorative Justice. Since 2017, she has held an appointment as a Senior Scholar in the Center on Gender Justice and Opportunity at Georgetown Law and was previously a scholar in residence at Berkeley Law and UCLA School of Law. Prior to joining the faculty at UC Law SF, Professor González was the Madeline N. McKinnie Professor of Politics at Occidental College.



D. Wendy Greene

D. Wendy Greene is a Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Law, Policy, and Social Action at Drexel University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law. She is a trailblazing scholar and advocate whose work has meaningfully impacted civil rights law, policy, and movements. Professor Greene's blend of cutting-edge jurisprudence, legislative strategy, and public engagement has reshaped both legal and cultural understanding of "grooming codes discrimination" occurring in workplaces, schools, and other spheres.

Teen Vogue, Now This News, BBC World News, The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, World Afro Day, the Association of American Law Schools among others have celebrated Professor Greene for her instrumental role in moving grooming codes discrimination from the legal margins into recognized civil and human rights law and policy. For decades, Greene has advanced African descendants' human rights to be free from racial and cultural discrimination globally—across four continents and before White House officials; the United States Congress; state and municipal legislatures; the United Nations; the French Parliament; and the House of Commons (England) as well as through accessible public education programs and action-oriented legal scholarship.

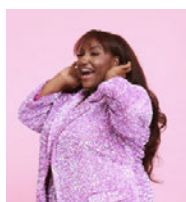
Iterations of the definition of race she proposed in her 2008 article, *Title VII: What's Hair (and Other Race-Based Characteristics) Got to Do with It?*, (republished in 2021) is being adopted in history-making state and federal legislation known as the C.R.O.W.N. Acts (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Acts): the first laws in the nation to expressly recognize natural hair discrimination is racial discrimination. She is a legal architect of the federal C.R.O.W.N. Act alongside parallel state and municipal civil rights legislation across the United States. Endorsed by federal courts like the 9th and 11th Circuits, Professor Greene's internationally recognized scholarship has influenced the enforcement stances of federal, state, and local administrative agencies as well as human and civil rights organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

Founder of the #FreeTheHair movement, Professor Greene has served as an expert witness in landmark civil rights cases challenging grooming codes discrimination. Notably, Professor Greene's legal expertise informed a seminal ruling in *Arnold v. Barbers Hill Independent School District*; crediting Greene's testimony, the federal district court held that the school district's enforcement of its grooming policy—compelling Black male students' to cut off their locs as a condition of matriculation—infringed upon the students' First Amendment rights to express their cultural and racial identity.

Greene is a native of Columbia, South Carolina and a graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana (B.A.), Tulane University School of Law (J.D.), and The George Washington University School of Law (LL.M.).

Myriah Hampton

Dr. Myriah Hampton is an educator, researcher, and advocate whose work explores the intersection of race, gender, and policy in education, with a specific focus on hair discrimination. Her research and advocacy are rooted in social justice, examining the impact of grooming policies on the leadership experiences and well-being of Black women and girls in schools. Since 2022, she has contributed to national and international hair equity efforts through organizations such as World



Myriah Hampton

Afro Day and Loud Women Lead. She also brings a strong background in education technology, designing innovative learning experiences and digital solutions to empower diverse learners. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Hampton is deeply committed to creating inclusive policies and empowering communities to challenge discrimination, one strand at a time.



Joseline Jean-Louis Hardrick

Joseline Jean-Louis Hardrick is a multitasking dynamo who is rewriting the script for what it means to be a modern-day legal superstar. By day, she is molding the minds of future attorneys as an Associate Professor at Cooley Law School, teaching Constitutional Law and Criminal Law. By night (and probably any other available time), she is the founder and president of Diversity Access Pipeline, Inc., better known as Journey to Esquire®: a nonprofit dedicated to promoting diversity and providing access to law students through scholarships, leadership programs, podcasts, blogs and Lawyerish®—a business that empowers every legal journey.

She is not just a lawyer and professor; she is also a prolific author and speaker. Her works cover a range of critical issues, from positive psychology in legal education to civil rights and diversity in the legal profession. Notably, she has published pieces on the importance of pipeline programs in diversifying the federal bench and bar, and she's a vocal advocate for the CROWN Act in Florida, which seeks to end hair discrimination.



Debra Hare-Bey

Debra Hare-Bey is the beauty Editor, WBM, CEO of OMhh Inc. & Red Room Luxe Salon @ OMhh, Licensed Cosmetologist, Master Braider and Celebrity Natural Hair Stylist.

Debra Hare-Bey is highly sought after for her expertise in healthy, natural hair care and creative styling. Clients and celebrities alike consistently rely on Debra's ability to maintain their glamour and star appeal. An example of Debra's expertise became the signature look of actress Erika Alexander (Max) from the hit sitcom Living Single. Max Nu-Loc hairstyle still remains the most admired, sought after style to date. Debra's master artistry continues with an impressive list of celebrities.



Zeba Huq

Zeba Huq is a civil rights attorney and clinician who has over a decade of experience teaching and litigating in the area of religious liberty, most recently as a supervising attorney and lecturer at Stanford Law School's Religious Liberty Clinic. Zeba has litigated at all levels of the federal and state courts, up through the U.S. Supreme Court. Zeba previously taught at New York University Abu Dhabi and Zaytuna College, and clerked at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Her research interests include minority free exercise, race and religious liberty, and separation of church and state.



Paige Joki

Paige Joki is a staff attorney at the Education Law Center, where she represents students, conducts trainings, and advocates to address the individual and systemic educational barriers facing students in Pennsylvania. She is responsible for leading the Education Law Center's Black Girls' Education Justice initiatives. Paige joined ELC's staff in 2017 as an Independence Foundation Public Interest Law Fellow, with a focus on eliminating individual and systemic barriers to quality education for students experiencing homelessness in the Philadelphia region. Paige is the proud inaugural winner of the Temple Law's Student Public Interest Network's (SPIN) 2022 Public Interest Impact award for her impactful legal advocacy.



Tammy Jolivet

Dr. Tammy White-Jolivet is a clinical psychologist, cosmetologist, and educator with over 20 years of experience. She is the founder of The Texture of Me®, a pioneering initiative that explores the connection between textured hair, mental health, and cultural identity. She coined the term Post-Traumatic Hair Syndrome® to define the emotional and psychological impact of hair discrimination, trauma, and loss.

Dr. Jolivet developed and launched a Texas state-approved Continuing Education (CE) curriculum that trains beauty professionals in textured hair care, trauma-informed practices, and the mental health effects of hair bias. She also offers specialized Post-Traumatic Hair Syndrome® training, equipping professionals with the tools to recognize, address, and support clients experiencing hair-related trauma.

In addition to CE and PTHS® training, she provides Cultural Humility and Equity Training (CHET) workshops, coaching, and consulting to organizations, schools, and salons seeking to create inclusive, healing-centered environments for diverse communities.



Thomas Joo

Thomas Joo is a Professor of Law at the University of California (Davis) School of Law Professor. He specializes in corporate governance, contract law, white collar crime, antitrust, and race and the law. Prior to joining the UC Davis faculty, Professor Joo was a clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in New York. He has served as chair of the Section on Contracts of the Association of American Law Schools. He is a member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Professor Joo is a co-author of a *Contracts casebook*, *Contracting Law* (Carolina Academic Press, 6th ed. 2023).



Diane Kemker

Diane Kemker is a clinical assistant professor of law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she is teaching Property and Professional Responsibility this year. Her research and writing focus on the intersection of aspects of identity addressed by antidiscrimination law (race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability) with core legal-doctrinal areas, including property, wills & trusts, tax law, and the law governing lawyers. Her most recent publication related to children's rights is *After Sveen v. Melin, Is There a Contracts Clause Argument Against Laws Retroactively Terminating Child Support Obligations After the Death of the Obligor Parent?*, 50 ACTEC L.J. (2024), which she also presented at the Drexel Law Review Symposium in 2024.



Thomas R. Kline

A founding partner of Kline & Specter, P.C., along with Shanin Specter, Tom Kline is one of America's most respected and influential lawyers. Mr. Kline has been described as the consummate trial lawyer of his generation. His many groundbreaking cases have helped shape the law and have resulted in corporate, institutional and governmental change and justice for his clients.

Mr. Kline has been selected every year as the attorney ranked first among 65,000 active Pennsylvania lawyers by Super Lawyers since its inception in 2004. In 2025, Forbes has included Mr. Kline as one of the top 100 lawyers among over 1.3 million active lawyers in America. He is the past president of the Inner Circle of Advocates, which *The Washington Post* described as "a select group of 100 of the nation's most celebrated trial lawyers."

Mr. Kline achieved many landmark jury verdicts in product liability and medical malpractice dating back to the 1980's with seven-eight-nine and ten figure jury verdicts in each of five decades. He achieved jury verdicts of \$8 billion and \$2.25 billion in individual plaintiff's trials involving injuries caused by defective prescription medication and a dangerous pesticide.

Thomas R. Kline

Mr. Kline's work in the Penn State/Sandusky scandal and in the Piazza fraternity hazing tragedy gained national attention and is exemplary of the impact of his public advocacy. In the multi-billion national Vioxx litigation, Mr. Kline was described by *The Wall Street Journal* as "a key player." He was the Chair of the Plaintiffs' Management Committee of the Amtrak 188 Derailment litigation resulting in a global resolution of \$265 million.

A graduate and recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award of Albright College, Mr. Kline earned his M.A. from Lehigh University and his J.D. from Duquesne Kline School of Law of Duquesne University where he has received the Distinguished Student and Distinguished Alumnus awards. Mr. Kline clerked for Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Thomas W. Pomeroy. The Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University was named in 2014, also establishing the Thomas R. Kline Institute for Trial Advocacy. In 2017, the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education was established at Duquesne University School of Law. In 2022, Duquesne University named its law school the Thomas R. Kline School of Law.

**Elizabeth R. Kukura**

Professor Kukura's research explores the intersections of health law and gender, with a particular focus on reproductive health and the law and politics of childbirth. Her scholarship examines laws and policies that impact healthcare decision-making and the role of race, class, gender, and sexuality in shaping health care access, experiences, and outcomes. Her work on obstetric violence explores the lack of legal recourse for rights violations during childbirth and the disproportionate burdens on people of color and other marginalized people within the maternity care system.

Professor Kukura's scholarship has appeared in such journals as the *Georgetown Law Journal*, *Washington & Lee Law Review*, *Fordham Law Review*, and *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, among others. Her new article, *Normalizing Maternal Ambivalence*, which critiques the law's punitive response to women's perceived ambivalence about pregnancy and parenting, is forthcoming in the *Arizona State Law Journal*.

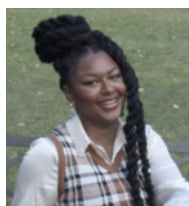
Before joining the Kline School of Law, Professor Kukura taught at the Temple University Beasley School of Law. She has also taught at Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine in the Center for Health Justice & Bioethics. She is a member of the Quality Maternal & Newborn Care (QMNC) Research Alliance.

**Charlene Makita**

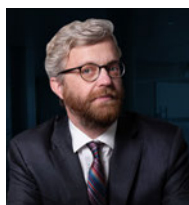
Dr. Charlene Makita is the founder and CEO of Natural Aura hair products, an analytical chemist, and a public speaker. She is an afro-hair advocate and is deeply committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, particularly in addressing the systemic challenges as it relates to Afro hair discrimination.

**Erin Maybin**

Erin H. Maybin is a Beauty Professional committed to uplifting the natural hair care and cosmetology industries. Her leadership and dedication to excellence empowers and encourages professionals to unleash their creativity and become active participants in shaping the industry's future. She is skilled in building cross-functional teams, demonstrating exceptional communication skills, and making critical decisions during challenges. Erin is an adaptable, transformational leader with the ability to work independently, create effective presentations and develop opportunities that further establish organizational goals.

**Danielle McCarthy**

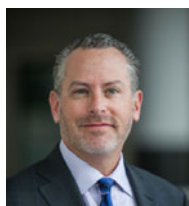
Danielle McCarthy is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst campus in the sociology department. Her primary areas of research focus on reproductive health disparities, Black women's health, and racism as a process from the perspectives of medical sociology, critical race theory, political sociology, and historical sociology. Her work seeks to understand how racism works as an ongoing and recurring process with ideological and structural factors that reproduce racialized reproductive health outcomes over time. Currently, she is working on her dissertation, which examines the sociopolitical landscape of uterine cancer disparities among Black women. She graduated with her BA from Rutgers as a double major in Public Policy and Sociology in 2020. Her policy background and sociological training have enabled her to analytically engage with public health issues in innovative ways, examining historical structures of knowledge construction as a means of understanding the contemporary. Further, her experience in advocacy work has prepared her to be solution-oriented and well-versed in being the bridge point of communication between various groups. Her work is reflective of her deep commitment to serving Black and Brown communities, especially Black women. She firmly believes that every aspect of life impacts health and, therefore, whether through research, policy development, advocacy work, or narrative health, she is dedicated to supporting the progression of understanding that health goes beyond the absence of disease.

**Kevin McKie**

Kevin McKie is an attorney with Environmental Litigation Group, P.C. He represents thousands of clients around the country in complex environmental toxic tort cases in pursuing their legal remedies. Kevin primarily works on individual lawsuits in addition to large community exposure cases attending to the needs of employee who have been neglected by companies; he has also represented businesses in environmental matters.

Mr. McKie is an experienced lawyer working for a unique firm that has received large verdicts and settlements in environmental cases. Kevin is also former public official. He served for 2 years on the Board of Directors for the Birmingham Water Works Board, one of the country's largest water systems. Kevin's diverse professional experiences have helped him to cultivate a keen ability to understand clients' particular situations, which makes him a person with whom clients feel especially comfortable.

Mr. McKie is a graduate of University of Alabama School of Law and Auburn University.

**Tobi Millrood**

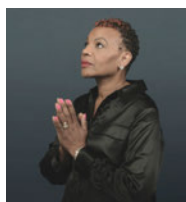
Tobi Millrood is a partner at the firm of Kline & Specter, PC, in Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Millrood brings nearly 30 years of complex litigation experience, with a focus on pharmaceutical and medical device litigation. Through his tireless dedication and careful attention to his client's cases, Mr. Millrood has earned the accolades of his peers, clients, and Courts.

Mr. Millrood has dedicated the last three years to the Roundup Litigation involving the carcinogen glyphosate. Mr. Millrood played a critical role in the trial teams of three groundbreaking verdicts in Philadelphia, \$175 million, \$2.25 billion, and \$78 million, respectively. Mr. Millrood was also the first to file a Hormone Therapy lawsuit in the nation in 2002 and dedicated the next 12 years to the litigation. Mr. Millrood served as Plaintiffs' Lead Liaison Counsel in In Re Hormone Therapy Litigation, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. He was also on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL 1507 – In Re Prempro Products Liability and was Chair of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Hormone Therapy Litigation Group. Mr. Millrood tried four Hormone Therapy cases, obtaining Plaintiffs' verdicts in all four, including verdicts in November, 2009 for \$34.3 million and December 2011 for \$72.6 million. Mr. Millrood also played an integral role in major appellate victories in the litigation, ranging from the state courts of Pennsylvania and Minnesota, to the Eighth Circuit.

Tobi Millrood

Mr. Millrood has served in numerous Court-appointed leadership positions in other pharmaceutical and medical device litigations. He was appointed by Hon. F. Dennis Saylor as Co-Lead Counsel in In re Zofran (Ondansetron) Products Liability Litigation, MDL 2657 and by Hon. Rebecca Pallmeyer as Co-Lead Counsel in In re Zimmer Nexgen Knee Products Liability Litigation, MDL 2272. He was also appointed Co-Lead in the Pennsylvania Opioid Litigation, Del. Cty. vs Purdue Pharma, et al. and Co-Lead/Liaison Counsel in In re Elmiron Products Liability Litigation, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Millrood speaks frequently at various seminars, on the topics of Mass Tort Litigation, Expert Witnesses, Direct and Cross-Examination, Closings and Rebuttals, the Ethics of Settling Mass Tort Cases, Trial Strategies and Electronic Discovery.

Mr. Millrood was President of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) for 2020-21. He also is a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ) Board of Governors, as well as the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers (PTLA) Board of Directors. He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the District of New Jersey, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Court of Federal Claims and the Third Circuit, as well as the United States Supreme Court.

**Tamara Myles**

Tamara Myles is the President of Sisters Network Inc. Greater Metropolitan Detroit Chapter. Sisters Network® Inc. is committed to increasing local and national attention to the devastating impact that breast cancer has in the Black community. Tamara was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017 and encourages all women to get their yearly mammograms. Tamara is a breast cancer survivor and has redefined her own crown.

**Odessa Norwood**

Odessa Norwood is the owner of Odessa's Beauty Salon in Philadelphia.

**Joni Allyn Odum**

Joni Allyn Odum is a dynamic Texas-born entrepreneur serving as President and CEO of Firstline® Inc., a premier personal care company headquartered in Houston, Texas. Established in 1986, Firstline Brands made history as the first African American-owned hair accessory company to achieve national distribution, securing placements in major retailers such as Walmart, Target, Walgreens, CVS, Sally Beauty, and numerous other U.S. and international outlets. The company's signature brands—Evolve®, WavEnforcer®, DriSweat®, Camryn's BFF®, and Sleek®—are thoughtfully designed to meet the unique needs of textured hair consumers.

Joni credits her accomplishments to strong personal values, rich cultural experiences, rigorous education, and a relentless work ethic instilled early on by her late father and Firstline Brands' founder, Robert A. Bowser. Her childhood summers spent under his mentorship—from packaging wrap caps to understanding company operations firsthand—nurtured her enduring entrepreneurial spirit and strategic vision.

Known for her engaging personality and genuine passion for uplifting others, Joni has successfully expanded Firstline Brands into new markets, driving significant innovation across product lines. Notable achievements include the groundbreaking Evolve® Wide Edge Bonnet collection, Evolve Satin Wraps, and the acclaimed Camryn's BFF® & Evolve® Edge Brush, all strategically crafted to enhance textured hairstyles. Her expertise spans product innovation, strategic growth, financial

Joni Allyn Odum

acumen, and relationship management. Under her leadership, Firstline has secured numerous accolades for innovation and achieved impressive expansion nationwide.

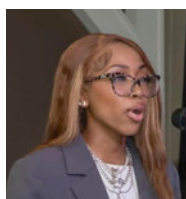
Before leading Firstline Brands, Joni developed her strategic and financial expertise at Johnson & Johnson through their Financial Leadership Development Program, where she supported global strategic marketing initiatives and managed the brand marketing budget for prominent brands like Neutrogena and Tylenol. Joni holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Hampton University's School of Business, graduating cum laude.



Patricia Okonta

Patricia Okonta is a Staff Attorney in Public Justice's Students' Civil Rights' Project where she works on a variety of racial and gender justice cases to defend students' rights. Her practice includes challenges to discriminatory school policies that target students with culturally-significant hair styles, a state's attempts to censor school curricula, private schools' racially discriminatory discipline and retaliation, and state laws that threaten to withhold funding from schools that permit transgender students to use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity. Patricia's work also includes a challenge to the Trump administration's decision to gut the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) by imposing a massive reduction in force that cut half of the OCR's staff and closed over half of its regional offices.

Prior to joining Public Justice, Patricia served as Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) where she worked on a variety of racial justice matters across the country, including challenging the South Carolina Department of Education's attempts to censor curriculum and erode the quality of public education; discriminatory dress and grooming codes in schools; and the constitutionality of California's capital punishment scheme. Previously, she served as a law clerk for Chief Judge Margo K. Brodie of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York and the Honorable Jane B. Stranch in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Patricia received her J.D. from Columbia Law School, as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and Campbell Award Recipient, and served as Executive Editor of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* and former staffer of the *Jailhouse Lawyers Manual*. She received her B.A., with distinction, from Yale University.



Amaiyah-Monet Parker

Amaiyah-Monet Parker is an undergraduate research scholar, advocate, and community leader pursuing a B.A. in English with a minor in International and Comparative Studies at George Mason University. A Dean's List student and Bonner Scholar, she researches the generational adultification of Black girls through the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program. She co-presented with attorney Paige Joki on an Education Law Center report she helped develop and has led advocacy programs with WeREIGN to amplify Black girls' voices and influence policy. Amaiyah Monet aspires to attend the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and become an international policy lawyer advancing equity globally.

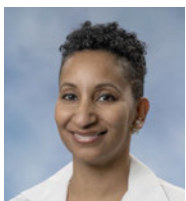


Alex Pearl

Professor Alex Pearl is an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and a Professor of Law at the University of Oklahoma where he holds the Chickasaw Nation Endowed Chair in Native American Law. Professor Pearl is a nationally recognized scholar in the field of Federal Indian Law. His academic scholarship focuses on the fields of Federal Indian Law, water rights, Constitutional Law, and statutory interpretation. His scholarship has been published at journals from Yale University, Harvard University, the University of Michigan, UCLA and many other legal publications. Professor Pearl's work was cited by Justice Gorsuch in his concurring opinion in the Supreme Court's decision in *Haaland v. Brackeen*. Prior to academia, Professor Pearl practiced at a large law firm in Washington, D.C. where he exclusively represented Indian tribes and individual Native persons in a variety of circumstances in state, federal, and tribal courts.

**Tracy Pearl**

Tracy Hresko Pearl is the William J. Alley Professor of Law at the University of Oklahoma where she teaches Torts, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility. Her scholarship has been published in top law reviews and presented at conferences in the U.S. and abroad. She has also been quoted in a wide range of media including the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *NPR*, *Consumer Reports*, *NBC News*, and the *National Law Journal*, and has written op-eds for publications across the country. Prof. Pearl is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

**Versha Pleasant**

Dr. Versha Pleasant was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia receiving a Bachelor of Arts in French. She then completed a Master of Public Health at Yale University. She earned her medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. Dr. Pleasant completed residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan, and then completed a fellowship in Cancer Genetics and Breast Health at the University of Michigan. She currently serves as the Director of the Cancer Genetics and Breast Health Clinic at University of Michigan Hospital. She provides medical and surgical care for thousands of patients at increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer due to gene mutations (such as BRCA) or family history. She also provides specialized care to breast cancer survivors. Her research interests are focused on breast cancer-related racial health disparities facing Black women and improving access to genetic testing for underserved groups.

**Melvin Lee Rouse, Jr.**

Melvin Rouse Jr, PhD is an Associate Professor of Psychology and serves on the governing board of the Gender & Queer Studies and Neuroscience majors at the University of Puget Sound. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Virginia Tech University, a Master of Arts in Psychology from Boston University, and a Master's and Doctorate in Psychological and Brain Sciences from Johns Hopkins University where he studied in the lab of Dr. Gregory Ball. Prior to joining the Puget Sound faculty, Dr. Rouse was a postdoctoral research fellow at UC San Diego School of Medicine in the department of OBGYN and reproductive sciences in the lab of Dr. Alexander Kauffman. As a behavioral neuroendocrinologist, his research looks at how hormones, the brain, and social behavior interact using songbirds as a model system. In particular, Dr. Rouse is interested in the hormonal and socio-environmental cues that drive singing in female songbirds. Dr. Rouse teaches in the areas of behavioral neuroscience, hormones and behavior, human sexuality, research methods and statistics, and comparative neuropsychology.

**Gillian Scott-Ward**

Dr. Gillian Scott-Ward is a licensed clinical psychologist, filmmaker, and speaker whose work bridges psychology, culture, and social justice. She directed the award-winning documentary *Back to Natural*, which explores the global, social-psychological, political, and historical dynamics of natural hair.

Recognized with a proclamation from New York State Attorney General Letitia James for her contributions to advancing hair equity, Dr. Scott-Ward collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to help develop the New York City Commission on Human Rights' pioneering guidelines—the first in the world—to protect the rights of Black people to wear natural hairstyles in schools and workplaces.

She integrates expertise in trauma-focused therapy, somatic healing, and mindfulness to address the psychological and somatic toll of hair discrimination, blending research, lived experience, and experiential practices to inspire healing, advocacy, and systemic change.



Nicholas Serafin

Nicholas Serafin is the Albert J. Ruffo Assistant Professor of Law at Santa Clara University School of Law. He works at the intersection of moral and political philosophy and anti-discrimination law and policy. Professor Serafin earned a Ph.D. in philosophy in 2019 from the University of Michigan and was a finalist for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. He earned a J.D. from Yale Law School in 2012, where he worked for the International Refugee Assistance Project and the ACLU LGBTQ Rights Project. Professor Serafin's work is forthcoming in the *BYU Law Review* and was featured in *Slate*. He is currently interested in the foundations of moral equality and the moral basis of anti-discrimination law.



Cary Martin Shelby

Cary Martin Shelby joined Chicago-Kent College of Law as the Ralph Brill Endowed Chair Professor of Law in July 2023. She specializes in corporate and securities law and teaches a variety of courses such as Contracts, Business Associations, Securities Regulation, Corporate Finance, and a seminar on Investment Funds. Shelby was previously a professor of law at Washington and Lee University School of Law and served as a visiting associate professor of law with The George Washington University Law School during the spring 2021 semester. She was also the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law with Northwestern Pritzker School of Law during the 2022–2023 academic year.

Her research generally encompasses regulatory issues related to hedge funds and other pooled investment vehicles. It has utilized a range of theoretical frameworks to scrutinize the blurred distinctions between public and private investment funds resulting from financial innovation, retailization, and systemic risk. Her research has since expanded to explore intersections between race and systemic risk by examining the extent to which racism poses a threat to financial stability in ways that should be recognized by financial regulators. Shelby has published articles in *Northwestern University Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *The Business Lawyer*, *Boston College Law Review*, among other journals and periodicals. Shelby is currently under contract with *Cambridge University Press* for her forthcoming book project, *Markets for Black Pain: Law and Marginalization as a Commodity*.

In terms of honors and awards, Shelby received the DePaul College of Law Excellence in Teaching Award in May 2016 and the DePaul University Excellence in Teaching Award in September 2018. She also received the Ethan Allen Fellowship from W&L law school for scholarly excellence in June 2020. Shelby serves as a member of the Illinois Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and the Co-Chair of the African American Affairs Committee of the ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice.



Ashlei Spivey

Ashlei Spivey (she) is a bold visionary that works to create just communities. She is a graduate of Jackson State University where she studied communications, then attending University of Texas Arlington for her master's program in urban social planning.

Ashlei's impact is evident in the movements she launched including I Be Black Girl (IBBG). IBBG, where she serves as founder and Executive Director, is a collective that supports Black women, femmes and girls to live wholly, has had outsized impact since inception like investing over \$3M back into community and passing integral legislation like protecting natural hair in the workplace and schools.

In 2025, Spivey was sworn into the Nebraska State Legislature as the representative for District 13, and the 4th Black woman to serve in the history of the legislature.

She proudly serves as a board member for the Women's Funding Network and is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Ashely is also the immediate past board president for ACLU of Nebraska. In 2023, she was chosen as a J.M. Kaplan Innovation Prize Awardee, where she is one of 10 leaders selected out of 3200 for her innovative approach to community based birthwork

Ashlei Spivey

workforce and in 2024, Spivey was named USA Today's Woman of the Year for Nebraska. Her work has also been acknowledged by receiving the *Midlands Business Journal* 40 under 40, The Chamber YP Changemaker, Urban League of Nebraska YP Leadership Award, Ten Outstanding Young Omahan, WCA's Tribute to Women, Nebraska Public Health Defender and NAACP Community Partner awards. Most importantly she is a mother, friend, daughter and neighbor.

**Julia Steggerda-Corey**

Julia Steggerda-Corey is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Lawyering and the Donald Gaines Murray Teaching Fellow at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey Law School. She teaches Lawyering to first-year students and brings a deep commitment to inclusive pedagogy, social justice, and student mentorship.

Prior to joining Maryland Carey Law, Professor Steggerda-Corey served as an Instructor of Law and Director of the Risk Management and Compliance Program at Drake University Law School. There, she taught a range of courses on domestic and international regulatory law as well as legal writing.

Before entering academia, she practiced at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP (now Faegre Drinker), where she represented corporate clients and worked on pro bono matters. Her legal experience also includes work with the ACLU of Iowa and federal criminal defense.

Professor Steggerda-Corey's scholarship explores social identity and human rights issues focusing on race and the child welfare system. She regularly presents at national conferences on child welfare concerns, inclusive legal education, and human rights law.

She holds a J.D. and an LL.M. in Global Citizenship and Human Rights from Drake University Law School. She received her B.A. in International and Political Studies from Pepperdine University.

**Kayla Strauss**

Kayla Strauss is an adjunct professor and practicing labor and employment attorney whose work bridges the intersections of law, identity, and social justice. With a strong foundation in employment law, international studies, and alternative dispute resolution, she brings a multidimensional perspective to legal advocacy and scholarship.

At Howard University School of Law, Kayla teaches in the Howard Law/World Bank Group Externship Program, where her teachings are grounded in experiential learning and professional development, encouraging students to think beyond doctrinal boundaries and embrace law as a tool for structural change. Through this position, Kayla remains deeply committed to mentorship and legal education—supporting the next generation of lawyers in developing the tools necessary to advocate effectively.

Kayla's legal career includes representing corporate and individual clients in complex employment matters, including, whistleblower protections, and workplace discrimination based on race, gender, and cultural expression. Her experience in these areas informs her commitment to legal reform and policy conversations. In both her pro bono and academic work, Kayla is dedicated to causes such as voting rights, asylum advocacy, wrongful conviction review, and gender equity. Her scholarship critically examines the intersections of constitutional law, international human rights, and cultural autonomy—especially how law interacts with bodily integrity and identity politics.

Kayla holds a B.A. in Culture and Deviance Studies from John Jay College of Criminal Justice through the City University Baccalaureate Program (CUNY BA Program) and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law. Her participation in the *Weaving It All Together* symposium reflects her belief in the urgent need for legal and policy frameworks that affirm Black identity and dismantle institutional biases surrounding hair, health, and expression.



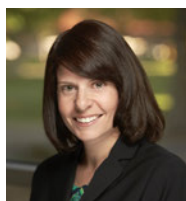
Gloria Tabi

Gloria is the author of two books, a researcher, a TEDx speaker, and a transformative Antiracism Specialist. With a family that includes both Black and white ancestry by marriage, she brings a deeply personal and nuanced understanding of race, identity, and belonging. Gloria's work is grounded in lived experience and academic insight, addressing the intersecting impacts of race, gender, and class. A recipient of the 2024 Legendary Award (African Australians NSW) and the 2022 Social Justice Award (Nelson Mandela Day Australia), Gloria is recognized for helping leaders create genuine, lasting inclusion. At 50, Gloria stopped hiding her natural hair under wigs and confronted the stigma surrounding Black women's and girls' afro hair. She now leads Enable Women Africa: #InspiringHairFreedom, a foundation dedicated to ending hair discrimination and celebrating identity.



Etienne Toussaint

Etienne C. Toussaint is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law. A private law scholar, he studies the historical development of poverty, food insecurity, and environmental injustice in the U.S. political economy. Drawing on critical legal theory, his work explores how race, culture, and social movements challenge private law's ordering of the economy. He teaches Contracts, Business Associations, Law and Political Economy, and Critical Legal History, among other courses. Professor Toussaint's scholarship appears in leading journals, including the *Columbia Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *Virginia Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal*, *UCLA Law Review*, and *Harvard Environmental Law Review*, among others. Nationally recognized for his teaching, scholarship, and service, he has received the National Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Award, the Society of American Law Teachers Junior Great Teacher Award, and multiple faculty honors at South Carolina Law. Born and raised in the South Bronx, Professor Toussaint is the proud husband of Dr. Ebony A. Toussaint, Ph.D., and the father of their three amazing sons.



Stacey Tovino

Stacey Tovino, J.D., Ph.D., serves as the John B. Turner LL.M. Program Chair in Law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. An elected member of the American Law Institute and an invited fellow of the American Bar Foundation, Professor Tovino's current research focuses on public and private health insurance, patient privacy and health information confidentiality, mental health law, substance use disorders and the law, and virus and vaccine law. Professor Tovino publishes her interdisciplinary research in textbooks, casebooks, encyclopedias, law reviews, medical and science journals, and ethics and humanities journals. Her recent scholarship has placed in *Texas A&M Law Review* (2025), *Fordham Law Review* (2024), *Boston College Law Review* (2024), *Emory Law Journal* (2023), *William and Mary Law Review* (2023), *Cardozo Law Review* (2023), *Duke Law Journal* (2022), *Alabama Law Review* (2020), *Notre Dame Law Review* (2019), *Iowa Law Review* (2019), *Alabama Law Review* (2018), *Washington and Lee Law Review* (2017), *Minnesota Law Review* (2016), *Boston College Law Review* (2016), and *Washington Law Review* (2016). An enthusiastic teacher, Professor Tovino earned law school-wide teaching awards in 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2020, as well as an OU College of Law Institutional Impact Award in 2021.

Within the legal academy, Professor Tovino is serving (or has recently served) as Chair of the AALS Section on Law Professors with Disabilities and Allies (2025), Chair of the AALS Section on Law and Mental Disability (2024 and 2009), Chair of the AALS Section on Biolaw (2024), Chair of the AALS Section on Law and the Humanities (2023), Chair of the AALS Section on Law, Medicine, and Health Care (2022), Chair of the AALS Section on Torts and Compensation Systems (2018), and Chair of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Mentor Committee (2023-present). Professor Tovino also recently completed two-year terms on the Executive Committee of the AALS Section on Teaching Methods (2020-2022) and on the Planning Committee of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (2018-2020).



Telia Williams

Professor Williams principally teaches and researches in the areas of property law, trusts and estates, law and literature, law and religion, and entrepreneurship and popular culture. Her scholarship focuses on the points of contact between and among narrative, performance, individual rights, cultural property, and law and society as well as how legal culture is transformed through entrepreneurship. Apart from her diverse scholarship, Prof. Williams has drafted a monthly newsletter for legal professionals on current issues involving the Uniform Commercial Code and consumer credit.

Professor Williams joined the South Texas College of Law faculty in 2025 after serving as an instructor in several different capacities (both short- and long-term) in various institutions, including Northern Illinois University (NIU) College of Law, University of Chicago Law School, Harvard Law School, Harvard University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City College of Technology, and Cairo University in Egypt, among others. Professor Williams was recognized by the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for her pro bono service, particularly in helping homeowners to avoid foreclosure, and in representing abused and neglected children in foster care. Professor Williams is a member of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, and has faithfully participated in seminars examining the continuing role of faith and reason in the American regime. She served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Jay S. Bybee of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Since 2012, Professor Williams has served as a judge pro tempore for Justice Court in Clark County, Nevada. Professor Williams is an aspiring polyglot, having formally studied American Sign Language, Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, and Hindi; having informally studied Akan-Twi, Ga, Italian, Latin, Papiamentu, and Tagalog; and having proudly earned a Certification to review and translate legal documents in Spanish and German. She is very passionate about helping students to pass the Bar Exam.



Wendy Woloson

Wendy A. Woloson is Professor of History at Rutgers University-Camden. Her research interests focus on the 19th century and include the history of capitalism, material and visual culture, consumer culture, secondary economies, and the underworld. Her most recent books include: *In Hock: Pawning in America from Independence through the Great Depression* (Chicago, 2009); and *Crap: A History of Cheap Stuff in America* (Chicago, 2020), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. Her most recent manuscript, provisionally entitled *Hairpieces: A History and a Self-Portrait* is under consideration with the University of Chicago Press. She is currently at work on a manuscript about the history of novelty and consumer culture.



Margaret Zhang

Margaret H. Zhang is an Assistant Professor at Widener University Delaware Law School, where she teaches Civil Procedure, Employment Discrimination Law, and Legal Methods. Her research explores issues at the intersection of reproductive justice, workplace justice, and environmental justice.

Margaret was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor and an Equity and Inclusion Fellow at Rutgers Law School. Before transitioning to law teaching, Margaret served as the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School's Interim Associate Director for Equity and Inclusion. Margaret also worked as an advocate for pregnant and parenting people with the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she specialized in advancing and protecting pregnant and lactating people's rights through individual client counseling and representation, policy advocacy, and community education.

Margaret served as a law clerk to Judge Cheryl Ann Krause of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and as a law clerk to Judge Rudolph Contreras of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Margaret Zhang

Margaret earned her J.D. cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she participated in the Supreme Court Clinic, served as Online Executive Editor of the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, and served as Executive Director of the Custody And Support Assistance Clinic (CASAC). She also holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Acknowledgments

For their invaluable assistance, input, and support in planning and organizing this symposium, we are very thankful to Emily Baker, Brian Crooks, Purnell Cropper, Silvia Chow, Carle Gould, Mallory Heller, Alec Lynch, Mary McGovern, Associate Dean Donald Tibbs, Ethan A. Jagielski, Margaux Penniston, India Franklin, Michael Krumenacker, Sophia Summerill, Isabel L. Brett, Kelly Capraun, Bailey Henry, Kate Hammond, Tim Huynh, and many student volunteers from the *Drexel Law Review* Volume XVII. We would also like to thank Ryan Young and Robert Hilton from Motto Hotel. We are thankful to Dean Daniel M. Filler for his ongoing support of this event, and we are especially grateful to all the symposium participants for sharing their time and expertise with us. We are deeply appreciative of Tom Kline's enthusiastic support and generous sponsorship of the 2025 *Drexel Law Review* symposium.

Molly Kernis '26

Executive Editor, Symposium, *Drexel Law Review*

Michelle Lebed '26

Symposium Committee, *Drexel Law Review*

D. Wendy Greene

Director of the Center for Law, Policy and Social Action (CLPSA) and Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law

Elizabeth R. Kukura

Associate Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law



Thomas R. Kline
School of Law



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

**Center for Law, Policy
and Social Action**

Thomas R. Kline School of Law



**Drexel
Law Review**

Thomas R. Kline School of Law



KLINE & SPECTER PC