

THE DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

5TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



"THE WAY TO RIGHT WRONGS IS TO
TURN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH UPON THEM"

OCTOBER 29, 2021

10:30 am - 2:30 pm PDT

ZOOM WEBINAR



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

Fowler School of Law

Symposium Schedule

10:30 a.m.

Introductory Remarks

10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Panel 1 | COVID-19: Lessons in Racial Hierarchy and Solidarity

Moderator: Dean Marisa Cianciarulo, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Fowler School of Law

Robert S. Chang, Professor of Law at Seattle University School of Law and Executive Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality

Kaaryn Gustafson, Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Academic Community Engagement at UCI Law

Vinay Harpalani, Associate Professor of Law and Henry Weihofen Professor at University of New Mexico School of Law

11:45 am

Break

12 -1 p.m.

Keynote Address by California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu

In Dialogue With: Dean Matthew Parlow, Dean of the Fowler School of Law and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law

1 p.m.

Break

1:15 - 1:30 pm

Spoken Word by Evette Jahangiri, JD '23

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Panel 2 | Guilty Until Proven Innocent

Moderator: Dean Matthew Parlow, Dean of the Fowler School of Law and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law

Jimmie C. Gardner, Exoneree and Advocate

Mark Godsey, Carmichael Professor of Law and Co-Founder and Director of the Ohio Innocence Project at the University of Cincinnati College of Law

Christopher Ochoa, Exoneree and Attorney

Claudia Salinas, Staff Fellow at California Innocence Project

2:30 pm

Closing Remarks

Diversity and Social Justice Forum

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ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

California Supreme Court Justice

GOODWIN LIU



Justice Goodwin Liu is an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court. Nominated by Governor Jerry Brown, Justice Liu was unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments and sworn into office on September 1, 2011. He was retained by the electorate in 2014. Before joining the state's highest court, Justice Liu was Professor of Law and Associate Dean at the UC Berkeley School of Law. His primary areas of expertise are constitutional law, education law and policy, and diversity in the legal profession.

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The son of Taiwanese immigrants, Justice Liu grew up in Sacramento, where he attended public schools. He went to Stanford University and earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1991. He attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship and earned a masters degree in philosophy and physiology.

Upon returning to the United States, he went to Washington D.C. to help launch the AmeriCorps national service program and worked for two years as a senior program officer at the Corporation for National Service.

Justice Liu graduated from Yale Law School in 1998, becoming the first in his family to earn a law degree. He clerked for Judge David Tatel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and then worked as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. He went on to clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg during the October 2000 Term. From 2001 to 2003, he worked in the litigation practice of O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C.

Justice Liu is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Law Institute. He serves on the Council of the American Law Institute, on the Board of Directors of the James Irvine Foundation, and on the Yale University Council. He has previously served on the California Commission on Access to Justice, the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science, Technology, and Law, the Board of Trustees of Stanford University, and the governing boards of the American Constitution Society, the National Women's Law Center, and the Public Welfare Foundation.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



ROBERT S. CHANG

*Professor of Law at Seattle
University School of Law and
Executive Director of the Fred T.
Korematsu Center for Law and
Equality*

Robert S. Chang is a Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality. He has also previously served as Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development. He joined the School of Law from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, where he was Professor of Law and J. Rex Dibble Fellow.

A graduate of Princeton and Duke Universities, he writes primarily in the area of race and interethnic relations. He is the author of *Disoriented: Asian Americans, Law and the Nation-State* (NYU Press 1999) and *Minority Relations: Intergroup Conflict and Cooperation* (University Press of Mississippi, 2016) and numerous articles, essays, and chapters published in leading law reviews and books on Critical Race Theory, LatCrit Theory, and Asian American Legal Studies.

He is currently working on a co-authored book entitled *The United States Supreme Court and White Social Dominance* (with Tanya K. Hernandez, Michalyn Steele & Carlton Waterhouse, under contract with Cambridge University Press).

An elected member of the American Law Institute, he has received numerous recognitions for his scholarship and service. This year, ACLU of Washington named him as co-recipient of the Kathleen Taylor Civil Libertarian Award for his role as co-counsel representing Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County in its lawsuit against the City of Seattle for its use of force against people protesting police brutality following the murder of George Floyd, and the Society of American Law Teachers recognized him in 2018 with the M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award for his work as co-counsel in taking to trial, successfully, a constitutional challenge to the enactment and enforcement of a facially neutral law that was used to terminate the Mexican American Studies Program at the Tucson Unified School District.

For work in Washington, he was a co-recipient of the 2014 Charles A. Goldmark Distinguished Service Award from the Legal Foundation of Washington for his leadership role in a statewide task force on race and the criminal justice system. Following the murder of George Floyd, the task force was reconvened to produce a 10-year update to the 2011 report of the previous task force. This report was presented to the Washington Supreme Court in September 2021, and like the previous report, will be published simultaneously in the *Gonzaga Law Review*, the *Seattle University Law Review*, and the *Washington Law Review*.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



JIMMIE C. GARDNER

Exoneree and Advocate

Jimmie C. Gardner is an advocate for judicial reform as well as a dynamic speaker and mentor for at-risk youth. He has a passion for empowering wrongfully convicted men and women, as well as supporting those who are looking for a place in society after leaving prison.

Jimmie grew up in Tampa, FL and was drafted by the Chicago Cubs after his high school graduation and played with them in the minor leagues for four seasons.

While playing in the minor leagues, he also enrolled in college to study business management. Shortly after, in a tragic turn of events, he was wrongfully accused of crimes he did not commit and was sentenced to 110 years in prison.

Jimmie overcame tremendous odds and was granted freedom after 27 years of wrongful imprisonment. Once freed, he immediately started speaking and sharing his story.

Jimmie C. Gardner embodies the life-changing power of mental toughness, maintaining a positive attitude, and relentless determination and has touched countless lives through his motivational speaking and advocacy.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



MARK GODSEY

*Carmichael Professor of Law
and Co-Founder and Director
of the Ohio Innocence Project
at the University of Cincinnati
College of Law*

Mark Godsey is the Carmichael Professor of Law and co-founder and Director of the Ohio Innocence Project at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, which to date has freed 33 Ohioans on grounds of innocence.

A former federal prosecutor in New York City, Mark is considered a leading scholar, lawyer, and activist on the subject of wrongful convictions.

He serves on the Board of the Innocence Network and has been a leader in helping the Innocence Movement expand around the globe. He is a frequent commentator on criminal justice reform and wrongful convictions in the national press.

He is the author of the best-selling book *Blind Injustice: A Former Prosecutor Exposes the Psychology and Politics of Wrongful Convictions*.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



KAARYN GUSTAFSON

*Professor of Law and Associate
Dean of Academic Community
Engagement at UCI Law*

Professor Kaaryn Gustafson earned her JD and PhD in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from UC Berkeley.

She has been on the faculty at UCI School of Law since 2014, where she has taught courses in Statutory Analysis, Criminal Procedure, Critical Race Theory, and Law and the Welfare State.

She currently serves as Associate Dean of Academic Community Engagement and Director of UCI Law's Center on Law, Equality and Race (CLEAR).

Professor Gustafson's research is interdisciplinary and explores the role of law in reinforcing inequality. Her book *Cheating Welfare: Public Assistance and the Criminalization of Poverty* (NYU Press, 2011) was awarded the Herbert Jacob Book Prize from the Law & Society Association.

Her current research projects examine the history of bastardy laws in the United States and the diminishing Fourth Amendment protections of the physical person.

Before joining the UCI faculty, Professor Gustafson taught at the University of Connecticut School of Law, did policy work at a non-profit, and worked in litigation at a large law firm.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



VINAY HARPALANI

*Associate Professor of Law and
Henry Weihofen Professor at
University of New Mexico
School of Law*

Vinay Harpalani is Associate Professor of Law and Henry Weihofen Professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where he teaches constitutional law, civil procedure, employment discrimination, and race and 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. He has been quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, and Time magazine, among other media outlets.

His 2012 article, Diversity Within Racial Groups and the Constitutionality of Race-Conscious Admissions, was cited in eight U.S. Supreme Court amicus briefs in Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin I and II and was quoted (critically, with citation omitted) in Justice Samuel Alito's dissent in Fisher II.

Several of his other 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.

Additionally, Professor Harpalani's 2013 article, DesiCrit: Theorizing the Racial Ambiguity of South Asian Americans, is commonly cited as a framework for examining the racial experiences of Asian Indian Americans.

He has also written about skin color discrimination, racial identity among Black children, and Asian Americans' position in the U.S. racial landscape.

Professor Harpalani earned his J.D. from NYU School of Law, where he was an articles editor on the NYU Law Review and worked with the renowned law professor Derrick Bell. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and completed his undergraduate education at the University of Delaware.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



CHRISTOPHER OCHOA

Exoneree and Attorney

Christopher Ochoa was convicted of a crime he did not commit in 1989 after being coerced into a false confession and pleading guilty to the murder of a young woman at an Austin, TX Pizza Hut, and sentenced to a life sentence. Christopher was actually found innocent by a Texas Court in 2001, after the actual perpetrator of the crime confessed and DNA evidence proved his innocence.

In 2003, Christopher attended the University of Wisconsin Law School. He was accepted to the Wisconsin Innocence Project during law school and interned with a District Attorney's office in Wisconsin, while in law school. He graduated in 2006.

He practiced law from 2006 to 2011, as a criminal defense attorney, as well as defending foreclosure cases. Christopher took a much needed break for a couple of years. In addition, he has given presentations on interrogations and false confessions, based on his experience, throughout the country as well as abroad.

Christopher is currently the Director of Legal Affairs for The Aztec Well Servicing's Corporate Office, an oil company in Aztec, New Mexico. He has been at this position from 2019 to the present.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



CLAUDIA SALINAS

*Staff Fellow at California
Innocence Project*

Claudia has been with the California Innocence Project (CIP) since 2019. She graduated from California State University, Fresno and earned her Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law.

Before joining CIP, she worked as a 911 Communications Dispatcher and then went onto become a District Representative for California State Senator before starting law school.

While in law school, Claudia was awarded the Janeen Kerper Scholarship for Criminal Defense Advocacy and was inducted into the Pro Bono Honors Society at the Gold Level for over 200 hours of service at the San Diego Public Defender's Office and at CIP.

Currently, as a Staff Fellow at CIP, Claudia supports and assists in supervising the clinical law students and volunteer legal interns. She is responsible for overseeing CIP's initial review of innocence claims arising from convictions occurring within Southern California.

In addition to overseeing the intake process, Claudia engages in legal writing, case preparation, and litigation alongside CIP's Staff Attorneys as needed.



CHAPMAN
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Fowler School of Law

Diversity and Social Justice Forum

dsjforum@gmail.com

IG: @dsjforum

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