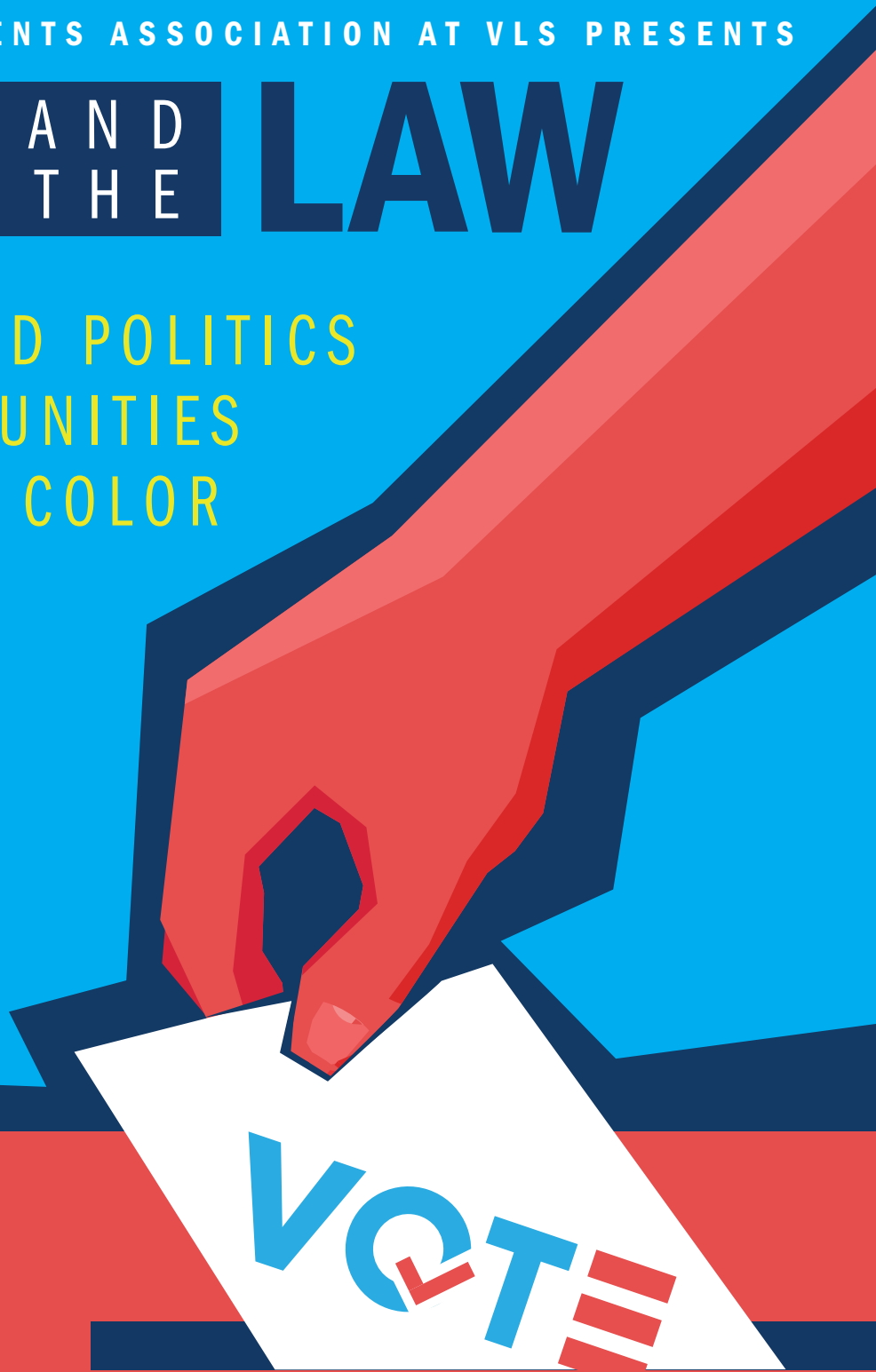


THE BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AT VLS PRESENTS

# RACE AND THE LAW

HOW VOTING AND POLITICS  
AFFECT OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

Friday,  
January 29  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Watch Live  
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# SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

9 to 9:10 a.m.	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> President and Dean Emeritus Thomas McHenry, Vermont Law School
9:10 to 9:20 a.m.	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Diarra Raymond JD/MARJ'22, Treasurer, VLS Black Law Students Association
9:20 to 10:15 a.m.	<b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</b> Kendra Brown JD'12, Director of Public Policy, Mastercard
10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<b>PANEL I: HOW LAWS IMPACT PEOPLE OF COLORS' ACCESS TO VOTING</b>  <b>MODERATOR</b> Mark Latham, Professor of Law, Vermont Law School  <b>PANELISTS</b> Benjamin Battles, Solicitor General, VT Attorney General's Office Juany Torres, Founder, Organize SA Celina Stewart, Senior Director, Advocacy and Litigation, League of Women Voters Sylvia Albert, Director of Voting and Elections, Common Cause
12 to 1 p.m.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
1 to 2:15 p.m.	<b>PANEL II: DOES YOUR VOTE REALLY COUNT?</b>  <b>MODERATOR</b> Brian Porto, Professor of Law, Vermont Law School  <b>PANELISTS</b> Eric Foner, Professor Emeritus of History, Columbia University Patrick Berry, Fellow and Counsel, Brennan Center Democracy Program Frederick K. Brewington, Principal, The Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington
2:30 to 3:45 p.m.	<b>PANEL III: WILL ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE RESULT IN MORE EQUITABLE POLITICS?</b>  <b>MODERATOR</b> Robert Sand JD'87, Founding Director of the Center for Justice Reform and Professor of Law, Vermont Law School  <b>PANELISTS</b> Michael Donofrio, Partner, Stris & Maher, LLP Kesha Ram, Vermont State Senator Pratt Wiley, President and CEO, The Partnership, Inc.
3:45 to 4 p.m.	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> Elijah Freeman JD'22, President, VLS Black Law Students Association

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**KENDRA BROWN JD'12**  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY, MASTERCARD

**Kendra Brown JD'12** is currently the director of public policy Mastercard. Ms. Brown graduated from Hampton University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a minor in business management. She began her seminary studies by pursuing coursework at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, completed her master of divinity at Howard University Divinity School, and received her law degree from Vermont Law School. Additionally, Ms. Brown attended the George Washington University School of Law for her master of laws. She previously worked as the chief of staff for Rep. G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) in the United States House of Representatives and before this position worked in various ways to strengthen her community. Ms. Brown was the senior director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Affinity for the Washington College of Law at American University where she led the law school's diversity and inclusion initiatives. Previous roles include deputy chief of staff and legislative director for Rep. Dwight Evans of Philadelphia, Pa., policy director of the Congressional Black Caucus in the United States Congress, and counsel for Rep. Maxine Waters of Los Angeles, Calif. Ms. Brown is a former national chair of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). During her term, NBLSA was active in election protection, leadership training and development, academic planning, career development, and extensive advocacy efforts.

# PANEL I

## HOW LAWS IMPACT PEOPLE OF COLORS' ACCESS TO VOTING

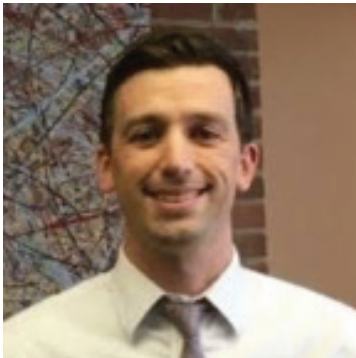
### MODERATOR



**MARK LATHAM**  
PROFESSOR OF LAW  
VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

**Professor Mark Latham**, who joined the VLS faculty in 2005, specializes in a range of environmental issues that arise in corporate and commercial real estate transactions and brownfields redevelopment. His research focus includes the intersection of business and environmental law, as well as issues under the federal Clean Water Act. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law in 1989. He was appointed as deputy vice dean for academic affairs in 2011 and became vice dean for academic affairs in 2012. Prior to joining the VLS faculty, Professor Latham was a partner and chair of the environmental practice group at Gardner, Carton, and Douglas (now Drinker, Biddle and Reath) in Chicago and Washington, D.C. In his 15 years of private practice, he served as defense counsel for businesses, municipalities, and individuals in state, federal, civil, and administrative enforcement actions under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, CERCLA, RCRA, and EPCRA. He counseled clients regarding regulatory compliance under all major environmental statutes, particularly in the water, solid waste, hazardous waste, and spill/release reporting areas. He also assisted clients with environmental due diligence in a variety of transactions. His teaching includes courses in Torts, Environmental Issues in Business Transactions, Corporations and Other Business Organizations, and Environmental Law.

### PANELISTS



**BENJAMIN BATTLES**  
SOLICITOR GENERAL, VERMONT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

**Ben Battles** is the solicitor general for the State of Vermont. He supervises and conducts appellate litigation for the Vermont Attorney General's Office in the Vermont Supreme Court, the federal courts of appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court, and leads the office's multistate litigation practice. He joined the Attorney General's Office in 2014 and served as an assistant attorney general in the office's Human Services Division and Appellate Unit before being named solicitor general in 2017 by Attorney General T.J. Donovan. He previously practiced in New York with the law firms of Boies, Schiller & Flexner and Cahill Gordon & Reindel. Mr. Battles is a graduate of the University of Vermont and Brooklyn Law School, where he was an executive articles editor of the Brooklyn Law Review. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Dora Irizarry, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and the Honorable Morton Greenberg, U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Battles is co-chair of the Appellate Section of the Vermont Bar Association, and serves as a mentor with The Appellate Project, whose mission is to empower law students of color to thrive in the appellate field.



**JUANY TORRES**  
FOUNDER, ORGANIZE SA

**Juany Torres** is the oldest daughter of Mexican immigrants and a first-generation American. She was born and raised in the south side of San Antonio, Texas, and attended Stanford University on a full scholarship from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Ms. Torres worked at the White House as part of the Domestic Policy Council under President Obama before joining Google, Inc. After her time in the Bay Area, Ms. Torres served as the Nevada Deputy Digital Director for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign before returning to San Antonio and focusing on increasing civic engagement in her home state of Texas through the creation of Organize SA. Ms. Torres served as the deputy campaign manager for Ron Nirenberg for Mayor and served in his office before helping her Stanford peer Lina Hidalgo run for Harris County Judge in Houston. In 2019 Ms. Torres began pursuing her master's in public affairs at the University of Texas' LBJ School. Most recently, she was selected as the inaugural public policy fellow for WTS Heart of Texas Chapter and Mayor Adler's office. In her role, she is focused on increasing equity and opportunity through public policy and local government.



**CELINA STEWART**  
SENIOR DIRECTOR, ADVOCACY AND  
LITIGATION, LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS

**Celina Stewart** is an attorney with a focus on voting and civil rights in an effort to help small businesses and underrepresented communities build bridges to overcome economic, cultural, political, and social disparities. Ms. Stewart earned her juris doctor from Western Michigan University Law School and her bachelor of arts in Sociology from Spelman College. She currently serves on the boards of the Bar Association of DC; the Women's Bar Association of DC; the National Association of Advancement of Colored People (NAACP-DC); and was an American Bar Foundation Law Practice Fellow. Ms. Stewart is currently the senior director of Advocacy and Litigation for the League of Women Voters. In this role she develops and implements political strategies and policy positions around election reform and voting rights issues; oversees prospective litigation for the national and state leagues; works closely with grassroots staff in implementing national agenda, and serves as lead lobbyist and liaison with Congress and the administration for the League. Prior to joining the League, she was acting chief operating officer and director of philanthropy at an electoral reform nonprofit where she split her time between managing a small, but mighty development team and managing the day-to-day operations of the organization. Ms. Stewart's experience also includes serving as a litigation consultant to several Am 100 law firms handling complex merger and acquisition transactions; legislative aide at the Michigan legislature handling the public interest portfolio for the House tax chair; and as legal counsel to the minority leader of the Georgia House of Representatives. As legal counsel, she assisted in developing and implementing the caucus's legislative agenda and was appointed to the reapportionment counsel where she led a team of technical mappers and legal assistants to draw alternative redistricting maps in compliance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Upon returning home to D.C. in 2012, she served as director for the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century program, where she oversaw all quarterly conferences and worked with corporate giants and members of Congress to produce the Annual Report, a policy recommendation manual presented to the President of the United States.



**SYVIA ALBERT**  
DIRECTOR OF VOTING AND ELECTIONS,  
COMMON CAUSE

**Sylvia Albert** works with national staff and Common Cause state offices to press for reforms that expand access to the ballot for eligible voters and promote fair representation in our democracy. Ms. Albert brings more than a decade of professional experience in public interest law and public policy campaigns expanding ballot access, reducing barriers to participation, and combating voter intimidation among historically disenfranchised communities. She has also done extensive work on fair housing issues serving as a program analyst and advisor to the assistant secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in the Obama Administration. Ms. Albert holds a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

# PANEL II

## DOES YOUR VOTE REALLY COUNT?

### MODERATOR



**BRIAN PORTO**  
PROFESSOR OF LAW, VERMONT  
LAW SCHOOL

**Professor Brian Porto** joined the Vermont Law School faculty as assistant professor of law in fall 2007. He currently teaches Appellate Advocacy, Legal Writing, Amateur Sports Law, Professional Sports and the Law, and Election Law at VLS and serves as director of the Sports Law Institute. He is a practicing attorney and served as judicial clerk to Associate Justice Denise R. Johnson of the Vermont Supreme Court, Judge William I. Garrard of the Indiana Court of Appeals, and Associate Justice William Johnson of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Professor Porto has taught political science at Yankton College in South Dakota, at Macalester College in Minnesota, and at Norwich University in Vermont, and numerous courses as an adjunct professor at community colleges throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. His commentaries about legal and social issues in sports air on Vermont Public Radio, and he has published extensively. His most recent book, "The Supreme Court and the NCAA: The Case for Less Commercialism and More Due Process in College Sports," was published in 2012.



## PANELISTS



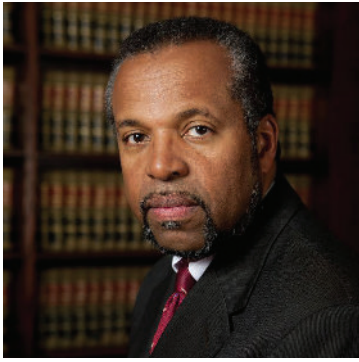
**ERIC FONER**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY,  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**Professor Eric Foner**, a former DeWitt Clinton Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, is one of this country's most prominent historians. He received his doctoral degree at Columbia under the supervision of Richard Hofstadter. He is one of only two persons to serve as president of the three major professional organizations: the Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, and Society of American Historians, and one of a handful to have won the Bancroft and Pulitzer Prizes in the same year. Professor Foner's publications have concentrated on the intersections of intellectual, political and social history, and the history of American race relations. One of his best-known books is "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party Before the Civil War" (1970), and his latest book is "The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution" (2019). Professor Foner has also been the co-curator with Olivia Mahoney, of two prize-winning exhibitions on American history: "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln," which opened at the Chicago Historical Society, and "America's Reconstruction: People and Politics After the Civil War." Professor Foner's works have been highly praised in scholarly journals and by reviews in periodicals across the political spectrum. In a book review, Steven Hahn of New York University wrote: "Like his mentor Richard Hofstadter, he has had an enormous influence on how other historians, as well as a good cut of the general reading public, have come to think about American history. This is the result of his voluminous scholarship and of his decades as a teacher. Indeed, when one considers the chronological and topical range of Foner's many books and essays-not to mention those of his doctoral students-only Hofstadter, C. Vann Woodward, David Brion Davis, and, in an earlier era, Charles Beard (who was also at Columbia) would seem to be his genuine rivals in impact and accomplishment." An article on the Bloomberg website recently described him as "one of America's greatest historians." On a somewhat different note, the Oklahoma Gazette wrote of a talk by Professor Foner at Oklahoma University, "... suffice it to say that his giving a free lecture on OU's campus is just really, incredibly, super cool." Professor Foner retired from teaching in 2018. During the 2014-15 academic year, his Columbia University course on The Civil War and Reconstruction was made available online, free of charge, via ColumbiaX and EdX.



**PATRICK BERRY**  
FELLOW AND COUNSEL, BRENNAN  
CENTER DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

**Patrick Berry** is a fellow and counsel in the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, where he focuses on voting rights restoration and promoting fair, diverse, and impartial courts. Mr. Berry received his bachelor of arts from the University of Central Florida and his juris doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he participated in the legislative clinic and was an executive editor for the Journal of Law and Public Affairs. In 2018, Mr. Berry received the Samuel T. Gomez Award which is presented annually to a law student who embodies commitment and compassion for the underserved through his or her community service. During law school, he was a law clerk at Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and Open Primaries. Mr. Berry's projects at the Brennan Center include money in judicial elections, disenfranchisement laws, choosing state court judges, and judicial ethics and recusal. Mr. Berry continues to dedicate his career to identifying and eliminating systemic barriers to voting in hopes of achieving a more just democracy.



**FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON**  
PRINCIPAL, THE LAW OFFICES  
OF FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON

**Frederick K. Brewington** is the principal of The Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington in Hempstead, N.Y. He is admitted to the bars of the states of New York and New Jersey, as well as the United States Supreme Court, United States First and Second Circuit Courts of Appeal, United States District Courts of New Jersey and the Eastern, Southern and Northern Districts of New York. He is a prominent member of the New York State and State of New Jersey Bar Associations, Amistad Black Bar Association, National Employment Lawyers Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the Nassau County Bar Association, the National Police Accountability Project as well as other local and regional organizations. Mr. Brewington has served tirelessly as the “People’s” lawyer and a powerful promoter of our nation’s highest values. He has successfully challenged the “at large” voting system in the town of Hempstead and worked on preventing future unconstitutional and discriminatory purging of voters from the voting rolls including a recent major settlement victory wherein equal representation has been demanded for Latino voters in the town of Islip. Mr. Brewington challenges other discriminatory practices as well—with a sustained focus on issues such as affordable housing, community revitalization, employment and civil rights, the environment and, especially, voting rights and fair representation in government. He labors against injustices through litigating, writing, lecturing and through building relationships of encouragement among citizen organizations. He is an adjunct professor at Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Touro College, and has had articles published in *The National Bar Association Magazine*, *The Amsterdam News*, *Black Westchester* and the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association’s e-newsletter. He is a highly sought-after speaker and presenter to the legal community and many community organizations. Brewington has also been a volunteer football coach in the Malverne School District for over 30 years and is married to Rev. Adrienne Brewington, a former attorney, who is a senior pastor in the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.



# PANEL III

## WILL ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE RESULT IN MORE EQUITABLE POLITICS?

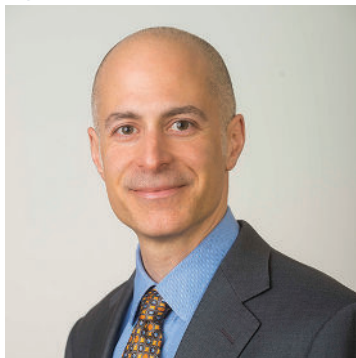
### MODERATOR



**ROBERT SAND JD'87**  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR  
JUSTICE REFORM; AND PROFESSOR  
OF LAW, VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

**Professor Robert Sand JD'87** joined the faculty at Vermont Law School on a full-time basis in 2016, having served as the Vermont Governor's liaison to criminal justice programs, and the former elected state's attorney for Windsor County, Vermont, a position he held for 15 years, and a visiting professor of criminal law at Vermont Law School. He is a 1980 graduate of Hamilton College and a 1987 graduate of Vermont Law School, magna cum laude, where he served as the managing editor of the Vermont Law Review. He is a past member of the Vermont Law School Board of Trustees. As a prosecutor, he oversaw all criminal matters arising within Windsor County. He has extensive trial and appellate experience and is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is an outspoken advocate for reform of the nation's drug laws and has written and spoken extensively in support of changes to drug policy. He is a frequent witness before the Vermont House and Senate Judiciary committees on a variety of criminal justice matters. At VLS, he co-founded the school's criminal law clinic and hosts an annual conference on innovative criminal justice programs. As a professor, he seeks to combine doctrine and appellate cases with primary source materials from the criminal justice system, giving his students a hands-on approach to criminal law. His students are asked to explore and challenge their own opinions about crime and punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, justice, limitations on police power, and fair and effective ways to promote public safety. Professor Sand is the founding director of the Center for Justice Reform at VLS, which offers a new Master of Arts in Restorative Justice degree. The Center for Justice Reform brings to VLS enhanced curricular attention to cutting-edge criminal justice issues and organizes conferences, presentations, and lectures related to justice reform efforts.

### PANELISTS



**MICHAEL DONOFRIO**  
PARTNER, STRIS & MAHER, LLP

**Michael Donofrio** is a partner at Stris & Maher LLP, a prominent litigation boutique based in Los Angeles. For 25 years, Mr. Donofrio has litigated complex cases and counseled public and private sector clients across a wide variety of subjects, from health care to national security. Along the way, he had the privilege of clerking for Vermont Supreme Justice Marilyn Skoglund and of spending two years teaching at Brooklyn Law School. In early 2020, Mr. Donofrio decided to expand his pro bono democracy reform practice. He has authored amicus briefs in Supreme Court cases concerning the electoral college and the apportionment of the House of Representatives and has litigated cases seeking to equalize or expand voting access for voters around the country. Mr. Donofrio is looking forward to continuing his pro bono work in 2021, including supporting proactive solutions that will make the election process more free and fair.



**KESHA RAM**  
VERMONT STATE SENATOR

**Kesha Ram** is a Vermont state senator serving Chittenden County, where she is the first woman of color and youngest woman in history to have a seat. She received a bachelor's of science in natural resource planning and a bachelor's of arts in political science from the University of Vermont in 2008, where she was student government association president and graduated magna cum laude. Ms. Ram earned her master of public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2018. Her career in Vermont has spanned pre-school education, legal advocacy for victims of domestic violence, and municipal civic engagement. She currently works to build social equity and inclusion in non-profit organizations, businesses, school districts, and municipalities. Ms. Ram served in the Vermont House of Representatives on behalf of Burlington, Chittenden District 6-4 from 2008 to 2016, where she sat on the House General, Housing and Military Affairs and Ways and Means committees, and as Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee. She has also served as co-chair of the Vermont Attorney General's Immigration Task Force, and as a member of the boards of Emerge Vermont, the Main Street Alliance of Vermont, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, the Regenerative Food Network, and the Vermont Natural Resources Council. This year, she was honored to be one of Vermont's three electors in the electoral college, casting a vote for 46th President Joseph R. Biden and history-making Vice President Kamala D. Harris. Ms. Ram lives with her fiancée, Jacob Hinsdale, who grew up on Country Cedars Farm in Charlotte, and their dog, Miso.



**PRATT NORTON WILEY**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
THE PARTNERSHIP, INC.

**Pratt Norton Wiley** is the president and CEO of The Partnership, Inc, a premier organization dedicated to enhancing the competitiveness of New England by attracting, developing, retraining, and convening multicultural professionals. Mr. Wiley previously served as the national director of Voter Protection for the Democratic National Committee. In that role, he designed and executed the DNC's proactive voter protection program to ensure that every eligible American could register to vote, cast their ballot, and be confident that their vote will be counted. Mr. Wiley has also served as the National Regional Voter Protection coordinator for Obama for America in battleground states including Ohio, Michigan, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire. During the campaign, he was responsible for the clear communication to targeted communities of voter law changes and building programs to assist in registering and educating voters.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE VLS BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU  
FOR JOINING US FOR THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM, ALONG WITH:

**SYLVIA ALBERT** Director of Voting and Elections, Common Cause

**BENJAMIN BATTLES** Solicitor General, Vermont Attorney General's Office

**PATRICK BERRY** Fellow and Counsel, Brennan Center Democracy Program

**JOSEPH BRENNAN** Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

**FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON** Principal, The Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington

**KENDRA BROWN JD'12** Director of Public Policy, Mastercard

**MICHAEL DONOFRIO** Partner, Stris & Maher, LLP

**ERIC FONER** Professor Emeritus of History, Columbia University

**SHIRLEY A. JEFFERSON** Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, Associate Professor, Vermont Law School

**MARK LATHAM** Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

**ROBERT MCDOUGALL** Chief of the Environmental Protection Division, Vermont Attorney General's Office

**THOMAS MCHENRY** President and Dean, Vermont Law School

**BRIAN PORTO** Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

**KESHA RAM** Vermont State Senator

**ROBERT SAND JD'87** Founding Director of the Center for Justice Reform, Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

**CELINA STEWART** Senior Director, Advocacy and Litigation, League of Women Voters

**JUANY TORRES** Founder, Organize SA

**PRATT NORTON WILEY** President and CEO, The Partnership, Inc.

**EMILY POTTS** Multimedia Production Manager, Vermont Law School

**KAREN HENDERSON** Creative Designer, Vermont Law School



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