



RUTGERS RACE & THE LAW REVIEW

FAMILY MATTERS: UNDERSTANDING RACE AND ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES **A Virtual Symposium in Honor of Professor Twila Perry** April 12, 2022

SPEAKERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Panel:

Caring for the Well-Being of Black Children: **Re-examining Legal Standards through Critical Race Theory**



Vinay Harpalani

Henry Weihofen Professor & Associate Professor of Law
University of New Mexico School of Law

Speaker

Vinay Harpalani teaches courses in constitutional law, civil procedure, employment discrimination, and race and the law. Professor Harpalani was the recipient of the 2017 Derrick A. Bell, Jr. Award from the Association of American Law Schools Section on Minority Groups and the 2016 Junior Teaching Faculty Award from the Society of American Law Teachers. His scholarship explores the nuances of racial diversity, identity, and equity from an interdisciplinary perspective. Professor Harpalani is recognized as a national expert on affirmative action in university admissions. Several of his law review articles have been cited in legal briefs or opinions at the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the New York Court of Appeals. He has also been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Time* magazine, among other media outlets. Professor Harpalani earned his J.D. from New York University School of Law, where he was an Articles Editor on the New York University Law Review and winner of the Gary A. Moncrieffe Award for outstanding student in racism and law. He obtained his Ph.D. and Masters' degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and his bachelors' degrees from the University of Delaware.



Dorothy Roberts

George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology
University of Pennsylvania Law School

Speaker

Dorothy Roberts is the George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, with joint appointments in the Departments of Africana Studies and Sociology and the Law School, where she is the inaugural Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights. She is also the founding director of the Penn Program on Race, Science, and Society. Professor Roberts is the author of *KILLING THE BLACK BODY: RACE, REPRODUCTION, AND THE MEANING OF LIBERTY* (Pantheon, 1997/Vintage, 2017), *SHATTERED BONDS: THE COLOR OF CHILD WELFARE* (Basic Books, 2001), and *FATAL INVENTION: HOW SCIENCE, POLITICS, AND BIG BUSINESS RE-CREATE RACE IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY* (The New Press, 2011), as well as more than 100 articles and essays in books and scholarly journals. Her next book, *TORN APART: HOW THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM DESTROYS BLACK FAMILIES—AND HOW ABOLITION CAN BUILD A SAFER WORLD*, will be published by Basic Books in April 2022. Recent recognitions of her work include the 2019 New Voices for Reproductive Justice Voice of Vision Award; 2019 Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, Rutgers University-Newark; 2017 election to the National Academy of Medicine; and 2016 Society of Family Planning Lifetime Achievement Award.



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Caring for the Well-Being of Black Children:
Re-examining Legal Standards through Critical Race Theory



Jessica Dixon Weaver

Professor of Law & Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty
Research Fellow SMU Dedman School of Law

Speaker

Professor Jessica Dixon Weaver is Professor of Law and a Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Research Fellow at SMU Dedman School of Law. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Virginia School of Law. Professor Weaver served as Director of the SMU Child Advocacy Clinic for seven years and is an expert on family law regulation and public policy. She teaches Family and Children and the Law courses along with Professional Responsibility. Professor Weaver is also the Chair of the SMU Task Force on Social Justice and Equity. She publishes on a variety of family law, race, and gender topics, including racial disproportionality in the family regulation system. Her most recent law review article, *The Perfect Storm: Coronavirus and the Elder Catch*, was published by Tulane Law Review this past winter. Professor Weaver is the co-author of two family law books, FAMILY LAW SIMULATIONS: BRIDGE TO PRACTICE (West Academic 2021) and CONTEMPORARY FAMILY LAW, 6th Ed. (West Academic, forthcoming 2023). In 2019 and 2021, she was awarded the Gerald D. Ford Senior Research Fellowship and the Tom Tunks Distinguished University Citizen Award, both university-wide awards.



Elise Boddie

Professor of Law, Henry Rutgers Professor & Judge Robert L. Carter Scholar
Rutgers Law School

Moderator

Elise C. Boddie, a nationally recognized expert in civil rights and award-winning legal scholar, was previously the director of litigation for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund. In 2021, she was named the founding Newark Director of Rutgers University's Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice. Professor Boddie's scholarship explores the regulation and production of race in spatial contexts and dynamic systems that perpetuate racial inequality. She teaches constitutional law, state and local government law, and civil rights.

Before joining the Rutgers faculty, Professor Boddie was the director of litigation for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) and supervised its nationwide litigation program, including its advocacy in several major U.S. Supreme Court and federal appellate cases involving voting rights, affirmative action, and fair housing. From 1999-2005, she litigated affirmative action, employment, economic justice, and school desegregation cases in federal district courts and in federal courts of appeals. During this period, Professor Boddie served as LDF's Director of Education and as an Associate Director of Litigation. She is a frequent public speaker and has appeared on *MSNBC*, *NBC Nightly News*, *Democracy Now* and *National Public Radio* and is the author of several articles. Professor Boddie received her J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School, a master's degree in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. and a B.A. cum laude from Yale University.



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Panel:

Changing Times: Access to Justice for Families of Color



Kristine L. Calalang
Law Office of Kristine L. Calalang

Speaker

Kristine L. Calalang focuses her practice on helping clients with their domestic relations matters. She is the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association and Co-Chair of its Solo and Small Firm Management Committee. She is a past Chair of the Family Law Section (FLS) and is currently the Co-Chair of the FLS Custody and Diversity Committees and a founding member of the Diversity Inclusion Scholarship Committee. In December 2021, she received the Herbert R. Weiman, Sr. & Jr. Award from the FLS for her exemplary family law work and service for Philadelphia families. Ms. Calalang is also a Co-Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Legal Academics Committee and the Diversity Liaison for its Family Law Section.

Ms. Calalang is the Vice President (and past President) of the Villanova Minority Alumni Society Leadership Board and a Board Advisor on the Villanova Law Alumni Association (VLAA) Board and the Villanova Law Women's Network. She is also on the Board of Directors for the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania and co-chairs its Community Outreach and Solo and Small Firm Committees.

Ms. Calalang has received the 2019 VLAA Gerald Abraham Award for Service to the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law (Villanova Law) and was named as a Super Lawyers' Rising Star in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014, a Super Lawyer from 2020-2022, and a Lawyer on the Fast Track in 2008. She received her B.A. from The College of New Jersey and her J.D. from Villanova Law.



Maritza Rodríguez
Rodríguez Law LLC

Speaker

Maritza Rodríguez, Esq. is the sole proprietor of the Rodríguez Law Firm, LLC. She concentrates her practice on family and international family law cases. Professor Rodríguez has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Comparative Literature from Rutgers College and attended Rutgers Law School Newark. Prior to law school, she worked for the New Jersey Public Defender's Office, the Department of the Public Advocate. Upon graduation she clerked in Family Court and started her own practice immediately thereafter.

Professor Rodríguez is a past president of the Rutgers Law School Newark Alumni Association and is currently an adjunct professor at the law school teaching Domestic Violence, Family Law, and How to Start a Solo / Small Practice. She is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Family Law Section Executive Committee, the Association's Continuing Legal Education Nominating Committee, and the New Jersey Supreme Court Domestic Violence Working Group. She is the past Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Section of International Law's Family Law Committee and the ABA Family Law Section's Domestic Violence Committee. She sits on the board of Volunteer Lawyers for Justice and Central Jersey Legal Services.



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Changing Times: Access to Justice for Families of Color



Saadiqa Kumanyika

Speaker

Saadiqa Kumanyika is an educator, organizer, and licensed therapist who serves individuals and families in and outside of Philadelphia. Prior to becoming a therapist, Kumanyika worked as a social worker in the Family Advocacy Unit at Community Legal Services (CLS) in Philadelphia, where she worked with an interdisciplinary team of attorneys, social workers, paralegals, and a peer parent advocate to support parents involved in the child welfare system. In addition, she worked as a case manager for the Gold Ring Reentry Initiative, an Economic Justice and Empowerment Specialist and Counselor/Advocate at Centre Safe, and as a Lecturer for the Women's Leadership program at Clemson University. Kumanyika earned her Master's in Social Work in 2019 from the University of Pennsylvania and Master's in Applied Youth, Family, and Community Education in 2012 from Penn State University. In 2020, Kumanyika co-authored a report titled, [REFORMING THE CHILD ABUSE REGISTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA](#). The report focuses on the economic consequences of the child abuse registry which disproportionately impacts low-wage workers, workers of color, and their children. Additionally, she co-authored an op-ed for the *Imprint* titled, [Biden Needs to Consider Child Abuse Registry Reform as an Agenda Item](#).



Samantha Hing

Moderator

Rutgers Law School-Newark

Samantha Hing is a 2L at Rutgers Law School-Newark. She is currently a fellow and student representative at the Immigrant Rights Clinic, a fellow and research assistant for the Center of Immigration Law, Policy, and Justice ("CILPJ"), and an Associate Editor for Rutgers Race & the Law Review. Ms. Hing, along with fellow student Joseph Lin and the joint efforts of CILPJ and the Center for Gender, Sexuality, Law and Policy, launched the first-ever Directed Research Initiative for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Law in the fall of 2021. Ms. Hing is also serving as Co-President for both the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and Immigrant Rights Collective. For her first summer, she interned at American Friends Service Committee in the Immigrant Rights program, where she worked with clients in immigration detention. Ms. Hing has a B.A. from Columbia University in Statistics. Before law school, she worked as a Data and Systems Manager for KIPP NYC through Education Pioneer's Impact Fellowship. Right after undergrad, she was a Consultant for IBM's public sector practice and worked as a Data Analyst, Business Analyst, and eventually Data Scientist for the United States Postal Service and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services.



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Honoree



Twila Perry

Professor of Law and Judge Alexander P. Waugh, Sr. Scholar
Rutgers Law School

In 1984, Twila Perry joined the faculty of Rutgers School of Law—Newark and eventually became the law school's first tenured female professor of color. She is one of the country's leading legal scholars on family law issues, particularly the role of race and gender in family law. A prolific writer, she has published articles on numerous subjects, including transracial and international adoption, the legal obligations of marriage, the African-American family and family law, no-fault divorce, and alimony. In addition to courses on family law, race and gender, Perry instructs Rutgers law students on the intricacies of tort law. Most recently, Professor Twila Perry contributed "Conscious and Strategic Representations of Race," an article in the anthology, *PRINCE AND POPULAR MUSIC: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AN INTERDISCIPLINARY LIFE* (Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2021).

Prior to joining the Rutgers faculty, Professor Perry was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York. She served as a law clerk to Judge Mary Johnson Lowe of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and was associated with the New York law firm of Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts. Professor Perry received her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College, her M.S.W. from the Columbia University School of Social Work, and her J.D. from New York University Law School, where she was a Root-Tilden Scholar and an editor of the Law Review.

Known for her generosity, Professor Perry is often praised for her willingness and eagerness to mentor students, young attorneys, and new faculty. Admired by her colleagues and students alike for her scholarly achievements and social sensibilities, not surprisingly, Perry was the recipient of the Clyde Ferguson Award in 2012. The highest award bestowed by the Minority Groups Section of the Association of American Law Schools, the Clyde Ferguson Award recognizes "an outstanding law teacher, who in the course of his or her career has achieved excellence in the areas of public service, teaching, and scholarship."