

NCBL 50th Anniversary
October 4-7, 2018
Program

Fifty Years! And Still We Rise: Linking Arms with the 21st Century Movement for Black Liberation

Thursday, October 4

1:00 – 5:30 p.m. Conference Registration

Wayne State University Law School

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. – CLE

Wayne State University Law School

- Academy for New Activist Lawyers

Moderator: Desiree Ferguson, Attorney, Legal Director/Senior Staff Attorney Detroit Justice Center

Faculty

John C. Brittain, Professor Acting Dean of the University of the District of Columbia

David A. Clarke School of Law Attorney

Jeffrey L. Edison, Criminal Defense Attorney

Jaribu Hill, Attorney, Executive Director, Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights

Walter Pookrum, Criminal Defense Attorney

Brandy Robinson, Attorney, Federal Public Defender

This CLE is designed to provide new activist attorneys with insights on how to address the issue of race in civil and criminal cases. Faculty members have a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience and will share their experiences in cases that raise the specter of race including those that simply have a person of color as a party to ones in which race is a central factor. Participants will learn how to approach and prepare the case through all its stages including informal discovery, formal discovery, trial and witness preparation, negotiation and the actual trial.

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

Gala Founders Reception: Honoring Those on Whose Shoulders We Stand

More than 100 African Descendant men and women came together in 1968 to create a legal association that had the sole purpose of redressing the oppression endured by African Descendants in the United States and defending the movement for Black Liberation. Their foresight and commitment resulted in the creation of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, an organization that through 50 years has stayed the course of this commitment in the many ways it has been called to do so. It is to these Founders that we say:

THANK YOU, ASANTE SANA

Founders' Gala Reception Program

Libation: Calling on the Ancestors – Rev. Dr. Joann Watson

Greetings: Shirley A. Traylor, NCBL President

On Behalf of the Founders: Attorney Timothy Jenkins, Founder

Certificates to Appreciation Founders: Shirley A. Traylor, NCBL President

Friday, October 5

Registration

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wayne State University Law School

Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- Representing Victims of Police Violence: NCBL's Law Enforcement Accountability Project (LEAP)

Moderator: Lennox S. Hinds, Professor Emeritus of Law and former Chair of the Administration of Justice Program, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey Faculty:

Margaret Burnham, Professor of Law and Director of the Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project, Northeastern University

Nana Gyamfi, Human Rights and Criminal Defense Attorney

Donald Temple, "Street Lawyer," Civil Practice Attorney

This CLE is on sharpening the legal skills needed to engage in civil litigation to protect the rights of those targeted by law enforcement for use of force. This CLE will provide lawyers seeking to represent people victimized by the continuing assaults by the police on black and brown people and, increasingly Black and Brown members of the LBGTQ community, with the tools necessary to develop and implement a civil action for damages.

- How to Use Bail Outs and Community Bail Funds to Combat Debtor's Prisons. Faculty: Marbre Stahly-Butts, Director Law 4 Black Lives

Debtor's Prison is not a thing of the past. Black, brown and poor people often spend time in jail simply because they are unable to make bail. This is another aspect of Mass Incarceration – the jails being filled disproportionately with people of color, due to class, not crime. Movement for Black Lives has developed tools for people to utilize when confronting jail based on money and not alleged crime.

12:45 – 1:45 p.m. Brown Bag Luncheon Discussion

- ***Radical International Advocacy - Cuba, Palestine and South Africa***

Discussion Facilitator: Attorney Ron Isaac

Discussants:

Aaron Ogletree, Attorney - update on Cuba,

Lennox Hinds, Professor Emeritus Rutgers University – Palestine,

Gay McDougall, Domestic and International Human Rights Lawyer –South Africa

Henry (Hank) Richardson, Professor of Law - South Africa

NCBL has engaged in radical international advocacy since the early years of its existence. This engagement has included Cuba, Grenada, Palestine and South Africa. NCBL's current engagements are at differing levels of intensity. This session invites conferees to participate with the discussants in examining the current needs for radical international advocacy and reaching agreement on recommendations for presentation at the Annual Meeting on ways to continue that advocacy.

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- Representing Clients before International Tribunals

Moderator and Faculty: Lennox S. Hinds, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University

Faculty:

Chief Charles Taku, President, International Courts Bar (by video)

John C. Floyd III, Domestic and International Criminal Defense Attorney

This course is designed to provide the participants with an overview of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court with an emphasis on Part 2. Jurisdiction, Admissibility and Applicable Law. Participants will also be introduced to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence utilized by the International Criminal Court, emphasizing Pre-Trial Procedures, Protection of Victims and Witnesses, Trial Procedures, Penalties, and Appellate Procedures. Finally, participants will study the structure of the elements of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Participants will also be provided with the qualifications for admission to practice before the International Criminal Court

- The How to of Making Radical Judicial and Legislative Inroads to Decrease Racial Disparities in the Criminal Punishment System

Moderator and Faculty - Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, Professor Emerita, UALR William H. Bowen School of Law

Faculty:

Anastasia Boles, J.D., Professor of Law, UALR William H. Bowen School of Law

Marc Mauer, Executive Director, The Sentencing Project

Carlton Waterhouse, J.D., Ph.D., Indiana University School of Law

Since Reconstruction activists and activist organizations have bemoaned the racial disparities in the Criminal Punishment System demonstrated by anecdotal evidence and general statistics of the numbers in prison by race. The claim of racial discrimination in the punishment system has been met with retorts that Black and Brown people commit

more crimes or commit more violent crimes. Recent work has demonstrated that documenting the claims of racial disparity in charging and sentencing of like crimes can reveal factually the falsity of these retorts and produce legislative and judicial activism to address these disparities. State legislators, moved as much, if not more, by the cost of prisons have embraced Racial Impact Statements in sentencing laws. The Judicial Branch of State governments have modified jury instructions and educated jurors about “implicit racial bias.”

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel and Suites

Rising Against White Supremacy in Law Enforcement - Dinner Buffet

- Addressing the Criminal Justice System’s Collusion with White Supremacy through its Protection of Law Enforcement Who Murder Blacks

Setting the Context: Angela Y. Davis, activist, writer, and Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies at UC Santa Cruz (by video)

Moderator: Judith A.M. Scully, Co-director and Founder, Social Justice Advocacy Concentration Program at Stetson Law School

Panelists:

Cheryl Harris, Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at UCLA School of Law

Donald Temple, “Street Lawyer,” Civil Law Practitioner

Yes, we all know it - law enforcement in the United States has been the arm of White Supremacy since the founding of this country. Yet, do we really understand this connection? And, how do we engage in activism that articulates it clearly to the ordinary, non-activist person with the goal of creating policies and laws that can help strip the Criminal Justice System of this powerful and destructive connection?

Saturday, October 6, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration

Wayne State University Law School

8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Taking a Centering Breath

Jeffrey L. Edison

8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:20 – 9:30 a.m.

- Welcoming Remarks
Shirley A. Traylor, President NCBL
Monique Eubanks, President, Wayne State University School of Law BLSA Chapter
Peter Hammer, Director, David J. Keith Center for Civil Rights

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. – Opening Plenary

- The Black Liberation Movement Today and its Legal Needs
Moderator: Amanda Alexander, Founding Executive Director, Detroit Justice Center
Panelists:
Brandon Cahee, National Chairperson, National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA)
Angaza Samora Laughinghouse, Activist attorney, Southern Coalition for Social Justice's Clean Slate Project and National Assembly for Black Liberation
Marbre Stahley-Butts, Director, Law 4 Black Lives,

The more things have changed, the oppression of Black, Brown and other groups still remains. We must examine what the Black Liberation Movement is today in order to effectively serve as its legal arm. The panelists are legal activists from a younger generation than those who founded the NCBL in 1968 and many of NCBL's past and present leaders. We want to hear their insights into this question and together forge a legal arm that addresses the current state of the Black Liberation Movement.

11:15 a.m. – 12:45p.m.

- Ending Genocide I: Reallocating Local, State and Federal Resources from Mass Incarceration to Mass Community Restoration
Moderator: Amanda Alexander, Executive Director, Detroit Justice Center
Panelists:
Shari Davis, Co-Executive Director of the Participatory Budgeting Project
Marbre Stahley-Butts, Director, Law 4 Black Lives
Maurice Weeks, Co-Executive Director of the Action Center on Race & the Economy (ACRE)

Local, state and federal governments have used millions and millions of dollars on law enforcement, targeting Black and Brown people and adding to mass incarceration that disproportionately damages these communities. Activists are working to redirect the use of these funds to restoring vibrant Black and Brown communities that provide the infrastructure and material support needed to decrease the conditions that make these communities more vulnerable to offensive law enforcement.

- Gender & Racial Justice: The Challenges and Limitations of the #metoo Movement for Productive Progressive Leaders and Organizations (Roundtable Forum)
Opening remarks:
Ashley “AG” Green, Movement and Political Organizer, Dream Defenders
Adrien K. Wing, Associate Dean for International and Comparative Law Programs
University of Iowa School of Law

This session will look at the limitations of the #metoo movement, e.g., its apparent embrace of the gender binary of male/female in light of the LGBTQ movement and its role in Black Liberation (e.g. Black Lives Matter). It is also limited because it ostracizes and dismisses contributions from men once accused of sexual misconduct. One question is whether there is a way to address sexual

misconduct and say “no more,” while retaining the contributions of those who have been accused of and have committed sexual misconduct. Does this movement, or some configuration of it, assist in dissecting, coming to terms with and changing the sexual exploitation that often takes place in all segments of society including in Black revolutionary organizations?

- Representing People Injured by Water Crisis in Michigan and Beyond

Moderator: Debra Taylor, Co-founder, We the People of Detroit

Panelists:

Claire McClinton, Flint Democracy Defense League

San Juani Olivares, President and CEO, Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative

Nayyirah Shariff, Director of Flint Rising

Trachelle Young, Law Firm of Trachelle C. Young & Associates PLLC

The Flint water crisis represents the disregard for human life, especially the lives of the poor and people of color. Government’s disregard for the need to provide safe water in Flint speaks volumes about how officials view those they think are powerless. The response by the grassroots in Flint speaks volumes for how those who are so easily dismissed can and must be in the center of their fight for justice. The Flint grassroots response to the Flint water crisis ignited national and international support for Flint, as well as energizing grassroots’ struggles throughout the country for human rights and fundamental services that undergird health, rights compromised throughout the United States when the populations are poor and people of color.

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. – Luncheon – Cultural Expressions

Jaribu Hill - Civil and Human Rights Attorney and a Cultural Artist

Detroit African Heritage Performance Company

Open Mic

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

- The Why and How of Reparations Today

Moderator: Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, Co-Founder and first Female Co-Chair, N’COBRA

Panelists:

Kamm Howard, N’COBRA, Co-Chair

The Relationship between the International and United States Reparation Movements

Judith A. M. Scully, Social Justice Advocacy Concentration Program, Stetson Law School

The Chicago Police Torture Cases – The Role of Litigation and Mass Action in Obtaining a Political Resolution

Nkechi Taifa, Attorney, NAARC Commissioner and Carlton Waterhouse, Professor of Law

The Case of the GU272 – Representing the Descendants of Enslaved Africans sold in 1838 by the Society of Jesus to Benefit Georgetown University

One of the first documented demands for reparations appears in David Walker's 1829 *Appeal to the Coloured People of the World*. The movement for reparations was most notably begun by the Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association under the leadership of Callie House and I.H. Dickerson in late 1880s. The demand has been continuous with some successes along the way. This panel will examine the current status of the demand for reparations and strategies for realizing short term and long term victories.

- Ending Genocide II: Combating the Corporate and Government Conspiracy to Create Poverty and Homelessness.

Moderator – JoAnn Watson, Former Staff for Congressman Conyers, former Detroit City Council member, Wake-Up Detroit Radio Host

Panelists:

Bernadette Atuahene, Professor Chicago-Kent School of Law School

Peter Hammer, Director, Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights

Deirdre McEachern, Attorney, Co-chair Homelessness Project, NCBL DC Chapter

Monica Lewis Patrick, We the People

Eric Williams, Attorney, Detroit Justice Center, Economic Equity

Presenters will discuss legal, community-based and political strategies to minimize, if not end disproportionate poverty and homelessness in Black and Brown communities. It connects the dots between discriminatory financial actions such as untenable water bills, lien, mortgage and property tax foreclosures and predatory lending practices to poverty and homelessness. These policies and practices have led to unprecedented homelessness paving the way for a new surge of gentrification in major cities across the country that once boasted a significant rate of Black homeownership, including Detroit and Washington, DC.

- Fighting the Government's Efforts to Exclude, Marginalize and Demonize Immigrants of African and Middle Eastern Descent

Moderators – Florence Morgan, Attorney, Legal Aid Society of New York and Desiree Ferguson, Legal Director/Senior Staff Attorney of the Detroit Justice Center

Panelists:

Khaled Beydoun (by video) – Professor, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Avideh Moussavian – Senior Policy Attorney, National Immigration Law Center based in Washington DC

Asha Noor - Council on American-Islamic Relations (Dearborn, MI)

Fatou-Seydi Sarr – Social Justice Advocate and Human Rights Activist in Detroit

This workshop will examine the persistence of racism and regionalism in the history and application of immigration laws complicated by religious discrimination. The panelists will describe the challenges facing immigrants of African and Middle Eastern descent as well as those who are Muslim. The intersectionality of racism, Islamophobia and Xenophobia facing these immigrants raises questions of how to advocate for them that are not raised in advocating for Latino/a immigrants, whose faces dominate the

immigration rights narrative. The panel will develop strategies for combatting these challenges

4:15 – 5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

Presenting Workshop Recommendations and Resolutions for an NCBL Program of Action and Building Alliances
Discussion of updating the Declaration of Concern and Commitment to reflect the current conditions of Black, Brown, other people of color and other oppressed groups and the needs of the Movement for Black Liberation

7: 00 p.m. – Midnight

Sindbads Restaurant, Sohar
Banquet Room

NCBL BANQUET AND SHOWCASE:

Appreciation of Founders, Past Leaders, Allies and Clients

Co-moderators: Detroit National NCBL Board Representative Robert Burton-Harris and Professor Cheryl Harris, National NCBL Board Member

Rev. Dr. JoAnn Watson – Welcoming Those on Whose Shoulders We Stand

Adjoa A. Aiyetoro and DeWayne Boyd, Conference Co-Chairs–Asanté Sana, Thank you

The Honorable Hannibal Uwaifo, Lagos, Nigeria, President, African Bar Association -

Special Greetings

Mayor Deborah Jackson, Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba - Keynote Speaker

Jaribu Hill, Vocal Artist

DJ: Nebechi Ugwu

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Doubletree Hotel and Suites

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Closing Plenary

- Report Back from Annual Meeting and Closing Statement
Shirley A. Traylor, President of the NCBL Board of Directors

ONWARD EVER, BACKWARD NEVER

And, Still We Rise to defend, protect and enhance the viability of Black, Brown and people of color communities and the oppressed.