



THE BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL PRESENTS



RACE AND THE LAW

ACTION: ADDRESSING 21ST CENTURY DISPARITIES
IN LEGAL PREPAREDNESS AND EMPLOYMENT

Saturday, February 19

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT

A VIRTUAL EVENT

REGISTER AT [VERMONTLAW.INFO/RATL22](https://vermontlaw.info/ratl22)

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

- 9 to 9:05 a.m. **WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS ~ TAYLA FAUNTLEROY JD'24/MARJ'22**
Ain Ealey (she/her), Registered Behavioral Therapist and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Entrepreneur
- 9:05 to 9:55 a.m. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER ~ INTRODUCED BY KACI STEWART JD'23**
Corey Stewart (he/him), Director of Early Childhood Development
- 10 to 10:55 a.m. **PANEL I: DE&I TRENDS IN THE WAKE OF RACIAL INJUSTICE**
This discussion will look to current efforts in the legal profession and intersecting fields to “be more inclusive,” highlighting where those efforts have succeeded, been lackluster, or failed completely. How can we redefine culture and boundaries in legal work settings in an effort to minimize “Millennial Abandonment?”
- PANELISTS**
Jamila Young, Esq. (she/her), Managing Manager and Co-Owner of Moore and Young Legal Solutions
Diane Clarkson (she/her), Deputy Prosecutor, Pierce County Prosecutor’s Office of Tacoma, Washington
Leon Smith, Esq. (he/him), Executive Director of Citizens for Juvenile Justice
- 11 to 11:55 a.m. **PANEL II: SEEKING MENTORSHIP IN UNCHARTED FIELDS**
Black attorneys represent a very small number of professionals in the legal sector in general, and even lesser so in areas of IP, Sports/Entertainment Law, Environmental/Land-Use, Property Law, etc. Many have noted that their mentorship was a huge support system in seeing the journey through.
- PANELISTS**
Tanisia Moore, Esq. (she/her), Founding Attorney, Moore and Young Legal Solutions; Entrepreneur
Martin A. Smith, CRPC™, AIFA™ (he/him), Founder and President of Wealthcare Financial Group, Inc.™ and HBCU Legacy, LLC
Brandon Sartin, Esq. (he/him), Commercial Litigation Attorney at Stites & Harbison, PLLC
- 12 to 12:55 p.m. **PANEL III: FORTIFYING BLACK MENTAL HEALTH: BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER LAW SCHOOL**
This final panel will look to address the varying factors contributing to mental health in the Black community, highlighting the added stressors of navigating the legal field—from grades/academic resources and finances in law school, to preparing for the bar exam, to burnout and adversity in the field. Is discussing mental health treatment and wellness taboo in the Black legal community? This breakout session will aim to share clinical and holistic coping and healing strategies. Direct resources welcome but holding space for open ears and hearts is most valued.
- PANELISTS**
Amanda Harrington, MSW, LICSW, JD (she/her), Be@School Program Manager and Assistant County Attorney, Hennepin County Attorney’s Office - Child Protection Division
Ke’Andra Levingston, Esq. (she/her), Business Affairs Executive, Entertainment. Commercial Litigation Attorney at Stites & Harbison, PLLC
Adrian Johnson, M.A. (they/them), MHC-LP at IHI Therapy Center
Jaacalyn Davis, M.S. (she/her), CEO of Divine Wellness LLC
Lateef Munir JD'20 (he/him), Corporate Legislative Analyst, City of Atlanta Department of Law, Legal Division and Aviation Practice Group
- 12:55 to 1 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**
Tayla Fauntleroy JD'24/MARJ'22

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



COREY STEWART

DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Corey Stewart was born in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School as a Posse scholar. As a Posse scholar he attended Carleton College where he nurtured his passion for educational reform. Upon graduation from Carleton College, he returned to Chicago to give back to the community that constructed his servant's conscience. He taught for six years at Urban Prep College Preparatory High School, a public charter school for young men. Corey continued his education by obtaining his masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction. As an instructor he served as a positive model to both his students and colleagues. He assisted his peers in developing critical curricula that would dramatically impact the realities of their students. Leading Professional Developments on classroom management, serving on a Curriculum Committee and allowing his colleagues to shadow and observe him implement research-based teaching strategies gave him the desire to take his teaching to the next level. Corey currently serves as the director of an Early Childhood Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

MODERATOR



AIN EALEY

REGISTERED BEHAVIORAL THERAPIST AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ENTREPRENEUR

Ain Ealey is a multi-passionate scholar activist with a background in behavioral therapy, community organizing and entrepreneurship. She is a Spelman College graduate and founder and CEO of the Self Care After Series, a non-profit infusing social justice education with wellness. Recently, Ain was recognized by the Young Nonprofit Professional Network (YNPN) as one of Atlanta's 30 under 30 nonprofit leaders. In the fall Ain will take her community work to Nashville, Tennessee, where she will begin her M.Ed in Community Development and Action with her admission into Vanderbilt University.



JAMILA YOUNG, ESQ.
 MANAGING MANAGER AND CO-OWNER OF
 MOORE AND YOUNG LEGAL SOLUTIONS

Jamila Young is a managing manager and co-owner of Moore and Young Legal Solutions. She has years of experience in advocacy, a vision to help protect your brand and ensuring your contracts leave no stone unturned! She is a public speaker, entrepreneur, author and a firm believer in assisting passionate “goal getters” to achieve their highest aspirations. Prior to becoming a Momsquisher™, she served for several years as a health policy and advocacy professional for the federal government, major hospital systems and for a nonprofit organization. Jamila also works as a program coordinator for the Ethics department at Wellstar Health System and teaches Bioethics and Pop Culture at Georgia State University. Jamila is a proud native of Albany, Georgia and received her BA in English from Kennesaw State University and JD from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University School of Law. As a lifelong learner, she continued her academic journey to receive her LLM in Health Law and Policy at Hofstra University. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the immediate past president of the Kennesaw State University Black Alumni Society, Alumni Board member for Kennesaw State University Alumni and dedicated to serving her community in the fields of autism, mental and maternal health. She is the mother of one amazing son, Tre.



DIANE CLARKSON
 DEPUTY PROSECUTOR, PIERCE COUNTY
 PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Diane Clarkson, the deputy prosecutor for Pierce County Prosecutors Office in Tacoma, Washington, is a Washington, D.C., native raised in Birmingham, Ala. She attended Berea College, a private liberal arts/work-study college in Berea, Ky. Attorney Clarkson went on to get her juris doctorate from Howard University at a time when it was still considered a “Black University,” rather than an HBCU. Attorney Clarkson wanted to live in Washington, but job opportunities were few and extremely competitive post-grad. She traveled to Washington State with the plan of gaining experience for four to five years before being able to return home, but has since found major fulfillment in her 29-year-long career as a deputy prosecuting attorney.



LEON SMITH, ESQ.
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITIZENS
 FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Leon Smith is the executive director of Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CfJJ), a statewide organization that has advocated systemic reform to achieve equitable youth justice since 1994. A 1995 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and a 1999 graduate of New England School of Law in Boston, Leon has worked as an attorney for young people since 2001. He started his career as a juvenile court public defender, before starting his own law practice devoted to juvenile and criminal court advocacy in Massachusetts Juvenile, District and Superior courts. He then moved on to the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City, working on youth-oriented local and national public policy issues. Leon then started the Racial Justice Project for the Connecticut-based Center for Children’s Advocacy. This project advocated reforms to reduce unnecessary and disproportionate school exclusion, improve services for Connecticut’s alternative school students to prevent drop-out, and provided legal representation to youth of color subjected to harsh school discipline, juvenile court delinquency matters, and unconstitutional targeting by law enforcement. He was also the lead facilitator and co-chair of Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) committees, which addresses disparities in the juvenile justice system in three Connecticut cities, and an appointed member of the Connecticut Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. In addition to his leadership of CfJJ since 2019, Leon has been active on a number of key coalitions and working groups, including the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board (JJPAD), the Legislature’s Emerging Adult Justice Task Force and School Resource Officer/Memorandum of Understanding Commission, the Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Coalition, the Education Law Task Force, the Chapter 222 Coalition, and the Statewide Connection on School Policing.

PANEL I

DE&I

**TRENDS IN
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TANISIA MOORE, ESQ.
 FOUNDING ATTORNEY, MOORE AND YOUNG
 LEGAL SOLUTIONS; ENTREPRENEUR

Known affectionately as “your family’s favorite author,” **Tanisia “Tee” Moore** writes uplifting work for all ages. For young adult readers, her debut book with co-author Lyn Miller-Lachmann in the “Women of Power” series profiling women filmmakers was announced in November 2020. For adults, she is the author of “After the Storm”, an inspiring contemporary romance novel of redemption and restoration. Tee has been published in the Alabama News, Medium, and Readers Digest, as well as a TEDx talk on motherhood and entrepreneurship. She is a proud alumna of Clark Atlanta University—where she majored in Mass Media Arts with a concentration in radio—and Florida A&M University College of Law. When Tee isn’t writing, she’s saving the world as a loving, compassionate (and sometimes crazy) wife and mother. Originally from Southern California, she now lives in the southern belle state of Alabama. To read Tee’s work, visit linktr.ee/moteellc.



MARTIN A. SMITH, CRPC™, AIFA™
 FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF WEALTHCARE FINANCIAL
 GROUP, INC.™ AND HBCU LEGACY, LLC

Martin A. Smith is the founder and president of Wealthcare Financial Group, Inc. and HBCU Legacy, LLC, two investment-management based firms, while separately holding title as a digital investment advisor (or “Robo-Advisor”). In addition to being a personal finance blogger, Martin is a 23-year veteran in the financial services industry and specializes in retirement planning, investment management and fiduciary consulting. To serve the unique needs of high-net-worth individuals and family offices with more breadth and depth than what is traditionally offered by wealth management firms, Martin has completed a master’s degree in Commercial Real Estate Finance at Georgetown University. He has also completed several financial planning designations, while earning the Retirement Planning Specialist certification and Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor designation from the College of Financial Planning in Denver, Colo. Martin has made a number of media appearances as a guest on News Channel 8, NBC Universal Channel 4, WTOF Radio News & Business and CBS Radio. In addition, he served as the host and co-producer of his own financial talk show for four years entitled, “Wealth and Wisdom” on Montgomery County TV. As a financial educator, Martin was invited to teach a series of financial management seminars for the NBA Development League, including the entire California National Guard. Martin earned his bachelor of arts degree in Legal Communications from Howard University in 1992. He later joined A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. as a financial consultant and was quickly promoted to the position of assistant branch manager. Martin splits his time between the Washington, D.C. and Atlanta Metro areas where he is actively hiring and training new financial advisors. Martin has been married to his bride Walida T. Smith for nearly 26 years and they have seven beautiful children.



BRANDON SARTIN, ESQ.
 COMMERCIAL LITIGATION ATTORNEY
 AT STITES & HARBISON, PLLC

A native of Macon, Ga., **Brandon Sartin** attended Morehouse College, graduating with a degree in business management in 2015. While at Morehouse, Sartin was a four-year letterman on their football team, and went on to attend Mercer University School of Law. He graduated from Mercer in 2018 as a George Woodruff Scholar. Sartin is a present attorney with Stites & Harbison, PLLC. Currently serving the firm’s Atlanta office, Sartin’s professional practice focuses on commercial litigation, including professional liability defense of attorneys, corporate directors and officers, and accountants, across different Georgia state courts and before various professional licensing boards. Before joining Stites & Harbison, Sartin was an attorney with a civil litigation firm in Atlanta. Prior to that, he worked as an Assistant Solicitor General in the Office of the Solicitor-General of Henry County, Ga., and as an assistant director of compliance with the University of Maryland, where he oversaw athletic compliance for several programs. Sartin also participated in the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s (NCAA) post-graduate leadership development program, where he was one of three selected to work for the NCAA Enforcement Staff during the 2018-19 academic year.

PANEL II
SEEKING
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PANELISTS



AMANDA HARRINGTON, MSW, LICSW, JD

BE@SCHOOL PROGRAM MANAGER AND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY, HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

Amanda Harrington is an assistant Hennepin County Attorney in the Child Protection Division and program manager of the Be@School program, the county's educational neglect and truancy program. Amanda obtained her law degree in 2019 from the University of St. Thomas School of Law. She began as an attorney with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office after graduation. Amanda has spent her entire career focused on improving the lives of children. She has extensive experience in the fields of education and social work. Amanda has a master's degree in Social Work and is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in addition to holding a law degree. She spent 10 years with Minneapolis Public Schools as a school social worker and social work mentor. In addition, Amanda has worked in the area of children's mental health as a therapeutic preschool teacher, consultant, school based mental health provider, and play therapist. She has worked for a number of community agencies primarily based in Hennepin County.



KE'ANDRA LEVINGSTON, ESQ.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE AT WILLIAM MORRIS ENDEAVOR

Ke'Andra Levingston is a passionate and forward thinking entertainment attorney, writer, and businesswoman. As a television business affairs executive at global talent agency William Morris Endeavor (WME), Ke'Andra serves as a business partner to Scripted and Non-Scripted TV Agents. She negotiates deals for on-camera talent, writers, producers, directors, and production companies in collaboration with their agent teams. She is passionate about the business of entertainment and about creating a diverse and inclusive future for Hollywood through storytelling. Ke'Andra started her career as a mergers & acquisitions/global finance associate at Sidley Austin LLP, and is a graduate of Harvard Law School. Ke'Andra is also a proud alumna of Spelman College, where she was a Social Justice Fellow.



ADRIAN JOHNSON M.A.

MHC-LP AT IHI THERAPY CENTER

Adrian Johnson first attuned to their passion for making space to share difficult stories in college. While volunteering with Jumpstart, Americorps, it became apparent to Adrian how a child's interpersonal and intrapersonal wellness interacted with their academic achievement. This turned their studies toward early childhood development and the importance of social isolation. In their work as a mental health counselor, Adrian is honing their ability to observe and conceptualize how black bodies tell their story. Using a combination of Western theoretical orientation, a cultural consideration of the manifestation of symptoms and the instincts of a compassionate listener, Adrian hopes to guide stifled voices into making some noise in their own lives. Adrian is a proud alumna of Spelman College and is currently living their best life traveling the world and embracing the fruits of their alignment.

PANEL III FORTIFYING BLACK MENTAL HEALTH: BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER LAW SCHOOL

This final panel will look to address the varying factors contributing to mental health in the Black community, highlighting the added stressors of navigating the legal field- from grades/ academic resources and finances in law school, to preparing for the bar exam, to burnout and adversity in the field. Is discussing mental health treatment and wellness taboo in the Black legal community? This breakout session will aim to share clinical and holistic coping and healing strategies. Direct resources welcome but holding space for open ears and hearts is most valued.

PANELISTS



JAACALYN DAVIS, M.A.
CEO OF DIVINE WELLNESS LLC

Jaacalyn Davis, affectionately known as “Dr. J” is a clinical psychologist and holistic health practitioner. She is a Fisk University graduate and CEO of Divine Wellness LLC. Her holistic approach brings clarity, direction, and positive support for her clients. Dr.J helps clients live their best life, by filling the gap between where they are now, and where they want to be. Dr. J is passionate about creating a safe and supportive space for clients to honor their needs, own their power, and speak their truth.



LATEEF MUNIR JD'20
CORPORATE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST, CITY OF ATLANTA'S
DEPARTMENT OF LAW, AIRPORT LEGAL DIVISION

Lateef Munir is a 2016 graduate of Morehouse College where he served on the private HBCU's Moot Court Team. Lateef is also a VLS alum, having received his JD in 2020. While at VLS he participated in the Intensive Trial Practice Team and was an SBA senator. During Lateef's 3L year, he completed an SIP (or semester in practice) at the Dekalb County Public Defender's Office in Atlanta, Georgia. Lateef currently works for the in the Airport Legal Division and Aviation Practice Group of the City of Atlanta's Department of Law as a corporate legislative analyst.



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