Faculty Scholarship

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Faculty Scholarship Brochure 2018

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FACULTY TRAILBLAZERS
CREATING CHANGE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP AND ADVOCACY
Richard Nixon makes four appointments to SCOTUS

Earl Warren
Abe Fortas
John Marshall Harlan
Hugo Black
Warren Burger
Harry Blackmun
William Rehnquist
Lewis Powell
One of the greatest joys of being a dean is the opportunity to support outstanding faculty and facilitate their production of scholarship that is both meaningful to them and to society. Each of the faculty members highlighted in this publication has integrated deep subject matter knowledge and expertise with a passionate commitment to working toward developing concrete solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems. That’s the Seattle U Law difference. Whether it’s seeking practical answers to the issue of homelessness in our communities, or developing the theory that underlies advocacy for fair wage and labor laws on behalf of American workers, or working on the ground to bring truth and reconciliation to the people of Kenya, our faculty are publishing scholarship that has genuine impact beyond the halls of the legal academy. Through their roles as public intellectuals, our teacher-scholars seek to reach policy makers, legislators, corporate boardrooms, the judiciary, government leaders, and the general public, all with the goal of using intellectual and civic discourse to help create a more just and humane world. I could not be prouder of their efforts or more impressed with their impact.

Annette E. Clark ’89
Dean and Professor of Law
RON SLYE
SEEKING TRUTH AND JUSTICE IN KENYA

From 2009 to 2013, Professor Slye served as one of three international commissioners on Kenya’s Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

Based on this experience, he recently published, “The Kenyan TJRC: An Outsider’s View from the Inside” (Cambridge University Press), featuring a foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In analyzing the Commission’s successes and failures, the book seeks to spark renewed interest in adopting the Commission’s findings and recommendations.

Diane Lourdes Dick
HELPING COMMERCIAL LAWYERS FIND INNOVATIVE, REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS

Professor Dick explores the ways in which bankruptcy, tax, and corporate laws together shape commercial exchanges.

Her innovative scholarship, such as “The Bearish Bankruptcy” (forthcoming Georgia Law Review) and “Reevaluating Risk and Return in Chapter 11 Secured Creditor Cramdown Plans” (forthcoming American Bankruptcy Journal, co-authored with Brian Hulse & Kevin Badgley of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP), is regularly cited in briefs, motions, memoranda, and in legislative hearings.

Robert Chang
ADVOCATING FOR RACIAL EQUALITY IN THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM

In 2017, Professor Chang used a critical race theory framework to successfully litigate a challenge to an Arizona law banning certain ethnic studies programs in schools.

Merging scholarship with advocacy, Professor Chang spearheads influential amicus briefs, including one in Hawaii v. Trump and other cases challenging the Trump administration’s travel ban. That brief was covered extensively in the media and raised during oral argument before the Ninth Circuit.

His related article, “Whitewashing Precedent: From the Chinese Exclusion Case to Korematsu to the Muslim Travel Ban Case” (Case Western Law Review), shows how the foundation of the administration’s case for the travel ban rested upon racist and severely outdated law.
CARMEN GONZALEZ
CREATING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

→ Professor Gonzalez’s scholarship, which examines environmental injustice, shows how environmental degradation is caused primarily by the rich, but the costs are disproportionately borne by the poor.

→ As a trustee of Earthjustice, the nation’s premier public interest environmental law firm, she advances the interests of communities vulnerable to environmental exploitation, including the Standing Rock Sioux.

→ Her co-edited volumes – such as “Energy Justice: U.S. and International Perspectives” (Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming 2018) – enhance cooperation between environmental law scholars and policy-makers in developed and developing countries.

CHARLOTTE GARDEN
PROMOTING FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

→ Professor Garden’s scholarship at the intersection of labor and constitutional law has made her a nationally recognized expert, with analysis and commentary regularly appearing in popular media.

→ She translates her scholarship into practice: by authoring amicus briefs in important Supreme Court cases affecting workers, such as Janus v AFSCME (2018) and Harris v. Quinn (2016), and by co-chairing a working group for Harvard Law School’s “Clean Slate Project,” an 18-month effort to re-design labor law from the ground up.

→ Her co-edited volume, “Reviving American Labor for a 21st Century Economy” (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2019), will feature more than 30 authors’ ideas for improving American labor law.
BROOKE COLEMAN
MAKING AMERICA’S CIVIL COURTS FAIR FOR ALL

Professor Coleman writes cutting-edge civil procedure scholarship focusing on procedural justice, often through the lens of race and gender. Her recent articles – “#SoWhiteMale (federal civil rulemaking)” (Northwestern University Law Review 2018) and “A Legal Fempire?: Women in Complex Civil Litigation” (Indiana Law Journal 2018), – address how gender impacts major facets of modern litigation and rulemaking.

She is the co-founder of the annual Civil Procedure Workshop, a leading national forum of civil procedure scholars. She is also the lead author of an innovative civil procedure casebook that responds to today’s students and legal market: “Learning Civil Procedure” (3D. ED. WEST 2018).

SARA RANKIN
ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

Professor Rankin founded and directs the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project (HRAP), engaging Seattle U Law students in projects to advance the civil, constitutional, and human rights of people experiencing homelessness. HRAP’s award-winning work has been praised by legal aid organizations, non-profits, and government officials for its impact.

As a national expert on laws and policies concerning homelessness, she has authored numerous articles, appears in frequent media coverage, presents across the country, and provides pro bono assistance to cities, non-profits, and advocates.

Professor Rankin recently co-founded the Third Door Coalition, a non-partisan civic alliance of business leaders and service providers in Seattle to develop evidence-based solutions to chronic homelessness.