

# Jones Center News Digest, Issue 2

July 6, 2020

The Nathaniel R. Jones Center is committed to participating in and furthering conversations and activities that seek to shine light on and work to eliminate the racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other inequalities so rampant in our local, national, and global communities. We believe sharing information that highlights the intersectional nature of historical and present-day inequities matters, and makes a difference in advancing our shared goals for social change.

**We have been so inspired by the work of our students who are doing some great organizing on the ground, from coordinating and doing Legal Observer work to collaborating with BLM and other community organizations. Alumni are also coming out to work with and support the students. Read more below.**

## **In Struggle and Solidarity—Statement of the Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice**

Once again, our nation's history—a history borne of conquest, chattel slavery, and exclusion—is erupting into our explosive present. Covid-19, when it finally hit our shores, flagrantly exposed with undeniable clarity the deep structural inequalities created and perpetuated by state and federal policies that have purported to lift up and support all Americans, and the deeply embedded racial biases regularly employed to blame "others" for the failures of our own systems. And now, once again, recent police killings of several unarmed Black and Brown citizens like Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor—among so many others—have moved those who suffer most severely the consequences of systemic inequality to action. Once again, our nation is being called on to account for and reckon with our past and our present so that we can finally halt the seemingly endless cycle—a cycle that we've been caught in since our beginnings—of superficial and narrow commitments to "equality" that have led only to more entrenched racial, gender, sex, and class inequality – and as a result, to more despair-fueled anger and necessary struggle.

Our Center—named after the late Nathaniel R. Jones, an iconic civil rights leader and a federal court of appeals judge in the latter part of his career—is committed to helping our students and others to, as Judge Jones put it, "answer the call" – the call to face head-on the complicated and violent past and present that have brought us to this point. We pledge our continued support for and engagement in the struggle toward real equality and liberation—in whatever ways we can—and always in solidarity.

### **History Matters**

Learn how poetry connects the 1919 history of segregation in Chicago to today's racial unrest.

Listen: [NPR Fresh Air Interview with Eve Ewing](#)

Read: ["Four Poems by Eve Ewing"](#)

Stay informed about history in the making—Title VII, abortion, and DACA cases—via the Strict Scrutiny podcast and news from Equality Ohio.

Listen: ["Save Your Yarn"](#), (abortion, June Medical Services v. Russo, June 29)

Listen: ["Thanks for the Footnote"](#), (habeas, Department of Homeland Security v. Thuraissigiam, June 29)

Listen: ["2020 Bingo Card"](#), (Title VII and DACA, June 22)

Listen: ["Josh Hawley's Tears"](#), (Bostock v. Clayton County, Title VII, June 18)

Read: [Ohio Fairness Act](#)

### Community Matters

The Jones Center stands in solidarity with our students, alumni, and so many others speaking out against systemic inequities.

Listen: ["Legal Observers Stand By To Document Civil Rights Violations At Ohio Protests"](#)

Read: ["Fill the Void. Lift Your Voice. Say Her Name"](#), a campaign message from AAPF

Read: ["I'm 18 and I am Sick and Tired"](#), by Julie Coppens

The violence against the transgender community, which inordinately impacts trans women of color, is gaining national attention.

Read: ["Thousands March Across the Nation Because Black Trans Lives Matter"](#) by Ayana Byrd

Read: ["These Are the Trans People Killed in 2019"](#), by Trudy Ring

Alert! This summer, Movement Law Lab is offering a free, 5-part course on movement lawyering, called "Build Power Fight Power". [Learn more and register](#)

**Students from Sycamore High School are organizing a fundraising concert to benefit the Jones Center. The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 15, at the Blue Ash Nature Park Amphitheater. Stay tuned for details.**

### Perspective Matters

[Racial segregation in schools and substandard resources in predominant Black and Latinx schools](#) tell the real story.

Read: [Segregation](#), by Matthew Doktor, '21, UC Social Justice blogger

Here's a look inside juvenile incarceration through the eyes of an intern in the Hamilton County Juvenile Public Defenders Office and a film review.

Read: [They Call Us Monsters – A Look Inside the Juvenile Justice System: A Film Review and Commentary](#), by Kennedy Womack, '20, UC Social Justice blogger

This vibe-packed playlist features artists who identify in some way as members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Read: [My Big Gay Playlist](#), by Elizabeth Gatten, '21, UC Social Justice blogger

### Jones Center Programming Updates

We are proud to be hosting the ABA's Traveling Exhibit on the Nineteenth Amendment, October 1—16, 2020. We are also making plans to co-sponsor programming with CCM around its production of Zora Neale Hurston's "Spunk," in November 2020. Stay tuned for more information.

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