

## Jones Center News Digest, Issue 4 September 2020

The Nathaniel R. Jones Center is committed to participating in and furthering conversations and activities that 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. Review our statement: [In Struggle and Solidarity](#).

### Alert!

#### YWCA Racial Justice (Virtual) Breakfast

**Wednesday, September 16 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

There's still time to register for the 2020 YWCA Racial Justice (Virtual) Breakfast featuring keynote speaker Christina Fialho, a nationally renowned expert on immigration and racism. Ms. Fialho is the co-founder and co-executive director of [Freedom for Immigrants](#) (formerly Communitive Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)), which has been working to abolish immigrant detention since 2012. The event will also celebrate the work of Dr. Janet Reid and Vince Brown, two of our community's most dedicated advocates for racial justice. Cincinnati Law is proud to be a sponsor of 2020 YWCA Racial Justice (Virtual) Breakfast. Cincinnati Law attendees can register for *free* and must do so by September 13.



[Register to Attend](#)

### Proud Moments

#### Professor and Alums Make a Difference

The Jones Center team joins UC Law Dean Verna Williams in congratulating Professor Janet Moore and Cincinnati Law alums Caitlyn Idoine, Kristi Murphy, and Ryan Goellner, for their work successfully advocating for application of the North Carolina's Racial Justice Act to vacate death sentences infected with racial bias.

**Read:** [Professor Moore's Blog Post](#)



### **Jammin' for Justice...a Huge Success!**

We are so honored to have joined local high school students who “answered the call” and raised more than \$2,300 for the Jones Center. A group of rising ninth graders, led by Ben Cecilio, a student at Sycamore High School in suburban Cincinnati, held a fundraiser called Jammin' for Justice in August to benefit the Jones Center. The live-streamed concert featured musical performances by students from Sycamore and Princeton High Schools as well as brief interviews with Social Justice Fellow Caitlin Cliff-Perbix ('21) and Center co-directors Emily Houh and Kristin Kalsem. Judge Jones would be so proud!

L to R: Ben Cecilio, Anna Schlangen Mendez, and Joel Berg.

### **History Matters**

The director at the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice recently penned an article in *Vogue Magazine* that illuminates the connection between Breonna Taylor's killing and the murder of her great-great-grandmother, both black women killed by police, both waiting for justice.

**Read:** [“Say Their Names: Breonna Taylor, My Great-Great-Grandmother, and Me”](#) by Savala N. Trepczynski

African American and Women's history as well as civic, community, and political engagement continue to be critical and timely issues. [Dr. Nikki M. Taylor](#) (Howard University, History, Professor & Department Chair) and [Ms. Stephanie J. Jones](#) (the [Call to Justice Foundation](#), President) will share their combined expertise in a virtual panel discussion titled **“Intersectionality and the 19th Amendment”**. This panel discussion, hosted by the Jones Center on Thursday, October 8, at 3:00 p.m., coincides with the College of Law's display of the ABA's 19th Amendment Traveling Exhibit from October 1—16, 2020.



### **The Brunch Bunch**

Several of our Social Justice Fellows gathered for a Welcome Back Brunch, hosted by Professors Emily Houh and Kristin Kalsem. **Read:** [SJ Fellows' Biographies](#).

Back row, L to R: Professor Kalsem, Ashley Nkadi ('23), Janelle Thompson ('22), Inma Sumaita ('23), and Professor Houh. Front row, L to R: Niara Stitt ('21) and Maggie Kane ('21). Not pictured (because he took the picture): Program Assistant Ben Ranz ('21).

## Community Matters

As part of a joint venture with the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, UC Law's Domestic Violence and Civil Protection order Clinic gives students practical experience in the civil setting and provides holistic legal services to survivors of domestic violence. Clinic students consult extensively with clients on the benefits and risks of taking legal action, discuss safety concerns, make referrals to other providers (as needed), and represent clients through the civil protection order process. The next issue of the News Digest will spotlight the recent work of the students and Clinic Director Anne Lucas. The Jones Center is committed to research, advocacy, and education on the issue of domestic violence. While so prevalent it is rarely the headline, abuse of intimate partners is often a big part of the story.

**Read:** [“Deadliest Mass Shooting Are Often Preceded by Violence at Home”](#) by Jackie Gu

## Perspective Matters

An associate producer at VF.com (Vanity Fair) offers a Q&A style interview with best-selling author Brit Bennett, whose latest novel, *The Vanishing Half*, explores racial passing, colorism, Black pain, love, and family.

**Read:** [“Now That Someone Has Given You This Knowledge, What Are You Going to Do With It?": Brit Bennett on The Vanishing Half, Protest, and How Change Happens”](#) by Erin Vanderhoof

*Predatory Lending and the Destruction of the African American Dream*, by Cheryl Wade and Janis Sarra, launched in September. An all-star panel will discuss the new book on Thursday, September 17, at 2:30 p.m.

**Join:** [Book Launch/Panel Discussion Webinar](#)

## Upcoming Events

Watch your email for updates and Zoom invites and join us!

M, 9/21/20, 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Student Panel Discussion, “Public Interest Jobs/What I Did Last Summer”.
M, 9/28/20, 5:00 p.m.	Urgent Conversations, a lively and thought-provoking probe into a current issue based on a recent article or news item.
October 1—16, 2020	ABA 19th Amendment Banner Display at UC College of Law. Stay tuned for details and virtual viewing options.
TH, 10/8/20, 3:00 p.m.	19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Panel Discussion with guests Dr. Nikki M. Taylor of Howard University and Ms. Stephanie J. Jones of the Call to Justice Foundation.

## 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.