

FIFTH ANNUAL LAW SCHOOL ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

NEW YORK STATE PERMANENT COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE



FIFTH ANNUAL
**LAW SCHOOL
CONFERENCE**

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE ROLE
OF NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOLS IN
HELPING MEET THE ESSENTIAL
CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS OF LOW-
INCOME NEW YORKERS**

Convened by the New York State Permanent Commission on
Access to Justice at New York University School of Law
May 17, 2016

HELAINÉ M. BARNETT
Chair, New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice



FIFTH ANNUAL LAW SCHOOL

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE

THE ROLE OF NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOLS IN HELPING MEET THE ESSENTIAL CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS

9:00 - 9:30 am Registration, Check-In & Light Refreshments

Vanderbilt Hall

9:30 - 10:00 am Welcome and Introduction

Tishman Auditorium

Helaine M. Barnett, Chair, New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice; President, Legal Services Corporation (2004-2009)

Trevor W. Morrison, Dean and Eric M. and Laurie B. Roth Professor of Law, New York University School of Law

Opening Remarks **Hon. Janet DiFiore**, Chief Judge of the State of New York

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Morning Plenary Session

Tishman Auditorium

Race, Poverty, Identity: Diversity Issues and Access to Civil Justice

Keynote Speaker **Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.**, Jesse Climenko Professor of Law; Director, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice, Harvard Law School

Panel Discussion Moderated by **Professor Ogletree**

The panel discussion will explore how New York's law schools can and should contribute to improved access to equal justice for New Yorkers who face barriers due to race, poverty, identity and their intersections. Intended to provide inspiration and preparation for the Work Group sessions that follow, the Panel will consider (a) how law schools can encourage and educate their students to become lawyers who help close, or at least narrow, the justice gap; (b) whether there is a relationship between who graduates from law school and what needs are served; (c) how to best encourage and empower students from marginalized communities to enter and succeed in law school; and (d) whether schools should also increase access to justice by training other legal professionals, in addition to lawyers.

Panelists **Deborah N. Archer**, Dean of Diversity & Inclusion; Professor of Law; Co-Director, Impact Center for Public Interest Law; Director, Racial Justice Project, New York Law School

Jennifer Ching, Project Director, Queens Legal Services, Legal Services NYC

Hon. Fern Fisher, Director, New York State Courts Access to Justice Program; Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts

Suzanne B. Goldberg, Executive Vice President for University Life; Herbert and Doris Wechsler Clinical Professor of Law; Director, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, Columbia Law School

Maya Wiley, Counsel to Mayor Bill de Blasio, City of New York

12:15 - 1:10 pm Work Group Sessions: Part One**Four Concurrent Sessions**

Participants will hear brief panel presentations about the Work Group themes and goals during Part One of the Work Group Session. After the lunch break, participants will return to their Work Groups for Part Two of the Work Group Session. Part Two will feature targeted discussions to generate ideas for future action and recommendations, to present to the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice for consideration and possible inclusion in its Annual Report to the Chief Judge, on law school efforts to help close the justice gap.

A. Opening the Doors: Access to Law School as an Access-to-Justice Issue Faculty Library

The Work Group Session will address how access to law school affects access to civil justice; does who becomes a lawyer affect who receives legal services? Law Schools have a variety of approaches to addressing issues of race, identity and diversity that can limit access to a legal education and the legal profession. The Work Group will explore law school efforts to nurture pipelines to legal educational opportunities and discuss the effect of economic considerations, e.g. law school tuition, financial aid, student debt and loan forgiveness, on the composition of the law school class.

Facilitator **Lillian M. Moy**, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Panelists **Charles I. Auffant**, Clinical Professor of Law, S.I. Newhouse Center for Law & Justice, Rutgers School of Law

Elaine M. Chiu, Professor of Law; Director, Ronald H. Brown Center for Equal Rights and Economic Development, St. John's University School of Law

Robin A. Lenhardt, Professor of Law; Director, Center on Race, Law and Justice, Fordham University School of Law

Anne Williams-Isom, Chief Executive Officer, Harlem Children's Zone

B. Infusing Diversity Issues and Access to Justice into the Law School Curriculum: Understanding the Skills, Professional Values and Cultural Competencies Greenberg Lounge

An overview of the history of the justice gap will set the framework for the Work Group dialogue about the learning objectives law schools should identify, in furtherance of ABA Standard 302 and Court of Appeals Rule 520.18, to ensure that students acquire an understanding of the justice gap and recognize the lawyer's responsibility to ensure all individuals have equal access to the privileges of our justice system. The Work Group will examine existing examples of learning objectives related to access to justice, consider further formulations of such objectives, discuss how these objectives can be taught through the required curriculum and how law schools can assess students' competency for ethical participation in the profession. The Work Group will also explore how law schools can impart an understanding of the unique value pro bono legal services offer to people in need to achieve the fair administration of equal justice for all.

Facilitator **Connie Mayer**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Raymond and Ella Smith Distinguished Professor of Law, Albany Law School

PROGRAM

Panelists **Kim Diana Connolly**, Professor of Law; Vice Dean for Legal Skills; Director; Clinical Legal Education, SUNY Buffalo Law School

Alexander D. Forger, President, Legal Services Corporation (1994-1997)

Jennifer A. Gundlach, Senior Associate Dean for Experiential Education; Clinical Professor of Law, Maurice A. Deane School of Law, Hofstra University

Sarah Rogerson, Associate Professor of Law Director; Law Clinic & Justice Center Director; Immigration Law Clinic Albany Law School

C. Non-Lawyers Working to Help Narrow the Justice Gap and the Role of Law Schools and Law Students

Furman Hall 334

The Work Group Session will examine the use of non-lawyers, in the New York State courts, neighborhood storefront centers, community organizations and law school clinics and practice settings, to enhance access to justice for unrepresented and self-represented individuals and the impact of this collaborative work on the administration of justice. The Work Group will consider how law schools can teach and train law students to effectively and efficiently work with non-lawyers to enhance access and ensure the fair administration of justice.

Facilitator **Thomas Maligno**, Executive Director, Public Advocacy Center; Director of Public Interest; Touro Law Center

Panelists **Natalia Faras**, Founder and Manager, Project Totem, Albany Law Clinic & Justice Center, Albany Law School, J.D. Candidate 2017

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**D. New Models for Cost Effective Legal Service Delivery
to Enhance Access to Justice**

Furman Hall 210

The Work Group will explore innovative models of legal service delivery, teaching paradigms that incorporate digital lawyering and regulatory challenges that may unreasonably deter access-to-justice reforms. Against this backdrop, the Work Group will examine how these models can work to close the justice gap; explore how to effectively use technology to reach underserved communities; and, provide students with opportunities to develop the skills and cultural competencies to practice law in the 21st Century and narrow the justice gap.

Facilitator **Jack Graves**, Professor of Law & Director of Digital Legal Education, Touro Law Center

Panelists **Benjamin H. Barton**, (via Zoom from Tennessee) Helen and Charles Lockett Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Tennessee College of Law

Lynn Lu, Clinical Law Professor; Managing Attorney, Court Square Law Project, CUNY School of Law

Leah Margulies, Senior Advisor, LawHelp NY, Pro Bono Net

1:15 - 1:45 pm Lunch

Greenberg Lounge

1:55 - 3:45 pm Afternoon Work Group Sessions: Part Two

Concurrent Sessions continue

Return to Rooms

3:55 - 4:35 pm Afternoon Plenary Session

Tishman Auditorium

Moderator **Matthew Diller**, Dean and Paul Fuller Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law; Chair, Law School Involvement Working Group, New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice

Presentation **Laren Spierer**, Director of Pro Bono Programs, Columbia Law School

Preview component chapter of the online Handbook of Best Practices for Supervising Law Student Pro Bono Work

Reports from Facilitators of Work Group Sessions

Conference Recap **Dean Diller**

Concluding Remarks **Helaine M. Barnett**

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