



**NINE MONTHS POST-INAUGURATION:
MOVING BEYOND RESISTANCE
CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR GENDER JUSTICE
IN THE NEW POLITICAL REALITY**

SESSION DETAILS

Morning Sessions

Inequity Storytelling in Two Parts. Part 1: Stories of Personal Experience

Professor Jo Tyler, Penn State University

In this morning session we help to set the stage for our conference engagement by turning our attention toward a time when each of us personally experienced inequity driven by gender. These stories will provide individual touchstones for conference conversations on systemic issues that will be occurring throughout the day.

Call to Action

“Professor Lyrical” – Dr. Peter Michael Plourde, UDC

Gender Equity Talks (GET) Lightning Rounds and Huddles

How Religious Refusals Rob Us of Reproductive Justice (Huddle A)

Janel George, Director, Federal Reproductive Rights and Health
National Women’s Law Center

This brief presentation will highlight the harm that religious refusals pose to patient access to care and examine recent action by the Trump Administration to expand religious refusals and undermine access to contraceptive care and counseling. It will conclude with recommendations for action to help eradicate the spread of religious refusals and stop politicians from interfering in patient care.

Ending Campus Sexual Violence post-Obama Administration (Huddle B)

Robin Runge, Adjunct Professor
The George Washington University Law School

Title IX has prohibited sex discrimination in federally-funded education for 45 years, including sexual violence. Under President Obama’s administration, the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education stepped up enforcement and guidance regarding Title IX which has increased schools’ awareness of their responsibilities and contributed to creating an environment in which victims of sexual violence on campus are coming forward at higher numbers. However, Secretary DeVos has recently stated that she finds the Obama administration’s approach to be one-sided, possibly infringing on alleged perpetrator’s due process rights. She

has withdrawn guidance that was issued under the Obama administration in 2011, and indicated that she will be issuing new regulations. What do these shifts in enforcement policy mean for victims of sexual violence and schools attempting to meet their obligations under Title IX? We will discuss these issues.

Casualties of the War on Drugs: The Mass Incarceration of Women in America (Huddle C)

Monica Bhattacharya, LL.M. Fellow & Clinical Instructor, Legislation Clinic

In recent years, the number of women in America's jails and prisons has skyrocketed. Astonishingly, the increase in the incarceration rate among women since 1980 has far outstripped that of men. Yet despite this growing incidence, women are often sidelined – or worse, ignored – in calls for criminal justice reform. As a result, their unique needs and circumstances are often not considered in critical policy conversations about the expansion of the carceral state.

This talk will explore the need for a criminal justice reform movement that centers the experiences of incarcerated women. It will address the coalescing reasons for the unprecedented rise in the number of women in jails and prisons – including the “War on Drugs” and subsequent over-incarceration for nonviolent drug offenses – as well as its devastating effects. It aims to shine a light on the experiences and characteristics of women in jail and prison, the majority of whom are women of color, and members of communities already ravaged by brutal policing tactics.

This talk will also underscore the ways in which the impacts of involvement with the criminal justice system reverberate beyond the individuals incarcerated: recent estimates show, for instance, that roughly 60 percent of women in prison have at least one child under the age of 18 and nearly 80 percent of women in jail have young children. Finally, it will highlight opportunities for action at the state and federal level to ameliorate the experiences of women while incarcerated and to improve their outcomes upon release.

The House that Jane Crow Built (Huddle D)

Professor Norrinda Brown Hayat

Director, Housing and Consumer Law Clinic

We can trace the federal government's desire to police single (especially), black mothers in their homes at least back to the “man in the house rules” and “midnight raids” of the 1960s. The purpose behind those raids was to catch a man sleeping in the home of a woman receiving welfare for the purpose of removing her from the program. Not much has changed since the 1960's in this respect. Today, housing authorities use strikingly similar tactics to affect black women's housing choices. And, yet, the scope and implications of these modern welfare frauds raids and schemes, including heavy law enforcement presence and pursuing criminal penalties for violations of Section 8 voucher program rules, are not only new, but reek of the expansion of the criminal justice system into every aspect of black lives over the last 50 years. Clinton-era welfare policy, including his “One Strike Your Out” Initiative and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (PRWORA), cemented the federal government's decades-long efforts to treat black women on welfare as criminals. The welfare system and criminal justice system have effectively merged, largely unbeknownst to the black women that are the targets of both.

By now, we are familiar with the fact that mass incarceration sweeps large swaths of black men off of the streets, relegates them to the correctional facilities, and then releases them back into society absent many of the rights that come with American citizenship, including the right not to be searched at anytime. Michelle Alexander's seminal book, *THE NEW JIM CROW*, argues that the prison industrial complex has transformed the social fabric of black families, in particular, in ways not experienced since slavery. In 2007, approximately 2.4 million black adults were under correctional supervision, meaning in prison, jail, probation or parole, which is more than were enslaved in 1850. And sociologist Loïc Wacquant has suggested that America is engaged in

the “gradual replacement of a (semi-) welfare state by a police and penal state for which the criminalization of marginality and the punitive containment of the dispossessed categories serve as a social policy.”

The same justice system that Alexander writes of works against women of color in some similar, but also, in many significantly different ways than their male counterparts. As of 2011, women were being confined at a faster pace than men, and black and Latina women were 60% of those among them, largely for violations that are barely criminal. And still thousands more black women are being “policed” in their homes in exchange for their participation in the Section 8 program. This policing is designed to control every aspect of their lives, including who they live with, what they feed their children, how often their lovers visit and, of course, notably where they live in the first place. These black women are living under what some are calling “Jane Crow.”

This talk argues for dismantling the house that Jane Crow built by eradicating federal housing policies that penalize black women for non-criminal behaviors, especially violations of Section 8 voucher program that derive from a basic need to survive such as unreported and underreported income, which are being utilized to maintain state-sponsored segregated housing patterns.

Change the Conversation: Unpacking the Wage Gap (Huddle E)

Vasu Reddy, Policy Counsel, National Partnership for Women & Families

Every year, advocates mark a series of Equal Pay Days that draw attention to the gaps in pay that women of color, and all women generally, face relative to men. The goals of this talk are to highlight the most common misconception about the wage gap number, explore some of the factors that contribute to the wage gap, and brainstorm about how to reframe the discussion and link together solutions.

Beyond Marriage: (In)Equality by Zip Code (Huddle F)

Professor Laurie Morin, Director, Gender Justice Project

June 25, 2015 was a day of celebration in the LGBTQ community as the United States Supreme Court brought marriage equality to all 50 states. Ironically, depending upon where they live, those happy gay couples who now have the right to marry may not be able to order a wedding cake from the local bakery, or adopt and raise a family. They may be fired, denied health care and other social services, evicted from their homes, or denied access to their loved one’s hospital bed simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Why is this still possible? Despite ongoing efforts to introduce federal protections for gays and lesbians since 1974, there is no federal legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Moreover, the current Administration is aggressively rolling back the limited federal rights for LGBTQ people that have found their way into federal court cases and Obama era executive policy.

That leaves LGBTQ Americans with a patchwork quilt of state law protections that quite literally depend on the zip code where they happen to reside. According to a survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign, nearly two-thirds of self-identified LGBTQ Americans reported experiencing discrimination in their personal lives. In the thirty-one states that don’t have clear, fully-inclusive LGBTQ non-discrimination laws, LGBTQ individuals have no protection when they are denied access to basic human needs such as housing, access to public places, federal funding, credit, education, and jury service. In many states, employers are free to fire an employee the day after they exercise their right to same-sex marriage simply for showing up at the office wearing a wedding ring.

This brief talk will address the disparities LGBTQ people face based on the zip code where they happen to reside, and the need for comprehensive federal legislation to go beyond marriage equality to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in all areas of life.

Islamophobia and Hate Crimes Against Muslim Women (Huddle G)

Professor Saleema Snow, President, Karamah

Anti-Muslim hate crime rates escalated 78% from 2015-2016 – the highest level that the FBI has reported since September 11th. Much of this increasing violence is rooted in anti-Muslim campaign rhetoric, an escalating tension in global politics around immigration, and misinformed national security policies. This gender equity talk (GET) covers how government policies and anti-Muslim narratives have sparked hate crimes that have disproportionately affected Muslim women. The GET includes a discussion of the gender gaps in hate crime reporting methodologies, and why Muslim women are disproportionately targeted both nationally and internationally.

The Impact of Disaster on Women and Children (Huddle H)

Professor Susan Waysdorf, Co-Founder, Service-Learning Program

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast in August 2005, devastating New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the world witnessed families separated, children lost and orphaned, and hundreds of children cut off from their custodial parents. Thousands of families were left homeless, and many parents and other family members were killed in the storm and its aftermath, drowning in the unprecedented flooding of New Orleans. Families were evacuated to far off locales, most never to return again to their hometowns of New Orleans, and the Mississippi towns of Gulfport, Waveland and Biloxi.

Whether from the ruins of New Orleans or from an evacuation or resettlement point, women of Katrina played a key role in pulling their families back together, figuring out survival strategies, fighting for custody of their children, re-locating, and re-organizing their family structures and homes. Many of these women, poor and Black, struggled fiercely and managed their families' survival despite the odds against them. Most persisted without the government aid and insurance payments that flowed more freely and directly to higher income families.

In recent months there has been an historic series of natural disasters in the Western Hemisphere - from the earthquakes in Mexico, to Hurricanes Irma, Maria and Nate. It has become clear that the Trump Administration has carried out a genderized, income and racially-biased response to these recent disasters, particularly in Puerto Rico. Despite this, women of Puerto Rico, and poor women in Houston, Florida and other devastated regions have persisted in keeping their families together.

In this talk, Professor Waysdorf, will speak to the role of women in disasters, and the specific impact disasters have on women and their families. Professor Waysdorf, who co-founded the law school's Service-Learning program, and who spent extensive time doing humanitarian service in post-Katrina New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, will focus on the specific role of women in disasters, their persistence in ensuring their families' survival, and the legal and other issues these women have faced.

Afternoon Sessions

Speed Networking

Hear from activists and advocacy groups about their agendas and action plans, and how you can get involved.

Student Luncheon: Law for Black Femmes, Women and Girls

Moderator: Krystal Leaphart, Special Assistant and Policy Associate
National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women

Panelists:

Ericka Dixon, Policy Program Coordinator, Black Women's
Trinice McNally, Program Manager, HBCU LGBTQ-Equality Initiative
Samantha Davis, Field Engagement Manager, YWCA USA
Desiree Luckey, 2l, Georgetown University Law Center

On September 30, 2017, thousands gathered in Washington, DC to March for Black Women. This event centered the stories of those traditionally left out of the civil rights and feminist spaces – black femmes, women and girls. In this follow-up discussion, we will talk about racialized gender justice work and how law students can plug into that work.

Performances by Hear Me Lead Women's Leadership Program & "Professor Lyrical" – Dr. Peter Michael Plourde

Introductions by Dean April Massey, UDC College of Arts and Sciences

Political Participation: Why We Need Women to Run for Office and the Importance of Intersectionality in Political Leadership

Moderator: Monica Weeks, President, DC NOW

Panelists: Elizabeth Guzman, Virginia House Delegate for District 31
Jennifer Carroll Foy, Virginia House Delegate for District 2
Jamie Maniscalco, Finance Director, Emerge America
Chelsea Wilson, Chair, She Should Run Frontrunners

Women make up over half the population yet only represent 20 percent of Congress, 25 percent of state legislature seats, and 12 percent of governorships. While women have proven that they can raise money and win elections at comparable, if not higher, rates than men, too few women run for office at all.

A new survey, sponsored by POLITICO, American University and Loyola Marymount University, finds that President Donald Trump's election has mobilized Democratic women to take political action. Democratic women are signing petitions and making donations at much higher rates than they did before the election. But the poll also shows that women in both parties remain significantly less likely than men to have thought about running for office—even after Trump's victory.

Organizations such as Emerge and She Should Run are working to fix this and helping to elect more women into office every day. And they aren't just looking for anyone. They are recruiting dynamic women who are intersectional, thoughtful organizers intent on making their communities better.

She Should Run has set a goal to elect 250,000 women to office by 2030. But is this possible and will this new crop of women running for office represent the rich, diverse American population? We will hear from two candidates currently running for office, two women helping to elect women into office, and our moderator who

just ran for office. We will discuss how gender, race, and class affect one's chances of running and the real issues candidates face while running for office. We will delve into an honest and open discussion and ask for audience participation.

Fighting for Immigrant Women and Children in Detention – A National Volunteer Movement

Professor Lindsay M. Harris, Co-Director, Immigration and Human Rights Clinic
UDC-DCSL Law Students Carmen Diaz, Liana Montecinos, and Makeda Crane

This panel will provide background on the detention of immigrant children and their parents in the United States, and explain the volunteer response – massive law student and volunteer engagement in “on the ground” advocacy within the detention centers in Texas.

Professor Harris and students who accompanied her on a service-learning trip to Karnes Family Detention Center on alternative spring break 2017 will share stories and accounts of working within family detention centers, and provide ideas for engagement in working with detained immigrants more broadly.

Gender Advocacy and (Social) Media

Professor Marcy L. Karin, Jack and Lovell Olender Director, Legislation Clinic

Successful systemic reform activities usually require an effective media strategy. Creating such a strategy is often challenging for issue campaigns with a gender or intersectional focus. In part, this is due to a bias in reporting and difficulty getting traditional media to focus on stories with a gender or intersectional lens. Social media sometimes offers a helpful supplement or a necessary alternative, but it comes with its own challenges. Collectively these challenges are compounded by the reality that many lawyers and advocates do not have a lot of experience working with the media or funds to pay for relevant training.

As a result, using contemporary examples, this session will focus on the important role that media can play in transforming gender-based advocacy campaigns as well as the strengths and challenges of working with various types of media to reach strategic audiences such as policy stakeholders, grassroots communities, and others. The goal is to introduce participants to the relevant terminology and potential toolkit components, as well as to offer concrete tips and strategies for working with both traditional press and newer mediums. Come learn how to make the media be value-added to your next gender-focused advocacy campaign!

Inequity Storytelling in Two Parts. Part 2: Re-storying to Optimize Possibilities

Professor Jo Tyler, Penn State University

In the afternoon session, we will briefly revisit our stories from the morning, using a “re-storying” process to integrate ideas and concepts that have surfaced during the day. Imagining and articulating an alternative version of the original story, imbued with your learning and insights from the day, will give us an opportunity to explore ways that the wisdom emerging from the conference can impact real stories of inequity on levels ranging from the individual to the universal, from the personal to the public.