

# Jones Center News Digest, Issue 6

## December 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. Review our statement: [In Struggle and Solidarity](#).

### Proud Moment: Jones Center Receives Endowment Fund

The Jones Center is grateful for the recent gift from generous donors to support the social justice work at UC's College of Law and UC's College of Arts & Sciences. A recent endowment fund of \$1.5 signifies an urgently needed and shared commitment to systemic change in our communities. A portion of this gift has been designated to establishing the Theodore M. Berry Directorship of the Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice. Theodore "Ted" Berry was a 1931 graduate of the College of Law and the first African-American mayor of Cincinnati (from 1971-75).

### Proud Moment: Zoomin' on Zoom

Although we miss in-person gatherings with the students and other members of the Jones Center community, we are pleased with the incredible turnout for all the Zoom events we hosted during the fall semester. Here's a recap, with links to materials (if applicable).

- Welcome Back Happy Hour and Virtual Scavenger Hunt.
- "What I Did Last Summer" featured a panel of students talking and answering questions about the public interest work they did during the summer of 2020.
- Urgent Conversations: Immigration and Feminism. Read: ["Inquiry Ordered Into Claims Immigrants Had Unwanted Gynecology Procedures"](#) by Caitlin Dickerson.
- "Intersectionality and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment" Panel Discussion. **Read:** ["The Past, Present, and Future of the 19th Amendment"](#) by Social Justice Fellow Janelle Thompson ('22). **Watch:** [Video of Panel Discussion](#).
- Coffee Corner: Transformative and Restorative Justice. **Read:** [List of Resources](#) by K Agbebiyi.
- Urgent Conversations: Lack of Police Accountability. **Read:** ["Investigation: Watchdog gave 101 recommendations to improve policing. What did CPD do?"](#) by Max Londberg.
- (Less) Urgent Conversations: Protest Music. **Listen:** <https://dissectpodcast.com/> and [Spotify Playlist](#). **Read/Watch:** [Protest Songs](#) and [Protest Songs: Video Links and Lyrics](#).

A big round of applause for all who attended our sessions, and a special thanks to the many students who helped facilitate, host, and share ideas for these events: Hannah Bogaert ('23), Caitlin Cliff-Perbix (SJ Fellow-'21), Maggie Kane (SJ Fellow-'21), Max Londberg ('23), Morgan Mitchell (SJ Fellow-'22), Ben Ranz (Jones Center Program Assistant-'21), and Jack Verner ('21).

### History Matters

The historic 2020 election was arguably one of the most important in American history. But what happens now, and will we be able to create a better future? In another edition of the African American Policy Forum's "Under the Blacklight" webinar series, distinguished panelists discuss "the social history that brought us to the brink, the stunning paradoxes that defined the election, the roles of race and gender in the results, the future of Trumpism and progressivism, the media coverage of America at its most vulnerable, and the collective activation necessary in this oh-so-important moment."

**Watch:** [Under the Blacklight: Where Do We Go From Here—Chaos or Community?](#)

Laura Gómez, Professor of Law, and Rachel F. Moran Endowed Chair in Law at UCLA Law, has just published a new book—[Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism](#)—that explores the histories of Latinx identity

formation and the US's geopolitical relationship with Latin and Central America, and how those histories continue to shape American life, culture, politics, and economics.

**Listen:** [An interview with Author and Law Professor Laura Gómez about her new book](#), by Carol Boss

### **Community Matters**

Held in early November, the Judge Jones Symposium, "Answering the Call", examined Judge Nathaniel R. Jones' life and service to our country, including his pioneering work as the NAACP legal counsel, and his remarkable service as a federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The event featured well-known scholars and practitioners, including: Dennis Parker, National Center for Law and Economic Justice; Elise Boddie, Rutgers Law School; Erika Wilson, University of North Carolina School of Law; and Renee Hutchins, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

**Listen:** ["An Interview with Judge Nathaniel R. Jones on 'Answering the Call'"](#), by John L. Hanson Jr.

Under the direction of Co-Director and Professor Kristin Kalsem, several students are taking part in a community-based research project about fair taxation. The project will investigate racial inequalities in property taxes within Hamilton County.

**Read:** ["Opinion: Minority Homeowners Shoulder a Higher Tax Burden"](#), by Bob Newman

**Read:** ["The Assessment Gap: Racial Inequalities in Property Taxation"](#), by Carlos Avenancio-León

**Read:** ["New Research Details Effect of 'Black tax' on African American Homeownership"](#) by Aris Folley

### **Perspective Matters**

Jones Center Co-director and Professor Emily Houh participated in a Zoom Webinar titled "The Law School as a White Space?" which was presented by Fordham University School of Law's Center on Race, Law and Justice (CRLJ), the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, and Latin American Law Students Association. The faculty panel, moderated by CRLJ director and Fordham Law Professor L. Bennett Capers, featured Elijah Anderson (Yale), Meera Deo (Thomas Jefferson School of Law), Osamudia James (University of Miami), Elizabeth Mertz (Wisconsin), and Professor Houh.

**Watch:** ["The Law School as a White Space?" Webinar](#)

**Read:** ["The White Space"](#), by Elijah Anderson, Sterling Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Yale University

### **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.