

2022 Supreme Court Symposium: Reparations for African-Americans

Panelist Biographies

Professor Adjoa Aiyetoro, *William H. Bowen School of Law, University of Arkansas-Little Rock*



Adjoa A. Aiyetoro joined the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law faculty in 2004. She is currently Professor of Law and the Director of the Racial Disparities in the Arkansas Criminal Justice System Research Project. The project released a comprehensive report of its research findings in August 2015. Aiyetoro served as the inaugural director of UALR's Institute on Race and Ethnicity from July 2011 to December 2012.

Before joining the law faculty Professor Aiyetoro had a career as a human rights attorney and social worker. As a social worker, she served as the supervisor for the Malcolm Bliss Community Mental Health Center's Model Cities' outpatient program. Aiyetoro began her legal career as a staff attorney with the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section where she litigated cases involving the rights of the institutionalized and developed an expertise in prisoner rights. She joined the ACLU National Prison Project in 1981 where she remained until 1992.

Since 1992 Aiyetoro has served as the Executive Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Director of Administration for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., a consultant to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, organizing its 1995 delegation to the United Nations Beijing Conference on Women, represented the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) at the preparatory meetings for and the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) held in South Africa, and the Chief Legal Consultant for the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA). In March 2014 Professor Aiyetoro received the Washington University George Warren Brown School of Social Work's Distinguished Alumni Award and in April 2014 she received the Arkansas ACLU's Civil Libertarian of the Year Award.

Publications include: *Black Women and Reparations Movements in Black women and International Law: Deliberate Interactions, Movements and Actions*, ed. Jeremy I. Levitt (Cambridge University Press 2015); *Racial Disparities in Punishments and Alienation: Rebelling for Justice; Why Reparations to African Descendants in the United States Are Essential to Democracy*, *J. Gender Race & Justice* (Spring 2011); *Historic and Modern Social Movements for Reparations: The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and its Antecedents*, 16 *Tex. Wesleyan L. Rev.* 687 (2010) (co-author Prof. Adrienne D. Davis).

Professor Jamila Jefferson Jones, *Wayne State University Law School*



Professor Jamila Jefferson-Jones writes about the property rights of communities and groups on the margins of society. In line with her interest in property rights on the margins of society, she uses critical race methodologies to interrogate the ways in which members of favored racialized groups seek to exclude racial and ethnic minorities from public and private spaces, including through the use of or threat of police action to enforce both the racial segregation of space and racist notions of supremacy. Her recent article on this subject, [*#LivingWhileBlack: Blackness As Nuisance*](#), was published in the *American University Law Review* and featured in the *New York Times*. In addition to this work, Professor Jefferson-Jones has written a number of law review articles and book chapters on the sharing economy and is a recognized expert on the housing segment of the sharing economy, particularly on discrimination in that sector. She has also studied the property rights of those with ex-offender status to reveal the intersection of property and criminal justice theory.

Professor Jefferson-Jones will be joining the faculty of the University of Kansas School Of Law in July 2022 as Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. She currently serves on the faculty of the Wayne State University School of Law Professor of Law and Associate Director for Property, Equity and Justice at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.

Jamila Jefferson-Jones is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College.

Professor Eric Miller, *Loyola Law School*



Eric J. Miller is a professor and Leo J. O'Brien Fellow at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, where he teaches and writes in the areas of legal theory, reparations, and policing.

Professor Miller is an internationally recognized expert on reparations for Black people in the United States. He has testified before the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Continuing Injustice: The Centennial of the Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre in 2021; on HR40 and the Path to Restorative Justice in 2019; and on the Legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in America in 2007. In addition, he has provided testimony before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Reparation for Slavery and Other Forms of Structural Racial Discrimination in the United States, Washington, D.C., September 24, 2019.

Professor Miller was a member of the Reparations Coordinating Committee, and took a leading role in drafting the complaint in the pathbreaking federal reparations lawsuit on behalf of the survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, *Alexander v. State of Oklahoma*. He is currently a member of Lawyers for Justice for Greenwood, and again took a lead role in drafting and arguing a reparations public nuisance lawsuit, *Randle v. City of Tulsa*.

Professor Miller received an LL.B. from the University of Edinburgh, and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School, where he was also a Charles Hamilton Houston Fellow. He clerked for the Hon. Myron H. Thompson in the Middle District of Alabama and the Hon. Stephen Reinhardt of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

His publications include: *Republican, Rebellious Reparations*, 63 How. L.J. 363 (2020); *Representing the Race: Standing to Sue in Reparations Lawsuits*, 20 Harv. BlackLetter L.J. 91 (2004); *Reconceiving Reparations: Multiple Strategies in the Reparations Debate*, 24 B.C. Third World L.J. 45 (2004). Professor Miller is currently working on a book entitled *Demanding Reparations*.

Dr. Quintard Taylor, *University of Washington (Emeritus)*



Quintard Taylor is an historian, author, and website director. From July 1, 1998, until June 30, 2018, Taylor was the Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History at the University of Washington, Seattle and as such he held the oldest endowed chair at the University. He is now retired and holds the title, the Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor Emeritus.

Taylor is the author of *The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era*, described in 2020 as one of the 10 most influential books published by the University of Washington Press in the past Century, and *In Search of the Racial Frontier: African Americans in the America West, 1528-1990*, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in History, His *Dr. Sam: Soldier, Educator, Advocate, Friend, An Autobiography*, which Taylor co-authored with the late university administrator and career army officer, was released in the summer of 2010.

Taylor is also the author of over fifty articles. His work on African American Western History, African American, African, Afro-Brazilian, and comparative ethnic history has appeared in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, *Journal of Negro History*, *Arizona and the West*, the *Western Journal of Black Studies*, and the *Journal of Ethnic Studies*. He is also editor of the *Race and Culture in the West Series* for the University of Oklahoma Press. Twelve titles have appeared in the series since its launch in 2007. A link to the complete list of books in the series appears below.

On February 1, 2007, Taylor and other volunteers created an online website resource center for African American history called [BlackPast.org](http://www.blackpast.org) (www.blackpast.org). The center houses more than 8,000 pages of information and features contributions by nearly 1,000 academic, independent, and student historians from six continents. It is now the largest reference center of its type on the Internet. In 2021, 6.1 million people from more than 190 nations visited the website and so far since its launch more than 47 million people have accessed information from the pages of [BlackPast.org](http://www.blackpast.org).

In October 2011, Taylor completed his one-year term as the 50th President of the Western History Association (WHA). Taylor has taught at universities in Washington, Oregon, California, and Nigeria over his 47-year career in higher education. In April 2017 Taylor received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pacific Northwest Historians' Guild and in September 2017 he received the Robert Gray Medal for his Lifetime Contribution to Pacific Northwest History from the Washington State Historical Society. On March 28, 2019, he received the Alpha Civic Award from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at its 71st Western Regional Convention in Bellevue, Washington.

For additional information please see the following websites:

BlackPast.org: www.blackpast.org | Personal Website: www.quintardtaylor.com/ | Race and Culture in the West Series for the University of Oklahoma Press:

<https://www.oupres.com/series/race-and-culture-in-the-american-west-series>

Nikkita Oliver, *Creative, Educator and Attorney*



Nikkita Oliver (they/them) is a Seattle-based creative, community organizer, abolitionist, educator, and attorney. Working at the intersections of arts, law, education, and community organizing Nikkita strives to create experiences which draw us closer to our humanity and invites us to imagine what we hope to see in the future. (Nikkita identifies as Black, multi-racial, queer, and non-binary.)

Nikkita has opened for Cornel West and Chuck D of Public Enemy, featured on the [Breakfast Club](#), KUOW's The Week in Review, [Cut Stories](#), and performed on The Late Night Show with Stephen Colbert. Nikkita's writing has been published in the [South Seattle Emerald](#), [Yes! Magazine](#), Crosscut, [the Establishment](#), [Last Real Indians](#), [The Seattle Weekly](#), and The Stranger. Nikkita organizes with [No New Youth Jail](#), [Decriminalize Seattle](#), [Covid-19 Mutual Aid - Seattle](#), and the [Seattle Peoples Party](#).

Nikkita is the executive director of [Creative Justice](#), an arts-based healing engaged space for youth and young adults impacted by the school-to-prison pipeline and other harmful systems and institutions.

Nikkita was the first political candidate of the Seattle Peoples Party running for Mayor of Seattle in 2017 narrowly missing the general election by approximately 1,100 votes; coming in third of 21 candidates. They also ran for [Seattle City Council City-Wide Position 9](#). Despite losing the race in the general election, Nikkita continues to actively organize with communities impacted by oppressive systems - organizing for collective healing and care and the abolition of harmful systems. Nikkita speaks and performs for events, at universities and conferences, and facilitates trainings on equity, law and justice, education, and arts activism all over the United States.

Chardonney Beaver, *Journalist, The Facts*



Chardonney Beaver is a storyteller, writer, student, and influential speaker from Seattle, WA. Chardonney believes storytelling invokes connection and empathy, promoting measurable progress and social good. She was raised in Seattle's Central District, a historic Black neighborhood. Chardonney's interest in history, service, community, and impact was nurtured at an early age.

In 2019, Chardonney established WOWbyChar (Words of Wisdom by Char): a platform designed to empower individuals in their pursuit of authenticity, purpose, and progress. In Summer 2020, Chardonney transitioned WOWbyChar, from the digital space, into a weekly column published in The Facts Newspaper ("The Facts"). The Facts is a six-decade, award winning Black-owned newspaper publication based in the Pacific Northwest. Since 2020, Chardonney's work has appeared in The Facts Newspaper, South Seattle Emerald, The King County Beloved Anti-Gun Violence Campaign, and other outlets.

Currently, Chardonney partakes in an undergraduate experience at the University of Washington. She also continues to use her platform to speak truth to power for ultimate transformation in individuals, culture, and society. In closing, Chardonney's faith in Jesus serves as a compass, driving her to be a light in this generation.

K. Wyking Garrett, CEO, *Africatown Community Land Trust*



Third-generation community builder, social entrepreneur and current President and CEO of Africatown Community Land Trust in Seattle, WA. Wyking designs programs and initiatives that catalyze, mobilize, and activate communities for sustainable social impact. He has been a co-catalyst for numerous ventures including the Africatown Seattle community development initiative, Liberty Bank Building, Umoja PEACE Center, Hack The CD, Black Dot, Umoja Fest and Africatown Center for Education Innovation.

Wyking was an inaugural member of the Seattle Music Commission and a past fellow with a national advocacy organization, Green For All. He has been honored with the Center for Ethical Leadership Legacy Leadership Award, Tabor 100 Crystal Eagle Award and was recognized as Seattle Magazine's most influential people of 2019 and Seattle Times' thirteen most influential people of the decade.

TraeAnna Holiday, *Media Director, King County Equity Now*



TraeAnna Holiday, a true Seattleite, has watched her city change in many ways. From the age of nine, her deepest passion was in the creative field, which flourished at Garfield High. She took that passion to Howard University, where she studied Theater Management in her first year of college. Through studying abroad multiple times at the University of Washington Tacoma, gaining her degree in Communications and Urban Studies, and being displaced by gentrification, she's now fueled to tell her neighborhood's stories through film and education.

She found ways to work on the solutions as an Ambassador with Africatown Community Land Trust, Media Personality and Producer with Converge Media, and Media Director for King County Equity Now. As a steward of community with a passion for storytelling, she brings her ideals to life and strives to help her family and others do the same.

Judge LeRoy McCullough, *King County Superior Court*



After private practice, service as an Assistant General, as a Seattle Municipal Court Judge Pro tempore, and after 10 years as the Chief Hearing Examiner, Judge McCullough joined the King County Superior Court Bench in 1989. He continues as one of the most tenured judges in Washington State. Judge McCullough has vast experience in presiding over criminal, civil, juvenile court and family cases and in a variety of operations and committee work of the court. He has chaired or co-chaired his court's Security, Personnel, Courts and Community and Jury Committees. His past service to the court also includes an assignment as Chief Judge of the MRJC as well as chief Judge of the King County Juvenile Drug Court. He continues as judicial advisor to Courts and Community-sponsored court programs that acknowledge and celebrate Native, Latinx, Asian-Pacific-Islander, African American and other groups' history and heritage.

Judge McCullough has maintained membership in the Minority and Justice Commission since its inception. Through the Commission he continues active community and youth outreach and education. He is Co-Founder and active Advisor to the annual Judge Charles V. Johnson Youth and Law Forum, a 30-year community outreach program supported by the Minority and Justice Commission and other community partners that strengthens community youth and guardians in areas of legal rights and responsibilities.

Judge McCullough's awards include: Leadership Living Legacy Award, Washington State Coalition of African Community Leaders, 2022; Washington State Association for Justice Judge of the Year, 2021; Washington State Access to Justice Board Judicial Leadership Award, 2019;

King County Bar Association Judge of the Year, 2009; American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Judge of the Year, 2009.

Judge McCullough has also received the Washington Association of Judges Nevins Award for youth education, a YWCA Father of the Year award, an Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Community Service Award, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Award. He has been recognized on two occasions as First AME Church Man of the Year. He is past Vice-Chair of the First AME Board of Trustees and continues in leadership in the First AME and general faith community. He also holds a Life Membership in the NAACP.

Judge McCullough received undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Washington and is also an alumnus of the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada.

Judge McCullough is a father, grandfather, godfather, uncle mentor and friend to many. He enjoys outdoor recreational sports; reading; international food, art and culture; African history; and family.