

Jones Center News Digest, Issue 9 May 2021

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.

Statement on the Chauvin Verdict (posted April 20, 2021)

Almost a year ago on June 4, 2020, the Jones Center issued our statement, "In Struggle and Solidarity," to affirm our support for the protests that erupted following the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer named Derek Chauvin. Today, after a three-week trial, Chauvin was convicted on all three of the counts with which he was charged for the death of Floyd -- second-degree murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter.

While the verdict brings relief, the verdict does not bring joy. The Chauvin trial focused on the individual "bad actor" and not the systemic racism embedded in the criminal "justice" system. *Systemic* change, however, won't come through trials and convictions of individual bad actors, though these are steps in the right direction. Rather, real change will come only through fundamental changes in policies and culture and through making more equitable and equal the conditions in which people live, learn, and work.

We should honor the outcome of the Chauvin trial as one that acknowledged that **George Floyd's life mattered**. But difficult and long battles lie ahead. As we did on June 4, 2020, we want to affirm and offer our continued commitment and support for and engagement in the struggle toward *real* equality and liberation—in whatever ways we can—and always in solidarity.

Celebrate Judge Nathaniel R. Jones's 95th Birthday on May 13

Join others in remembering Judge Jones on Thursday, May 13, 6:00—8:00 pm (on Zoom), as nine speakers recount Judge Jones's incredible journey from civil rights lawyer to the Bench. The event is presented by The Call to Justice Foundation and is co-hosted by the NAACP, the Jones Center, and the Blank Rome law firm. Speakers include: Stephanie Jones, President, The Call to Justice Foundation; Bradford Berry, former law clerk to Judge Jones/former General Counsel NAACP; Marcia Carter, former Executive Assistant to Judge Jones; Professor Emily Houh, Co-Director, University of Cincinnati College of Law Jones Center; Professor Kristin Kalsem, Co-Director, University of Cincinnati College of Law Jones Center; Janette McCarthy Wallace, Interim General Counsel, NAACP; James Meyerson, civil rights attorney/former Assistant General Counsel, NAACP; Leslie M. Proll, civil rights attorney/adviser to the NAACP; Alexandra Raleigh, PhD, J.D. candidate/The Call to Justice Fellow.

Register to attend: [Judge Jones Birthday Event on Zoom](#)

Congratulations

Join the Jones Center Team in congratulating our Social Justice Fellows who are graduating this spring: **Caitlin Cliff-Perbix, Maggie Kane, Sol Kersey, and Niara Stitt**. We are grateful for their contributions to the Jones Center, including facilitating student discussions, conducting research, and serving as ambassadors for events and donor relations. We are incredibly proud of them and we wish them success in the next phase of their lives.

2021 Inaugural Morelli Colloquy: Success, Videos, and Resources

More than 60 attendees participated in the Colloquy, made possible by the generous gift of Cincinnati Law alum Bill Morelli. Invited speakers in law, the humanities, and social sciences discussed their work on a wide array of topics including: immigration; policing; Indigenous law and policy; the history of the queer, Black, Migrant, and Refugee Movements of the 1980s Netherlands and their relevance to the present day; scientific racism; and colonialism. Asking each of the speakers to frame these issues in terms of belonging and difference, these interdisciplinary conversations revealed new ways of thinking about how to address issues of trenchant inequality and inequity.

The Colloquy opened with a keynote “conversation”—to establish an ethos of talking with instead of talking at others—between historian Dr. Tiffany N. Florvil and Professor of Law Natsu Taylor Saito. Two panels followed, each made up of a mix of law, humanities, and social science scholars. At the end of the day, Dr. Rucker-Chang, Professor Emily Houh, and Professor Kristin Kalsem bookended the program with a summary conversation that included discussion of possible next steps.

The Colloquy was presented by the Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice, in collaboration with the European Studies Program in the University of Cincinnati’s College of Arts and Sciences Department of German Studies.

Watch: [2021 Inaugural Morelli Colloquy Part 1](#) (Welcome, Opening Conversation, and First Panel Discussion)

Watch: [2021 Inaugural Morelli Colloquy Part 2](#) (Second Panel Discussion and Closing Conversation)

Read: [2021 Inaugural Morelli Colloquy: List of Resources](#)

History Matters

The escalation in violence against Asians and Asian Americans since the start of the coronavirus pandemic finally is making headlines, tragically in the wake of the recent murders in Atlanta of six women of Asian descent. The Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice condemns this hatred and violence and stands in solidarity with our students and all members of the Asian and Asian American communities in this time of fear, pain, anger, and activism. Read the full [Statement in Solidarity](#) from the Jones Center.

Anti-Asian Violence was the topic of the Jones Center’s Urgent Conversations event in March, framed with the following readings.

Read: ["The long history of violence against Asian Americans that led up to Atlanta"](#) by Jeff Chang

Read: ["The history of tensions--and solidarity--between Black and Asian American communities, explained"](#) by Jerusalem Demsas and Rachel Ramirez

Read: ["Atlanta spa shooting victims highlight struggles for Asian and Asian American immigrant women in low-wage jobs"](#) by Ariana Eunjung Cha, et al

Community Matters

Parting words from Ben Ranz, '21, Program Assistant for the Jones Center

"The first time I attended a Jones Center event, I was immediately relieved to realize that I had found my tribe at the law school. Up until that point (and truthfully, for a while after), I felt adrift in a sea of case briefs and grading curves. The Jones Center helped anchor me to a law school community that was important then but became even more important when the pandemic threw what we knew as law school and the world into a turmoil. The programming and events put on by the Jones Center are what I imagined law school would be: curious minds discussing crucial topics, pushing me to learn and grow as a person and as a lawyer. I was thrilled to become part of the team that helped plan and execute those events. I am really proud of the work this team has done together; I have enjoyed every minute of it and feel lucky to have gotten to contribute in this way. I appreciate the opportunity given to me by Professors Houh and Kalsem and will sorely miss our

weekly meetings - the perfect mix of productivity and laughter. As for me, my next chapter will take me to the great state of Colorado to be a public defender."

We congratulate Ben Ranz on graduating and thank him for his enthusiasm, diligence, sense of humor, and dedication as a valued member of the Jones Center community and team.

Perspective Matters

At the Inaugural Morelli Colloquy on "Belonging and Difference: Interdisciplinary Perspectives" (see above), Professor Sahar Aziz—Professor of Law, Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar, and Middle East and Legal Studies Scholar at Rutgers Law School—opened her presentation with a reading of her powerful poem, "Identity Crisis." Read it at Professor Aziz's Medium page: <https://saharaziz.medium.com/identity-crisis-dcacd9a45cba>.

Although we miss in-person gatherings with the students and other members of the Jones Center community, we enjoyed the many conversations and perspectives shared during our other Urgent Conversations events. Here is a recap of the topics and associated links.

Insurrection at the Capitol: Racial Dimensions

Read: ["Lafayette Square, Capitol rallies met starkly different policing response"](#)

Read: ["'This Is America': The Stark Contrast Between Police Response to Capitol Mob and BLM Protesters"](#)

Bad Medicine & Racial Disparities in Medicine

Read: ["Bad Medicine: The Harm That Comes from Racism"](#)

Read: ["A Covid-19 Relief Fund Was Only for Black Residents. Then Came the Lawsuits"](#)

Celebrating Women's History Month

Read: ["These are the Times that Grow Our Souls"](#) by Grace Lee Boggs

Read: ["Postscript"](#) by Grace Lee Boggs

Crimmigration: Belonging and Difference

Read: ["For Black Immigrants, Police and ICE Are Two Sides of the Same Coin"](#)

Read: ["U.S. expels dozens of Haitian asylum seekers to Mexico"](#)

Read: ["Outcry as more than 20 babies and children deported by US to Haiti"](#)

Read: ["White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race"](#)

Read: ["Behrouz Boochani: detained asylum seeker wins Australia's richest literary prize"](#)

Read: ["U.S. v. Thind"](#)

Jones Center Seeks to Fill Director Position

In response to national events in the last year, two UC Law alumni have created an endowed fund for the Theodore M. Berry '31, Directorship of the Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice at the UC College of Law. The College of Law is now accepting applications for the Director Position.

Professor Emily Houh, Professor Kristin Kalsem, and Dean Verna Williams co-founded the Jones Center in 2010. Since then, Professors Houh and Kalsem, as co-directors, have worked diligently to expand the Jones Center's community reach, influence, and impact. They have created a learning environment that inspires the pursuit of justice, cultivates diverse and innovative ideas about law in society, fosters collaborative relationships, and imparts the knowledge, values, and competencies needed to confront the struggle toward real equality and liberation. Their leadership and their passion will be sorely missed.

Theodore (Ted) M. Berry overcame great obstacles to achieve personal success and gain a national reputation as a leader in the Civil Rights movement. Berry worked at steel mills in Newport, Kentucky, to pay tuition at the University of Cincinnati and then at its law school. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1932. He served as president of the Cincinnati branch of the NAACP from 1932 to 1946. In 1938 he was appointed the first black assistant prosecuting attorney for Hamilton County. He was elected in 1972 as Cincinnati's first African American mayor and served for four years. (Source: <http://library.cincymuseum.org/aag/bio/berry.html>)

Read and Share: [Position Description, Director of the Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice](#)

Read, Watch, and Listen More

Visit the [Jones Center Website](#) to discover the News Digest Archives, our Social Justice Blog, and more.