

# Poverty Law: Academic Activism

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February 19–20, 2016 • Seattle, Washington  
Seattle University School of Law  
1215 E Columbia St, Seattle, Washington 98122

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:30-9:00 a.m.      **Registration & Continental Breakfast**  
Student Center 160 – LeRoux Conference Center

9:00-9:30 a.m.      **Welcome Remarks – Sara Rankin (Seattle)**  
Student Center 160 – LeRoux Conference Center

9:45 - 11:00 a.m.    **Session I: Concurrent Panels**

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## HOUSING

Room 328, Sullivan Hall

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*“Staging an Intervention: Public Housing Reform”*

- *Jaime Lee*, Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Community Development Clinic at the University of Baltimore

Professor Lee will discuss the pursuit of her first self-initiated law reform project (as opposed to supporting those led by clients or community partners). The project hopes to spur change to public housing law and policy through publications in a law review, the popular press, and industry journals, and through outreach to practitioners, residents, advocacy coalitions, and legislators.

*“Housing Rights and Legal Activism”*

- *Margot Young*, Professor at Allard School of Law

The Ontario case, *Tanudjaja v Attorney General*, marks the current unsettled state of Canadian constitutional protection for those without adequate housing. This presentation will explore the impact of activist advocacy in this case and in the more general area of socio-economic rights under the Canadian constitution.

*“San Diego’s Homeless Court Program”*

- *Steve Binder*, Public Defender and Special Advisor, ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty

In 1989, the first Homeless Court Program (HCP) was held at Stand Down on a concrete handball court. To counteract the effect of criminal cases pushing homeless defendants further outside society, the HCP combines a progressive plea bargain system, alternative sentencing structure, assurance of "no custody" and proof of program activities, to address a full range of misdemeanor offenses and bring them back into society.

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## FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

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## Room 109, Sullivan Hall

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*“We Can’t Afford Our House: Not Everyone Has Recovered from the Great Recession”*

- Ariel Speser, Staff Attorney at Northwest Justice Project
- Lili Sotelo, Senior Attorney at Northwest Justice Project
- Bryan Adamson, Professor at Seattle University School of Law

A discussion of current trends, challenges, and best practices for representing low-income consumers and removing barriers to economic justice. This presentation will focus on the presenters’ work in the areas of foreclosure prevention and consumer protection.

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## MANUFACTURED HOME OWNERS

### Room 309, Sullivan Hall

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*“Winning Ways for Manufactured Home Owners”*

- Ishbel Dickens, Executive Director of the National Manufactured Home Owners Association
- Kylin Parks, Community Organizer of the National Manufactured Home Owners Association

Manufactured home owners living in investor-owned communities are some of the most vulnerable home owners in the country with seemingly no control over their lives, since the land under their homes can be sold at any time with the resulting displacement causing them to lose their largest asset, their homes. However, with passionate engagement and the use of innovative strategies, both legal and tactical, manufactured home owners have been able to save their communities and protect their assets with the help of community lawyers and committed activists.

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## CLINIC

### Room 327, Sullivan Hall

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*“Bridging the Gap Between Legal Services and Activism for Students and Faculty at the Center for Ethics and Public Service”*

- Catherine Millas Kaiman, Lecturer/Practitioner-in-Residence, The University of Miami School of Law

*“Pairing Poverty Law Classes with Clinical Practice to Enhance Both”*

- Spencer Rand, Temple University, Beasley School of Law

In this session, we will discuss our separate ventures intentionally pairing semi-traditional non-clinical Poverty Law classes with clinical classes in which students were doing poverty law work. In one instance, all students took both classes and in another, most students took just one class or the other and some joint classes were held designed to have both sets of students help each other understand what the other was studying. We will discuss why we paired the classes, including wanting to give clinic students a more holistic view of their clients' problems and non-clinical Poverty Law students a more experiential view of the problems poor people face. Because the pairing was more challenging than expected for both of us and failed in some ways, we will discuss what went right and wrong. Because we think it can be quite successful, we will discuss what can be done to enhance this teaching model.

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## TEACHING

### Room 110, Sullivan Hall

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*“Poverty Law and Activism in a First Year Course: Case Selection and Class Consciousness”*

- Deborah W. Post, Touro Law Center

A discussion about the use of hypotheticals drawn from case law that lead students to think about the way contract law addresses (or fails to address) the asymmetry in power that exists in market transactions that target the poor.

*“Equality Lost in Time and Space: Examining the Race/Class Quandary with Pedagogical Lessons from a Course, a Film, a Case, a Book, and an Unfinished Movement”*

- Angela Mae Kupenda, Mississippi College School of Law

Finishing the unfinished movement of connecting inequality themes is critical for a just society. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was in pursuit of unity across inequalities. In this presentation, Angela Mae Kupenda shares her pursuit and the process of incorporating this movement into the doctrinal classroom.

*“Creating Public Interest Lawyers to Serve Disadvantaged Property Owners”*

- Thomas W. Mitchell, University of Wisconsin Law School

A presentation on the summer externship programs established by Thomas W. Mitchell designed to train a cadre of law students to be able to serve poor and disadvantaged property owners who were at risk of losing their property in part because they lacked access to legal services.

*“Who’s Afraid of White Class Migrants? On Denial, Discrediting and Disdain (and Toward a Richer Conception of Diversity)”*

- Lisa Pruitt, UC Davis School of Law

A presentation on Lisa Pruitt’s essay that describes and theorizes the legal academy’s denial of both class disadvantage and class migration, with particular attention to how those phenomena are manifest in relation to white faculty.

11:15 a.m. - 12:25 p.m. Session II: Concurrent Panels

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## SCHOLARSHIP

### Room 109, Sullivan Hall

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*“The To Do List of a Southern Academic Activist: Pen to Paper, Voice to Mike, Minds Emancipated & Change Unleashed”*

- Angela A. Allen-Bell, Southern University Law Center

These lawyers have departed tradition when it comes to legal scholarship. They will dialogue about ways scholarship can be used to engineer change in society and, simultaneously, improve conditions for the poor and vulnerable.

*“Advancing Poverty Law Issues Through Scholarship”*

- Rory O’Sullivan, Managing Attorney at the Housing Justice Project
- Catherine Connell, Seattle University School of Law

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## TEACHING PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

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## Room 110, Sullivan Hall

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*“Moving from Do-Gooder to Power-Builder: Strategies to Shift Students’ Mindsets & Enhance Critical Analysis”*

- Courtney Anderson, Georgia State University College of Law
- Alina Ball, UC Hastings College of Law
- Sara Jackson, Director of Externships, UC Davis School of Law

Within every law school, there is a subset of students who matriculate with the aspiration to practice public interest law. Students come with big-hearted intentions, wanting to help and “do good.” The challenge is that too often they fail to consider, and we fail to train them, how to deeply engage and address critical issues of race, class, privilege, and the interlocking systems of oppression and discrimination that inflict both our legal system and who has access to it. The goal of this panel is to provide examples of how each of the panelists are engaging students in critical analysis through their work within low-income communities and the study of poverty law.

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## GENDER

### Room 327, Sullivan Hall

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Moderator: Aurora Martin, Columbia Legal Services

*“Poverty, Race, Equity: Why Gender Matters to Change Movements”*

- Rinku Sen, Executive Director of Race Forward, Publisher of Colorlines.com
- Anne Price, Managing Program Director & Chief Asset Building Director for Community Economic Development
- Lecia Brooks, Outreach Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center

There is a shifting (in)visibility of the impact and role of women when we look at the intersecting issues of race, equity, and poverty. To the extent that there are compounding barriers, there has been a longstanding pattern generationally from “cradle to grave” about how the faces of poverty continue to be a disproportionate experience among millions of women and children of color and elderly women of color. This panel reflects on the trajectory of change movements – from the Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty to Half the Sky to the urgency of Black Lives Matter and immigrant rights -- and imagines a new network of peer learning, community mobilization, and leadership that will support a new generation’s movement for racial equity and inclusion.

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## LISTENING

### Room 327, Sullivan Hall

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*“The Power of the Story: Effecting Change with Narrative”*

- Beth Leonard, Pro Bono Council
- Jay Doran, Equal Justice Coalition

An illustration of how storytelling and narrative can be effective tools to both educate communities and potential supporters about the poverty law movement, and to lobby for necessary social change. Using examples from the civil legal aid community in Washington State as a basis, panelists will discuss how the narratives of poverty law developed and the impact they have on popular perception of low-income people, anti-

poverty work, and legal communities. Panelists will discuss how stories, marketing narratives, and pedagogy can be crafted in order create broad-based support for equal access to justice and systemic social change.

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Lunch with Keynote Speech by Gene Nichol (University of North Carolina School of Law)

Student Center 160 – LeRoux Conference Center

2:15 - 3:45 p.m. Session III: Concurrent Panels

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## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Room 109, Sullivan Hall

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*“Academic Activism: Community Collaboration to Address Poverty and Achieve Social Justice”*

- Emily Benfer, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- Allyson Gold, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- Ramzi Kassem, CUNY School of Law
- Margo Lindauer, Northeastern University School of Law
- Colleen Shanahan, Temple University Beasley School of Law

This panel will explore how law school clinics are well-positioned to effect change in their communities through collaboration with advocates. Panelists will describe models for community collaboration, provide an overview of past advocacy campaigns, and distribute sample learning goals and competences.

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## AFFORDABLE LEGAL SERVICES

Room 110, Sullivan Hall

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*“Why Ordinary People Frequently Can’t Obtain Legal Assistance and What Legal Educators Can do about it”*

- George Critchlow, Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law
- Brooks Holland, Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law
- Gail Hammer, Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law
- Genevieve Mann, Clinical Supervisor at Gonzaga University School of Law
- Olympia Duhart, Professor at Nova Southeastern University

A presentation where panel members will engage in role playing for the purpose of discussing the reasons why poor and middle income people in the United States generally cannot secure affordable legal services. It should also expand into a discussion about how law schools and law professors can contribute to reforms that would expand access to justice.

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## HOMELESS RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Room 327, Sullivan Hall

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*“The Criminalization of Homelessness”*

- Joshua Howard, Seattle University School of Law
- Kaya Lurie, Seattle University School of Law
- Scott MacDonald, Seattle University School of Law
- Justin Olson, Seattle University School of Law
- Javier Ortiz, Seattle University School of Law

A presentation on the panelists’ comprehensive assessment of the criminalization of homelessness, including a general survey of the different criminalizing ordinances, a cost analysis of criminalization, and the discriminatory impact of homelessness on marginalized groups. This panel will examine how cities are increasingly criminalizing homelessness, and how these laws are expensive, ineffective, and discriminatorily impact already marginalized individuals.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Session IV: Concurrent Panels

**IP**

**Room 309, Sullivan Hall**

*“The role of academics in promoting the public interest in poverty-oriented intellectual property law.”*

- Sean Flynn, American University Washington College of Law

Intellectual property controls access to essential goods from medicines to text books. And therefore, its design and implementation can directly affect the ability of the poor to access the resources they need to thrive. This panel will discuss how academics have been intervening in domestic and international IP policy debates in coordination with anti-poverty and other public interest advocates to resist and transform the globalization of intellectual property rules that threaten public interest and anti-poverty concerns.

**BIG PICTURE**

**Room 110, Sullivan Hall**

*“From Contract to Status: The Story of Contract Law & Inequality”*

- Danielle Kie Hart, Southwestern Law School

Contract law is public law, not private law and, consequently, contract law in action is and must be seen as the deployment of State-sponsored violence. Contract law is really a system like so many others in American society, including but not limited to criminal justice, education, the family, and housing, that operates to re-instantiate existing social hierarchies often regardless of the specific intentions of the actors within those systems. That contract law plays a role at all in this process is important because the very fact that contract law produces social consequences (i.e., inequality) underscores the point that the distinction between private law (where individual freedom reigns) and public law (where the State can justifiably exert control) simply does not exist.

*“De/Re-Constructing Poverty Measures”*

This project focuses on better understanding

- Francine Lipman, William S. Boyd School of Law

poverty by dissecting the measurements to determine (1) who is and is not included in the population being measured (e.g., prisoners, soldiers, children in foster care are not included in the population); (2) the demographics of who is lifted out of poverty and by which of the several antipoverty programs; and (3) who has not been relieved of poverty through the market economy or government resources. The project also attempts to reconstruct the measure of poverty by reintroducing excluded populations who are expected to be disproportionately young men of color.

“Law Review to Op Ed: What’s Next?”

- Dale Margolin Cecka, University of Richmond School of Law

Based upon her success following a published article on eliminating anonymous reporting to child protective services, Dale Cecka’s presentation will focus on how to identify issues that can spawn both rich academic work and pieces that are palatable to the public. Additionally, this presentation will solicit feedback on a plan of action for using this research and writing to actually change policy and rewrite law.

“California’s Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act: What Have We Learned About Access to Justice, the Politics of Reform, and Strange Bedfellows?”

- Clare Pastore, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

Pursuant to the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act of 2009, California has been engaged in a multi-county pilot project to test the feasibility and effects of providing greater access to counsel and other assistance to indigent pro se litigants. This presentation will describe and critically assess the Shriver pilots with the goal of sharing best practices, cautionary tales, and other information potentially useful to advocates in other states.

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## FACULTY COALITIONS

**Room 109, Sullivan Hall**

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“Building Cross-Institutional, Cross-Jurisdictional Faculty Coalitions to Advance Policy Advocacy”

- Sara Rankin, Seattle University School of Law
- Jeff Selbin, UC Berkeley School of Law
- Emily Benfer, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- Colleen Shanahan, Temple University Beasley School of Law
- Paul Boden, Western Regional Advocacy Project

This panel will describe how they are working together—across law schools and jurisdictions—to advance teaching and advocacy around homeless rights issues. They will explain the challenges and benefits of such strategic collaborations inside and outside of the classroom, not only for their professional development, their students, and significantly- their community partners. The panelists hope to inspire other faculty to mobilize similar policy advocacy coalitions.

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## TEACHING

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## Room 328, Sullivan Hall

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*“Lawyers as Organizers, with Organizers:  
Expanding the public interest lawyer’s toolbox  
through an interdisciplinary approach”*

- Daria Fisher Page, Georgetown Law
- Ayelet Hines, Change University

The panelists, a clinician and an organizer, will facilitate a conversation focused on how we teach law students to be effective social justice advocates. We will examine issues that arise when lawyers and law students assume the role of activist-organizer, as well as what lawyers should know when working alongside organizers. We will consider these issues through the lens of a new collaboration in which we co-teach clinic students how to be organizers or how to best work with them, and will teach panel attendees basic organizing thinking and tools.

*“Moral Imperative—Legal Requirement: Why  
Poverty Law and International Human Rights  
Should be Required Courses in Law School”*

- Eric J. Boos, Concordia University  
Wisconsin

A presentation on an approach that requires law students to take “Poverty Law”; preferably taught by a professor who is directly engaged in serving the poor. Practically speaking, this might help reduce the social tension which results from the gap between rich and poor—something which even Alan Greenspan said was “the most dangerous part of what’s going on in the United States.” Eric Boos also discusses that there is a need to encourage the study of international human rights for the same reasons.

**5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Reception with Keynote Speech by Kaaryn Gustafson  
(University of California, Irvine School of Law)**

**Court Level, Sullivan Hall**

**END OF DAY ONE**

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

8:30-9:00 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast**

**Student Center 160 – LeRoux Conference Center**

**9:00 - 10:25 a.m. Plenary Panel**

### **EMPIRICAL ADVOCACY**

**Student Center 160 – LeRoux Conference Center**

Moderator: *Juliet Brodie*, Stanford Law School

*"Are Lawyers the Anecdote?: An Empirical Study on the Effect of Legal Intervention on Low-Income Patient Health Outcomes and Health Inequity"*

- *Emily Benfer*, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- *Allyson Gold*, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

*"An Empirical Examination of the Role of Judges in Access to Justice"*

- *Colleen Shanahan*, Temple University Beasley School of Law

*"Integrated Domestic Violence Court Project"*

- *Anna Carpenter*, University of Tulsa College of Law

*"Gender and Immigration Appeals in the Federal Courts"*

- *Michael Kagan*, William S. Boyd School of Law

*"An Empirical Look at the Effects of Inquisitorial Procedures on Access to Justice in Housing Court"*

- *Jessica Steinberg*, George Washington University School of Law

This panel will explore the intersection of empirical research and activism and will address questions including whether empirical research should and can be designed as a means to advance advocacy and activism ends. The panelists will also be discussing their own current empirical research projects.

**10:45 - 11:55 a.m. Session V: Concurrent Panels**

### **CRIMINAL LAW**

**John Dore Courtroom, Sullivan Hall**

*"Access to Counsel for People on Parole: Re-Envisioning Fairness through Prison Lawyering, Procedural Justice and Parole Reform"*

This presentation will focus on the panelists' efforts to secure access to counsel for poor people who are imprisoned throughout the state of Illinois.

- Sheila A. Bedi, Northwestern University School of Law

Panelists will describe how the legal needs of people who are facing parole revocation are left unmet, how the parole revocation process funnels people into Illinois' already over-crowded prisons, and their two-part theory of change.

*“The Death Penalty in Washington State: An Examination of the Economic Costs and Geographic Disparity”*

- Peter Collins, Seattle University
- Matthew Hickman, Seattle University

The main objective of this research was to examine the difference in economic costs between death penalty cases and non-death penalty aggravated murder cases that took place in Washington State over the last 30 years. Data include case-specific estimations of costs incurred in aggravated murder trials (N = 147). Cost estimation categories include those costs incurred by courts, defense, prosecutors, jails, and prisons, among others. We will also present information related to the geographic distribution (county level) of the aggravated murder cases that are currently on record (N = 330). Policy implications will be discussed.

*“Participatory Constitutionalism”*

- Janet Moore, University of Cincinnati College of Law

This new critique of popular constitutionalism deepens the analysis of how social movements shape constitutional law. Because popular constitutionalism remains juricentric and focused on social movement elites, it misses struggles of poor people and people of color. Those struggles encompass constitutional criminal procedure rights. Examples include participatory defense. This social movement uses community organizing to improve public defense and strengthen the right to counsel, with broader implications for reform of the carceral state.

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## **LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

**Room 109, Sullivan Hall**

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*“Shackles Beyond the Sentence: How Criminal Monetary Sanctions Create a Permanent Underclass”*

- SpearIt, Texas Southern University

This presentation concentrates on how Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs) literally make the poor pay for failed criminal justice policy. It will explore how scholarship is instrumental for reform and for developing alliances in the struggle.

*“Legal Financial Obligations in Washington State”*

- Alexes Harris, University of Washington
- Nick Allen, Columbia Legal Services
- Prachi Dave, ACLU of Washington

Washington State has legal financial obligation (LFO) policies and practices that unnecessarily burden poor defendants. These policies and practices have numerous negative consequences, including the creation of lifelong ties to the criminal justice system and hindrance of successful community reentry. This panel will discuss the law and research on LFOs in Washington State, the various consequences that flow from receiving LFOs, the impact they have on indigent defendants,

and recommendations for reforming the LFO system.

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## **COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES**

**Room 110, Sullivan Hall**

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“*After the Storm: Katrina’s PTSD Legacy*”

- *Olympia Duhart*, Nova Southeastern University

“*The Minimum Hourly Wage and Its Alternatives*”

- *Ruben Garcia*, William S. Boyd School of Law

“*Free, But Still Behind Bars*”

- *Hugh Mundy*, John Marshall Law School

An exploration of the collateral consequences of poverty. Specifically, this panel will examine the social, legal and policy failures exacerbated for poor people in three discrete areas: disaster response, fair wages, and criminal justice. In addition to exploring how poverty exacerbates difficulties in these arenas, the panel will also propose solutions to these problems.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Luncheon

Student Center 160 – LeRoux Conference Center

1:15 - 2:20 p.m. Session VI: Concurrent Panels

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## **MONEY**

**John Dore Courtroom, Sullivan Hall**

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“*Improperly Burdened: The Uncertain and Sometimes Unfair Application of Tax Penalties*”

- *Del Wright Jr.*, Valparaiso University School of Law

A discussion of how the IRS, with the Tax Court’s tacit approval, has unfairly penalized mostly low-income taxpayers by ignoring or misinterpreting two penalty protection provisions: section 6751(b)—which requires IRS supervisors to approve, in writing, all discretionary penalties, and section 7491(c)—which requires the IRS to bear the burden of the production with respect to tax penalties.

“*Medicaid Money Laundering*”

- *Daniel Hatcher*, University of Baltimore School of Law

Through illusory Medicaid maximization strategies, states and private revenue contractors are diverting billions in federal Medicaid funds into state revenue and private profit - harming vulnerable populations. This presentation will explain the revenue strategies, analyze the legal and policy implications, describe how the federal government has not done enough to reduce the use of these schemes, and will suggest needed reforms.

*“The Corporate Law of Social Purpose”*

- Professor Lisa Alexander, University of Wisconsin Law School

Social entrepreneurs draw upon business techniques to solve social problems. Prevailing legal scholarship presumes that the legal structure a social enterprise chooses will significantly affect its ability to attract capital to advance its social purposes. Lisa Alexander posits that the social networks and contractual relations within which a social enterprise is embedded may be as important a determinant of the social enterprise’s ability to obtain capital to advance its social mission as its legal form. Accordingly, legal research on social entrepreneurship may need to re-orient its focus from choice of legal form to how law can increase access to critical social financing networks.

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## FOOD

### Room 327, Sullivan Hall

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*“Criminalizing Charity: The Food Sharing Cases”*

- Marc-Tizoc González, St. Thomas University School of Law

Increasing numbers of U.S. cities promulgate ordinances that criminalize people who share food with those who hunger in city-owned public places. Thus, activists, lawyers, and scholars should understand how First Amendment jurisprudence, related statutes, and common law doctrines might protect the right to share food in public. Similarly, dismantling the facial neutrality of anti-food sharing laws can reveal the impermissible animus against those who hunger in public.

*“The Unshared Bounty Project at New York Law School: An advocacy initiative to challenge food disparity and food insecurity in low-income communities”*

- Deborah N. Archer, New York Law School
- Tamara C. Belinfanti, New York Law School

Unshared Bounty at New York Law School is a policy and advocacy initiative focused on challenging issues of food equity on behalf of low-income communities. Through education, research, and advocacy, the project brings together public interest, business and transactional law students and faculty to collaborate with local and national stakeholders to build a sustainable, equitable and accessible food system.

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## CREATING NEW LAW

### Room 109, Sullivan Hall

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*“Together We Can: Advocates, Academics and Agencies Creating New Law”*

- Merf Ehman, Columbia Legal Services
- Nick Allen, Columbia Legal Services
- Anna Reosti, University of Washington
- Lisa Herbold, Seattle City Councilmember

This panel traces local movements to improve substandard housing, address legal financial obligations and end barriers to reentry for people with a criminal history. We will discuss how we approached these issues together across disciplines. The panelists will discuss their setbacks and victories as well as the specific tools and strategies used by those facing poverty and inequities.

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## THE POVERTY OF FAMILY LAW

John Dore Courtroom, Sullivan Hall

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*“Poor Support/Rich Support: (Re)viewing the American Social Welfare State”*

- Wendy A. Bach, University of Tennessee School of Law

*“Death, Taxes and Child Support”*

- Tonya L. Brito, University of Wisconsin School of Law

*“Welfare Queen, The Epilogue: Criminalizing Black Mothers in an Age of Neoliberalism”*

- Ann Cammett, CUNY School of Law

*“Family Court Regulation of the Poor and Access to Justice”*

- Elizabeth L. MacDowell, William S. Boyd School of Law

This panel will examine the intersection of poverty law with family law, the criminal legal system, and gender, and the institutional settings where these intersections occur. The panelists will challenge the conventional siloing of family law from other doctrinal areas, and the conventional emphasis within family law on individual responsibility and the nuclear family.

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## TEACHING

Room 109, Sullivan Hall

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*“Teaching Toward Imagining Justice”*

- Julie Nice, University of San Francisco School of Law

We can't achieve justice if we can't imagine it. If we spend the vast majority of our classroom time on deconstruction and critique, then we miss the opportunity for developing our collective capacity to imagine a more just world. This presentation explores how the academic world can and should facilitate both the construction and implementation of justice. It is based on a paper that blends literature and data about mindfulness, emotion, neuroscience, and legal pedagogy, with more than 25 years of classroom experience in developing and evaluating techniques designed to facilitate the imagination of justice.

*“Teaching Humility: An Integral Part of Poverty Law”*

- Jeff Yungman, One80 Place Homeless Justice Project
- Anthony Haro, Lowcountry Homeless Coalition

An important aspect of teaching students in a poverty law course is helping them develop the skill to interact positively with the clients they will be serving. This includes teaching concepts such as active listening, empathy, and especially humility. This presentation will demonstrate how to integrate humility into a Poverty Law course.

*“You are an academic, not an activist”*

- Myrta Morales-Cruz, Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of

Myrta Morales-Cruz will talk about her work as a clinical law professor with a community based advocacy clinic and as a Law and Poverty course

Law

professor. Morales-Cruz will comment on how lawyering with poor communities is devalued, by labeling it as “social work,” “activism” or “non-legal.”

“What Are The Poor Doing Tonight?”

- *Brian Gilmore*, Michigan State University College of Law

A discussion on Bryan Stevenson’s ideal called ‘proximity of the people’ in the context of Brian Gilmore’s own law school, Michigan State University of Law. How can law schools, overall, diminish the distance between the law (and justice) and the poor in the modern era?

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## **HOMELESS RIGHTS ADVOCACY**

**Room 110, Sullivan Hall**

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“Legal and Policy Issues Affecting Visibly Poor People”

- *Ruby Aliment*, Seattle University School of Law
- *Jodilyn Gilleland*, Seattle University School of Law
- *Samir Junejo*, Seattle University School of Law
- *Vanessa Toor*, Seattle University School of Law
- *Alexander Glyman*, Seattle University School of Law
- *Jessica So*, Seattle University School of Law

As a compliment to the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project (HRAP) presentation on the criminalization of homelessness, the latest HRAP policy reports critically examine pressing issues such as vehicular residency, unofficial encampments, accessibility of public bathrooms, pet ownership, shelter conditions and requirements, the role of private business and the privatization of public space, and the intersection of immigration and homelessness. This panel will examine how laws, policies, and practices in these areas can violate civil, constitutional, and human rights; it will also propose better legal and policy approaches to the problem of homelessness.

**4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Session VIII: Concurrent Panels**

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## **RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING INSTITUTE**

**Room 329, Sullivan Hall**

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“Growing a Legal Services Movement for Racial Justice”

- *Dorcas Gilmore*, American University Washington College of Law; RJTI Advisory Committee
- *Nick Allen*, Columbia Legal Services
- *Merf Ehman*, Columbia Legal Services
- *Ada Shen-Jaffe*, RJTI Advisory Committee and Coach

Race equity is essential to anti-poverty advocacy. Through a discussion of Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law’s Racial Justice Training Institute (RJTI), this panel will explore the competencies, tools, and peer support mechanisms necessary to build a coordinated race equity strategy within legal services. The panelists will discuss their racial equity work and the opportunities and challenges for holistic racial justice approaches in legal services.

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## **RIGHTS**

**Room 327, Sullivan Hall**

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*“Activism, Access to Political Process, Diversity, and Higher Education”*

- Kristen Barnes, University of Akron School of Law

A presentation that considers protections for minorities from voter-initiatives that seek to override United States Supreme Court decisions on the use of race and ethnicity in admissions decisions. It examines the type of activism motivating the voter-referendum and problematic aspects of this device, and it also seeks to identify new strategies for advancing equal education objectives that are not merely reactive.

*“Invisible Cage: Breaking through Barriers of Children & Youth Trapped In Poverty”*

- Hillary Madsen, Columbia Legal Services

This session will discuss how our system of laws, policies, customs, and institutions operate collectively to keep Washington’s kids in poverty, and what advocates are doing to break through these barriers. Lawyers can help improve education and children’s wellbeing, push for stable housing, and advocate for second chances for youth who have committed juvenile offenses.

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## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Room 328, Sullivan Hall**

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*“Transparency, Accountability and Education as Antidotes to Poverty Progression in Africa: Nigeria as a Case Study”*

- **Elijah Adewale Taiwo, Adekunle Aijasin University, Nigeria**

The interface between poverty and socio-economic development, particularly in Africa has posed challenging problems. In the Vanguard of 26 June, 2015, the Nigeria’s Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo aptly captured the level of poverty in Nigeria when he lamented that no decent nation can tolerate the level of poverty currently ravaging the country and unless there is a functional social system where the highly vulnerable are assisted to survive, the vast majority of the population would die. A presentation on how transparency, accountability and access to quality education coupled with serious commitment to anti-corruption drive would stem the tide of poverty in Nigeria and stimulate socio-economic development.

*“Begging, Police Harassment and Academic Activism: A Novel Experiment in Florence”*

- Giacomo Pailli, Dipartimento di Scienze Giuridiche
- Alessandro Simoni, Dipartimento di Scienze Giuridiche

Florence has taken measures against begging or other street level economic activities close to begging. In response, a small unit of the Law School at the University of Florence has taken action. The project aims at conducting a scientific analysis of how local municipalities are overcoming certain legal obstacles and it also includes starting concrete actions to challenge these policies at a legal level.

*“Poverty, Justice and Legal Practice: A Call for Inclusive Socio-economic System in Africa”*

- Adetokunbo Alase, Lead City

Poverty has been attributed as the main cause of all ills in the society especially on issues of ‘wrong’ and ‘right’. Justice is a sine qua non for

University, Nigeria

peace in society, premise on which development is guaranteed. A myriad of research discusses poverty, illiteracy and realization of legal rights through the agencies of government. A lot of countries in sub Saharan Africa breathe poverty, and to guarantee equality, freedom and just society, there is the need for legal practitioners and solicitor's partnership with state legal aid for an inclusive justice system. There should be readiness to join forces with state apparatus 'legal aid' to combat poverty in access to justice discourse whilst barriers militating against services of external legal practitioners in legal aid in Africa are discussed.

*"The Role of Clinical Legal Education in Alleviating Poverty in Nigeria: The Akungba Law Clinic as a Case Study"*

- *Simon-Peter Ayooluwa St. Emmanuel, Adekunle Ajasin University*
- *Akintunde Abidemi Adebayo, Adekunle Ajasin University*

The Akungba Law Clinic trains prospective lawyers on practical problem solving and poverty alleviation. Through its training, the Clinic improves on the skills, knowledge and quality of law graduates produced by the University. The focus and emphasis of the Clinic centers around the indigent, disabled, children, women, and elderly persons.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Reception

Second Floor Gallery, Sullivan Hall

**END OF CONFERENCE**