Critical Conversations:
Racial Justice and the Immigrant Rights Movement

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020  |  9AM–4:30PM
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
Critical Conversations: Racial Justice and the Immigrant Rights Movement

2020 Immigration Law Forum

9:00am-9:15am  Welcome Remarks

9:15am-10:30am  An Ongoing Crisis: Tracing the Confluence of Systemic Racism in US Law and Policy
* This panel is cosponsored by the Immigration History Research Center*

Moderator: Deepinder Mayell, Binger Center, University of Minnesota Law School
Panelists: A. Naomi Paik, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
          Nekima Levy Armstrong, Wayfinder Foundation

This panel will bring together leading experts in immigration law and civil rights to explore inequitable systems and policies that perpetuate racism on an institutional level. The panel will discuss the historically intertwined nature of anti-Black and anti-immigrant policies and their shared lineages. Panelists will identify troubling policies that exist today and provide a historical framework for the rest of the conference.

10:30am-10:35am  Break

10:35am-11:50am  Whose Story Gets Told: Exploring the Power of Identity in Intersecting Movements

Moderator: Nadia Anguiano-Wehde, Binger Center, University of Minnesota Law School
Panelists: Alfreda Daniels, Black Immigrant Collective
          Kevin Reese, Until We Are All Free
          Emilia Gonzalez Avalos, Unidos MN

This panel will bring together three community activists working to build power from the grassroots level to advance racial justice. The panel will examine how the goals of different social movements intersect and how identity shapes collective power, frames political narratives and is at the core of community action.

11:50am-12:10pm  Morning Conversation Group
Come together with other advocates, lawyers, students and participants to reflect and discuss sessions 1 and 2.

12:10-12:15pm  Break
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12:15pm-12:55pm  **Lunch Keynote**
**Moderator:** Steve Meili, Binger Center, University of Minnesota Law School
**Speaker:** Mayor Melvin Carter, City of St. Paul

12:55pm-1:00pm  **Break**

1:00pm-2:15pm  **Community Action for Racial Justice and Movement Lawyering**
**Moderator:** Linus Chan, Binger Center, University of Minnesota Law School
**Panelists:** Paromita Shah, Just Futures Law
Hiroshi Motomura, UCLA
Andre Dukes, Northside Achievement Zone

Successful social movements for racial justice have utilized a host of tactics and strategies including mass demonstrations, civil disobedience, electoral advocacy, and impact litigation. Legal challenges have often only been one part of broader coalitions that have coalesced to advance racial justice. This panel will bring together activists, lawyers and professors to discuss these overlapping strategies for social change and the importance of movement lawyering.

2:15pm-2:20pm  **Break**

2:20pm-3:35pm  **Conversations on How to Move Forward Post 2020 Elections**
**Moderator:** Kathy Moccio, Binger Center, University of Minnesota Law School
**Panelists:** Nana Gyamfi, Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Michele Garnett McKenzie, The Advocates for Human Rights
Jaylani Hussein, CAIR
Oluchi Omeoga, Black Visions Collective

With rising racial tensions and a global public health crisis disproportionately affecting low-income communities of color, the results of the 2020 presidential election will be pivotal. This panel will assess how to move forward as advocates for racial justice and immigrant rights in this charged and potentially unstable political climate.

3:35pm-4:15pm  **Afternoon Conversation Group**
Come together with other advocates, lawyers, students and participants to reflect and discuss sessions from the forum.

4:15pm-4:20pm  **Closing Remarks**

**Continuing Legal Education:** An application for 5.5 Continuing Legal Education credits (CLE) has been submitted. CLE code 330546.
Panelists

**A. Naomi Paik**
A. Naomi Paik is an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She is the author of *Bans, Walls, Raids, Sanctuary: Understanding U.S. Immigration for the 21st Century*. Her research and teaching interests include comparative ethnic studies; U.S. imperialism; U.S. militarism; social and cultural approaches to legal studies; transnational and women of color feminisms; carceral spaces; and labor, race, and migration.

**Nekima Levy Armstrong**
Nekima Levy Armstrong is the Executive Director of Wayfinder Foundation and owner and founder of Black Pearl LLC a consulting firm specializing in racial equity, problem solving, community engagement, and public relations. In 2015, she was named one of “40 Under 40” by Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. She formerly served as a law professor at the University of St. Thomas Law School for thirteen years, as president of the Minneapolis NAACP, and as an adviser to Black Lives Matter Minneapolis. Most recently, she ran for Mayor of Minneapolis, MN.

**Emilia Gonzalez Avalos**
Emilia Gonzalez Avalos is the Executive Director of Unidos MN. She is a Mexican immigrant. Born in Mexico City, raised in Irapuato and Minnesota, she joined her father in Minnesota years after he left their town looking for a better future for his family. Family separation, border consciousness and transnational economy shaped Emilia to become an immigration activist, intersectional feminist and advocate for human rights.

**Kevin Reese**
Kevin Reese is the Founder and CEO of Until We Are All Free, which is a human rights organization led by formerly incarcerated criminal justice experts. Until We Are All Free focuses on building capital, resources and support to provide pathways to civic and economic liberation for individuals disenfranchised by mass incarceration. Kevin grew up in Minneapolis and spent 14 years incarcerated inside of the criminal justice system. During that time, he founded the BRIDGE, which is a grassroots group of directly impacted criminal justice experts whose mission is to abolish mass incarceration and find the answers to a true transformative criminal justice overhaul.
Alfreda Daniels

Alfreda Daniels is a community organizer with the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation (MRLF). Her work focuses on building non transactional relationship between community and labor. She lives in Brooklyn Center. She was born in Liberia, lived in a Ghanaian refugee camp and later migrated to the US as a refugee. Alfreda attended St. Cloud State University where she studied Political Science, International Relations and Human Relations.

Melvin Carter: Keynote Speaker

Melvin Carter is the 46th, and first African-American mayor of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota’s Capital City. A fourth-generation Saint Paul resident, Mayor Carter leads with an unapologetic equity agenda. Since taking office in 2018, his accomplishments include raising the city’s minimum wage to $15/hour; tripling free program in rec centers; eliminating late fines in public libraries; reestablishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund; expanding immigrant & refugee support resources, and launching an Office of Financial Empowerment.

Hiroshi Motomura

Hiroshi Motomura is the Susan Westerberg Prager Distinguished Professor of Law at UCLA. He is the author of two books, Americans in Waiting and Immigration Outside the Law, and co-author of two law casebooks, Immigration and Citizenship and Forced Migration. His honors include the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award in 2014 and a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2018. Hiroshi is a founding director of the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and has been a director of the National Immigration Law Center since 2011. His newest publication is The New Migration Law, in the 2020 Cornell Law Review.

Paromita Shah

Paromita Shah is the Executive Director of Just Futures Law. Her work specializes in strategies to combat immigration detention, enforcement and criminalization. With over twenty years of experience, she has provided innovative legal and advocacy support to lawyers and legal advocates, grassroots groups, organizers, and policy stakeholders fighting criminalization and immigration enforcement. Previously, she worked as a staff attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services representing individuals seeking asylum, VAWA and other relief.

Andre Dukes

Andre Dukes oversees the Northside Achievement Zone, which focuses on ensuring that NAZ scholars are ready for kindergarten through access to quality early learning centers, scholarships, screening, parent support and education, and advocacy. Throughout his career, he has learned a great deal about how experiences shape child behavior, and how strong communities, environments, and supports can promote healthy development and prevent harmful behavior in children.
Nana Gyamfi
Nana Gyamfi is the Executive Director of Black Alliance for Just Immigration, the largest Black-led racial justice and immigrant rights organization in the U.S. representing Black Immigrants, refugees and their families. A movement attorney for over 25 years, Nana is co-founder of Justice Warriors 4 Black Lives and Human Rights Advocacy, organizations dedicated to fighting for human rights and Black liberation. She is a former professor in the Pan African Studies Department at California State University Los Angeles.

Michele Garnett McKenzie
Michele Garnett McKenzie is the Deputy Director and Director of Advocacy at The Advocates for Human Rights. She is responsible for research, education and advocacy on the organization’s domestic priority issues, including migration, human trafficking, and policing. She works to document and report on human rights issues and is the author of publications on human trafficking and immigrant rights. Michele also leads the organization’s domestic policy advocacy, successfully working to create transformative policy change.

Oluchi Omeoga
Oluchi Omeoga is a trainer and most importantly, a Leo. Oluchi is a Minnesota-born Trans Igbo organizer who still lives and organizes in Minneapolis, Minnesota today. Oluchi is a co-creator and Core Team member of Black Visions Collective, a black-led local organization working in Minnesota. Prior to becoming the National Organizer, Oluchi was also co-founder/ steering committee member of the Black LGTBTQ+ Migrant Project, or BLMP. BLMP is focused on bringing most marginalized folks together to work toward liberation.

Jaylani Hussein
Jaylani Hussein is currently the executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN). Hussein worked as the Community Liaison Officer at Metro State University and as a Planner for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. In 2013, he created Zeila Consultants to develop and offer cross-cultural training workshops on East African cultures. Hussein has presented on the Somali Culture to diverse public and private organizations across the US. He specializes in the areas of urban planning, community development, youth development and legal and civil rights.
Moderators

Deepinder Mayell
Deepinder is the Executive Director of the Binger Center. Mayell works closely with Center faculty, staff and law firm and non-profit partners to develop, implement and resource Center programs. Mayell provides leadership and management for the Center’s administrative and programmatic operations. Before coming to the Law School, Mayell was the director of the Refugee & Immigrant Program at The Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis.

Linus Chan
Linus is an Associate Professor of Clinical Law and the Director of the Detainee Rights Clinic at The Binger Center. He is an immigration attorney that focuses removal defense for those detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He also teaches in the area of intersection of criminal and immigration law. Recently, he was recognized as the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild 2020 Member Honoree.

Steve Meili
Steve is a James H. Binger Professor in Clinical Law and the Director of the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic. He writes and teaches about the rights of noncitizens, particularly those seeking asylum. His work often takes a comparative approach: his three most recent publications analyze the constitutionalization of human rights law in Ecuador, Mexico and the European Union. At the University of Minnesota he teaches immigration and international refugee law, as well as civil procedure and legal practice.

Nadia Anguiano-Wehde
Nadia is an Assistant Visiting Professor of Clinical Law and Immigration Advocacy Fellow. She represents noncitizens in litigation before immigration courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and federal courts. Her work combines individual representation and impact litigation and is particularly focused on systematically challenging adverse immigration consequences of criminal convictions.

Kathy Moccio
Kathy is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Clinical Law at The Binger Center. She has more than 25 years of experience practicing immigration law. From 2009 to 2017, Moccio served as an assistant Hennepin County public defender, a position in which she helped noncitizen defendants navigate the intersection of criminal and immigration laws. She is recognized nationally as a researcher, author, and educator of lawyers on such “crim-imm” issues.