

**Blanche Bong Cook**

Robert E. Harding, Jr.  
Associate Professor of Law  
The University of Kentucky  
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**EDUCATION:**

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Juris Doctor, 1995  
Book Award: Japanese Legal System

**VASSAR COLLEGE**, Poughkeepsie, New York, Bachelor of Arts, May 1989  
Honors: Senior Honor's Thesis: "The Dynamics of Female Intimacy in Literature by Black Women"  
(Awarded Distinction)

**FULL LENGTH LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS:**

*Something Rots in Law Enforcement and It's the Search Warrant: The Breonna Taylor Case*, 102 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW \_\_ (2022).

*Jeffrey Epstein: The Problems of Unchecked Power, Privilege, and Pedophiles*, forthcoming

*Johnny Appleseed: Citizenship Transmission Laws and a White Heteropatriarchal Property Right in Philandering, Sexual Exploitation, and Rape (The "WHP") or "Johnny and the WHP,"* 31 YALE JOURNAL OF LAW AND FEMINISM 57 (2019).

*Stop Traffic: Using Expert Witnesses to Disrupt Intersectional Vulnerability in Sex Trafficking Prosecutions*, 24 Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law 147 (2019).

*Complicit Bias: Sex Offender Registration as a Penalty for Obstructing Sex Trafficking Prosecutions*, 96 NEB. L. REV. 138 (2017).

*Biased and Broken Bodies of Proof: White Heteropatriarchy, The Criminal Justice System, and Performance On Unarmed Black Flesh*, 85 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI KANSAS CITY 567 (2017).

*Stepping Into the Gap: Violent Crime Victims, the Right to Closure, and a Discursive Shift Away from Zero Sum Resolutions*, KENTUCKY LAW JOURNAL (July 2013).

*A Paradigm for Equality: The Honorable Damon J. Keith*, 47 WAYNE STATE LAW REVIEW 1161 (2002).

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**

*Sex Trafficking: Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Public Policy*, textbook under contract with West Law, forthcoming.

*Love Crafts Country: Loving beyond the White Divide, A Story of Blackness, Korea, and Transformative Power on the Damascus Road*, in Religion, Race, and COVID-19: Confronting White Supremacy in the Pandemic, edited by Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas, (New York: NYU Press, 2022).

*Death-Dealing Imaginations: Racial Profiling, Criminality, and Black Innocence*, 63 WAYNE STATE LAW REVIEW 9 (2017).

*An Algorithm for Capturing the Intersections of Racism, Sexism, and Classicism: The Woman Caught In Adultery*, 74 Nat'l Law. Guild Rev. 2 (2017).

*An Algorithm for Capturing White Heteropatriarchy: The Woman Caught in Adultery and the Failure of the Civil Rights and Feminist Movements to Embrace Intersectionality*, FEMINISM AND RELIGION (2017). <https://feminismandreligion.com/2017/10/14/an-algorithm-for-capturing-white-heteropatriarchy-the-woman-caught-in-adultery-and-the-failure-of-the-civil-rights-and-feminist-movements-to-embrace-intersectionality-by-blanche-bong-cook/>

## **CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:**

**University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law, Associate Professor**, (2019 to present).  
Teaching Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and a Sex Trafficking Seminar.  
Member Appointments, Speaker Series, and Dean Search (spring 2020) Committees.

**Wayne State University Law School, Associate Professor**, (2014 to 2019).  
Teaching Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Race and the Law. Member Keith Center, Diversity, and Clinical Programs Committees.

**University of California Berkeley Law, Henderson Center, Scholar in Residence**, (October 2018)

Annual Ruth Chance Lecturer Honoree and Scholar in Residence.

**Vanderbilt Divinity School, Associate Professor**, (2015 to present).  
Lecturing in Critical Race Theory and Social Ethics.

**University of Illinois School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, Associate Professor (2021-present)**.  
Lecturing in Critical Race Feminism.

## **EXPERIENCE:**

### **JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS**

**United States Court of Appeals Sixth Circuit**, the Honorable Damon J. Keith, Judicial Law

Clerk Detroit, Michigan, (1999-2000).

Drafted opinions and bench memoranda. Made preliminary case recommendations. Interfaced with staff attorneys to resolve issues concerning oral arguments and the adjudications of appeals.

**Colorado Supreme Court**, the Honorable Gregory K. Scott, Judicial Law Clerk, Denver, Colorado, (1995-1996).

Drafted, researched, and edited petitions for certiorari, opinions, concurrences, and dissents.

### **GOVERNMENT PRACTICE**

**Department of Justice, Middle District of Tennessee**, Assistant United States Attorney, (2005-2014).

Prosecuted violations of federal criminal law, involving illegal narcotics, money laundering, human trafficking, firearms, bank fraud, and immigration. Managed and prosecuted a docket of thirty active cases. Argued and briefed criminal appeals. Member Hiring Committee. Diversity Liaison.

### **PRIVATE PRACTICE**

**Amtrak**, Dispute Resolution Officer, Diversity, (2002–2005).

Provided advice and counsel regarding employment matters. Drafted policies for company-wide implementation. Investigated discrimination and harassment complaints. Implemented corrective action. Conducted Harassment and Discrimination Trainings. Facilitated mediations.

**Seyfarth, Shaw**, Labor and Employment Associate, (2000-2002).

Represented management in collective bargaining and unfair labor practice matters. Investigated, litigated, settled, and negotiated state and federal employment discrimination claims. Represented school districts in personnel and special education matters.

**Miller, Canfield**, Labor and Employment Associate, (1996-1999).

Responsible for all areas of case, including researching and drafting court motions, complaints, pleadings, interrogatories, document requests, and trial and appellate briefs. Litigation skills further include: arguing motions, defending and taking depositions, arbitrations, and mediations.

**Baker & Daniels**, Summer Associate, (1994).

Drafted, researched, and edited a Revision of the City/County Ethics Ordinance. Prepared motions, briefs, international contracts, and legal memorandum for the international, labor, litigation, and tax departments.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**University of Phoenix**, Instructor, (2010 to 2018)

Course Taught: Teaching Diversity and Criminal Justice, Criminal Courts, Criminal Procedure, Criminal Organizations, and Critical Thinking.

**American Baptist College**, Professor (2012 to 2014)

Course Taught: Criminal Law.

**The University of the Witwatersrand**, Johannesburg, South Africa, Street Law Instructor (Summer 1993).

Taught a comprehensive constitutional and civil rights seminar in the townships and suburban areas of Johannesburg. Developed and sponsored a “Gender Issues in Democratic Change Seminar” for Soweto high schools.

**Truman College**, English as a Second Language Instructor, (1990-1992).

Taught classes of 35-40 adults from Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa. Developed and organized a highly successful Adult High-Intermediate and Advanced ESL program, which included: grammar, writing, pronunciation, idioms, and American Culture.

### **PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Lawyers for Human Rights**, Johannesburg, South Africa, Summer Intern, (1993).

Researched and edited a proposal for the development, implementation, and funding of a National Peace Keeping Force and the restructuring of the National Military.

### **EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO LAW SCHOOL**

**Community Alternatives Unlimited**, Case Manager, (1990-1992).

Completed multidisciplinary assessments of developmentally disabled clients. Developed an individual plan of care for 40 to 50 clients. Advocated for clients’ rights according to federal and state guidelines. Chairmen for the McHenry County Services Review Committee.

**Golfview Development Center**, Department Manager, (1989-1990).

Direct Supervisor for 4 Behavior Specialists. Directly responsible for writing and implementing 72 behavior programs. Coordinated and developed 12 proactive treatment classes. Taught the Aggression Management to all employees.

**Dutchess County Association for Mentally Retarded Citizens**, Residence Counselor, (1985-1989).

Worked full-time during last three years of college. Counseled and advised developmentally disabled in a community residence setting. Supervised residence on weekends. Managed residence temporarily during absence of House Manager.

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS:**

- January 21, 2012                      Guest Speaker, *Hate Crimes, MorningLine, News Channel Five*, Nashville, Tennessee.
- January 26, 2012                      Presenter, *A Community Education Forum on Hate Crime Prevention, Metro Human Relations Commission, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- February 21, 2012                    Panelist, *The Role of Media in Social Justice, Film Screening for Deadline and Panel, Metro Human Relations Commission, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- June 2, 2012                            Panelist, *Hate Crimes and Civil Rights, Somali Outreach Forum, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- August 21, 2012                      Panelist, *Family of Abraham, American Muslim Advisory Council to the Community, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- September 12, 2012                  Panel Moderator, *Lawyering in the Public Sector, University of Kentucky College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky*.
- November 7, 2012                    Panelist, *The Women's Fund Forum Human Sex Trafficking in Tennessee, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- November 14, 2012                    Keynote Speaker, *Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition, Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- December 4-7, 2012                  Trial Instructor, National Advocacy Center, Department of Justice, Columbia, South Carolina.
- January 30, 2013                      Panelist, *Women and Sex Trafficking, Vanderbilt School of Law, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- May 17, 2013                          Lecturer, *Prostitutes, Pimps, Prosecutors, and Politicians: Navigating the Dangerous World of Hegemony, Pseudospeciation, and Patriarchy, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee*.
- September 25, 2014                  Lecturer, *Prostitutes, Pimps, Prosecutors, and Politicians: Navigating the Dangerous World of Hegemony, Pseudospeciation, and Patriarchy* (subject of upcoming law review article), Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee.
- November 15, 2014                    Lecturer, *Why Are These People Dead? Renisha McBride*,

*Trayvon Martin, Jonathan Ferrell, Eric Gardner, and Michael Brown: Implicit Bias Research and Law Enforcement Hate* (subject of upcoming law review article), Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee.

- January 20, 2015 Panelist, *After Ferguson*, Wayne State University School of Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- February 2, 2015 Keynote Speaker, *Implicit Bias and Unpacking the Deaths of Unarmed African Americans*, Vanderbilt School of Law, Sponsored by: Criminal Justice Program, Social Justice Program, Black Law Students Association, American Constitution Society, and Law Students for Social Justice, Nashville, Tennessee
- February 4, 2015 Panelist, *Black Lives Matter: Police Violence and the Struggle for Human Dignity and Justice in Detroit*, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
- February 10, 2015 Panelist, *Sex Trafficking In Your Backyard*, Wayne State University Human Trafficking Forum, Detroit, Michigan.
- March 12, 2015 Keynote Speaker, *In Whom Do We Trust? United States Allegiances, Implicit Bias, And The Obfuscation Of Justice*, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Citizenship Studies. Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
- March 25, 2015 Panelist, *Judicial Clerkship Perspectives*, Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, Michigan.
- March 29, 2015 Lecturer, *We Were Slaves and Now?* Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, Detroit, Michigan.
- March 30, 2015 Organizer and Moderator, *Passion, Politics and Practice: Aligning Your Interests in the World of Prosecutions*, Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, Michigan.
- May 7, 2015 Lecturer, *The Necessity Of More Freddie Gray: Implicit Bias And The Body Of Color As Power's Receptacle Of Anxiety*, Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center, Detroit, Michigan.
- May 20, 2015 Lecturer, *Wrath, the Narrative of White Supremacy, and the Legacy of Dog Whistle Politics: Deconstructing and Politicizing Excessive Police Force*, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee.



*Black Lawyers and Judges*, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.

March 18, 2016

Guest Speaker, *Biased and Broken Bodies Of Proof: White Heteropatriarchy, The Criminal Justice System, and Performance On Unarmed Black Flesh*, Detroit Women's Forum, Detroit, Michigan.

March 31, 2016

Panelist, *Social Work Diversity Lecture on Advancing Racial Justice*, Wayne State University, School of Social Work, Detroit, Michigan.

April 9, 2016

Panelist, *Profiles, Preys, and Performances on the Precarity: The Data on Unarmed Shootings, Critical Race Theory Conference*, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT.

April 21, 2016

Guest, *Police Training Could Be Key To Solving Racial Bias*, Detroit Public Radio, Detroit, Michigan.  
<http://michiganradio.org/post/police-training-could-be-key-solving-racial-bias#stream/0>

July 8, 2016

Panelist, *Biased And Broken Bodies Of Proof: White Heteropatriarchy, The Grand Jury Process, and Performance On Unarmed Black Flesh*, Lutie Lytle Legal Writing Workshop, University of Iowa School of Law, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

July 9 2016

Presenter, *Complicit Bias: Sex Offender Registration as a Penalty for Obstructing Sex Trafficking Prosecutions*, Lutie Lytle Legal Writing Workshop, University of Iowa School of Law, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

July 18, 2016

Panelist, *Biased And Broken Bodies Of Proof: White Heteropatriarchy, The Grand Jury Process, and Performance On Unarmed Black Flesh*, Crimfest, Cardozo University School of New York City, New York.

November 2, 2016

TEDx Talk Speaker, *CAUGHT: Calculating the Moves of Power in Our Midst*, Tedx Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

November 12, 2016

Facilitator, *Implicit Bias, RISE at the PAC-12*, San Francisco, California.

February 22, 2017

Moderator, *Annual African-American Judges Speaker Series*, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.



- March 24, 2017 Symposium Advisor, Organizer, and Moderator, *The Changing Face of the War on Drugs: Mass Incarceration, Overcriminalization, and Evolving Drug Policy*, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- March 28, 2017 Panelists, *Intersectional Feminism*, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- April 4, 2017 Moderator, *Prosecutors*, Wayne State University Law School's Alumni Speaker Series, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- May 11, 2017 Presenter, *Sex Trafficking Expert Testimony: Gender Salience, Consciousness, And Relevance In Removing The Taint Of Gender Inequality From The Vulnerable Body Of Proof*, University of Richmond School of Law, Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Conference, Richmond, Virginia.
- May 13 to 21, 2017 Selected Participant, Law and Economics Center, Thirty-Third Economics Institute for Law Professors, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia.
- June 9, 2017 Presenter, *Complicit Bias: Sex Offender Registration as a Penalty for Obstructing Sex Trafficking Prosecutions*, Global Studies Conference, National University of Singapore, Singapore.
- July 7, 2017 Commenter, *The Symbolic Assailant Revisted by Jennine Bell*, Professor, University of Indiana School of Law, Bloomington, Lutie Lytle Writing Workshop, University of Michigan School of Law, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Presenter, *Sex Trafficking Expert Testimony: Gender Salience, Consciousness, And Relevance In Removing The Taint Of Gender Inequality From The Vulnerable Body Of Proof*, Lutie Lytle Writing Workshop, University of Michigan School of Law, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- July 8, 2017 Moderator, *Navigating Workplace Conflicts and Inequities*, Lutie Lytle Writing Workshop, University of Michigan School of Law, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- July 21, 2017 Presenter, *An Algorithm for Capturing White Heteropatriarchy*, the National Black Prosecutors' Annual

Conference, Cleveland, Ohio

- July 31, 2017                      Presenter, *Implicit Bias and the Professional Responsibility of the Bench*, National Bar Association, Toronto, Canada.
- September 30, 2017              Presenter, *Stopping Traffic: Disrupting the Implicit Bias, Gender Saturation, and Victim Pathologizing in Sex Trafficking Prosecutions*, Latcrit Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida.
- October 13, 2017                    Invited Speaker, *Who Is the Implicit Rapist: Donald Trump, Racialized Sexual Violence, And The Continued Salience Of Intersectionality*, Gender Equality: Progress & Possibilities, Law Review Symposium, Panel Three: Gendered Violence, University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, Ohio.
- October 27, 2017                    Moderator, *Walk with Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith*, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- January 8, 2018                      Panelist, *Criminal Procedure Works in Progress*, AALS, San Diego, California.
- January 16, 2018                    Keynote Speaker, *Oberlin College Design Your Purpose*, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.
- January 24, 2018                    Panelist, Civil Rights Roundup Panel, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- February 14, 2018                    Mistress of Ceremony, Annual Damon J. Keith, United States, Sixth Circuit of Appeals, Soul Food Luncheon, Detroit, Michigan.
- March 7, 2018                        Conversant, *Writing My Wrongs: An Evening with Author/Activist Shaka Senghor*, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
- March 16, 2018                      Panelist, Annual Meeting, Association for the Study of Law, Culture & the Humanities, Washington, D.C.
- April 2, 2018                         Moderator, *Organizer, and Host, Sex Trafficking: A Panel on Careers Fighting Sex Trafficking from Those Who Prosecute It*, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- April 10, 2018                        Panelist, *Perspectives on the #MeToo Movement*, Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, Detroit, Michigan.



University College of Law, Washington, D.C.

- April 12, 2019 Conference Host, Lead Organizer, and Keynote Speaker, (S)exploiting the Vulnerable: Empowering Future Legal Advocates to Combat Sex Trafficking, Wayne Law, Detroit, Michigan.
- October 17, 2019 Working Group Leader, Shared Hope's Annual Sex Trafficking Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- October 23, 2019 Moderator, *Reducing the Prison Population a Worthy Objective and Realistic Goal in Kentucky?*, Kentucky Bar Association, University of Kentucky College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky.
- November 1, 2019 Invited Moderator and Panelists, The Larry H. Mamiya Memorial Conference Celebrating 50 Years of Africana Studies at Vassar College, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.
- November 11, 2019 Moderator and Panelists, *Unbelievable: Experts Discuss the Netflix Docudrama About Sexual Assault*, The University of Kentucky College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky.
- January 3, 2020 Panelist/Speaker, *Jeffrey Epstein: The Problems of Unchecked, Power, Privilege and Pedophiles*, Teaching in the Metoo World, AALS, Washington, D.C.
- January 2 – 5, 2020 Attendee, AALS, Washington, D.C.
- February 20, 2020 Invited Panelist, Human Trafficking and the Law, South Carolina Law Review Symposium, University of South Carolina Law School, Columbia, South Carolina.
- February 28 – 29, 2020 Attendee, A Critical Approach to the Canonical First Year Law School Subjects, Boston University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts.
- May 15 – 17, 2020 Invited Panelists, Intersectional Perspectives on Crime, Northeast People of Color Conference, Houston, Texas.
- October 16, 2020 Invited Panelist, Rethinking the Role of the Victim in the Criminal Process, Brooklyn Law Review and Fordham Law School, Brooklyn, New York.
- November 12 – 13, 2020 Invited Panelist, National Women's Studies Association

Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

April 15, 2020      Guest Speaker, Defining and Restoring Justice, Center for Graduate and Professional Diversity Initiatives, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

June 13, 2020      Moderator, Let us Live: Conversations about Race, Reconciliation & Resolutions, National Bar Association, John Rowe Chapter, Southland Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky.

June 25, 2020      Speaker, Just Mercy, Virtual Watch Party and Guided Discussion, Young Democrats, Lexington, Kentucky.

July 27-31, 2020    Attendee, Critical Race Theory Summer School, UCLA, Virtual.

September 25, 2020    Panelist, Breonna Taylor, University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky, Virtual.

September 25, 2020    Invited Speaker, The Law School Job Market, University of Michigan School of Law, Virtual.

October 13, 2020      Invited Speaker, Race and Policing, The Leadership Institute Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., Virtual.

October 13, 2020      Implicit Bias Trainer, Interrogating Our Intentionality and Implicit Bias: Critical Race Ethics and the Promise of Full Human Flourishing, Wayne State University, Virtual.

October 23, 2020      Symposium Organizer, Breonna Taylor Day-Long Symposium, University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky, Virtual.  
<https://law.uky.edu/academics/breonna-taylor-day-long-symposium>

January 5-9, 2021      Attendee, AALS, virtual.

February 5, 2021      Symposium Organizer, Sex Trafficking and Opioid Symposium, University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky, Virtual.

February 12, 2021     Panelist, “2020 Theme: Black Lives Matter: Making It,” Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee.

- March 24, 2021                      Guest Lecturer, Black Classicisms: Early W.E.B. Du Bois, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Virtual.
- March 25, 2021                      Honoree, Women’s Law Caucus, University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky.
- March 26, 2021                      Panelist, W-T-F (What’s to Forgive?) Conversations on Race, Religion, and Rhetoric, Intimate and Institutional Violence Edition, Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.
- March 30, 2021                      Guest Lecturer, Black Classicisms: Early W.E.B. Du Bois, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Virtual.
- March 31, 2021                      Panelist, W-T-F (What’s to Forgive?) Conversations on Race, Religion, and Rhetoric, Intimate and Institutional Violence Edition, Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.
- August 10 - 15, 2021              Attendee, Critical Race Theory Summer School, UCLA, Virtual.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

Illinois and Tennessee Bars, NAACP Lifetime Member

**INTERESTS:**

Chess, Swimming, Cycling, Rollerblading, Tennis, Kayaking, Telemarking, and Traveling

**RESEARCH AND WRITING PROJECTS:**

**American Eminence: Discourses at the Intersections of Critical Race Theory and Womanist Ethics** unpacks and deconstructs the ways in which power resides in the law and theology. Uniquely, American Eminence merges the analytical arsenal of Critical Race Feminist Theory and Womanist Ethics to engage an intersectional analysis of material subjugation. In the past few years, a new generation of progressive intellectuals, known as Critical Race Theorists, have transformed how we understand law, race, and racial power in America. Critical Race Feminists have extended this inquiry to include gender as a central tenet. The combined efforts of Critical Race Theorists and Critical Race Feminists offers a counter narrative to legal discourse. This alternative narrative deconstructs the ways in which the law criminalizes and pathologizes certain demographics, while simultaneously over valorizes others. Critical Race Theorists and Critical Race Feminist have constructed new paradigms for understanding injustice as it occupies the intersectional axes of race, gender, sexuality, and class in ways that seamlessly correlate with Womanist Ethics. Missing from the Critical Race Theorist and Critical Race Feminist analytical arsenal or epistemological lexicon, however, are the ways in which theological categories give

divine legitimacy to the denigration of people of color, objectification of women, and the exploitation of the poor. Theological categories are embedded within privileged notions of law and order as well as discipline and punishment. Merging Critical Race Feminism and Womanist Ethics, *American Eminence* will be the first work to unpack how both law and theology obfuscate the operations of power by creating human subjects that are vulnerable to exploitation and yet willing to participate in it because they believe that the law and divine authority authorize and sanction their denigration.

Throughout American history, sacred rhetoric and the law have held sway in impacting the lives of those within its wake. Drawing from the redemptive strength of this relationship, people of color (as eloquently illustrated by Sojourner Truth and Martin Luther King, Jr., to name a few) in particular have recognized that religious overtones embedded within the rule of law speak more powerfully than the rational pleas for human rights. This spiritual politicization in turn has transformed the way we understand justice. For example, slavery and the subordination of women, which are clearly inhumane, were seen as political matters and largely recognized as based in part, if not totally, on a broad-scale theological appropriation of biblical interpretations that govern the lives of people, which is particularly ironic for a nation that prides itself in the division of church and state. This process of merging social justice into divine order subverts what is purportedly perceived as secular and democratic. This process has also characterized the identity politics of how power operates affording certain people with privilege a divine right, while others are persecuted (as God's will). Towards this end, American identity-based religio-politics has been a source of privilege and persecution and is grafted on the very DNA of America. Thus, religion (at least civil religion) and law (in its practice) are vestiges of bias and domination. Implicit in the marriage of religion and law is not justice as it portends; but rather, its offspring produces intrinsically negative frameworks from which power excludes or marginalizes those that do not fit within its normalizing gaze. The problem with merger is not that one fails to transcend the other, but rather the opposite—that it frequently conflates or ignores the right relationship they should have—religion being the moral conscience of law and law being the moral compass of ethics. *American Eminence* is a liberatory objective that seeks to empty such categories of any social significance inasmuch as they obfuscate justice for all.

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

Thirty years ago, in *Race, Reform, and Retrenchment*, Kimberle' Williams Crenshaw noted that the rhetoric of equality -- now sometimes referenced as "diversity and inclusion" -- is ambiguous enough to contain a commitment to material equality as well as retrenchment. My scholarship, pedagogy, and service are committed to a material reality of radical inclusion. My casebooks in both Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are authored by women committed to race, gender, and class equality. My pedagogy adheres to a commitment to equality in the classroom, the roundedness of the cases and articles inside the text, and transparency in my teaching. "Hide the ball" methods; antiquated and arcane preoccupations devoid of equality concerns, and harsh Socratic Method atmospheres are about the politics of exclusion and completely counter to what I try to achieve in my classes.

By way of scholarship, each of my pieces is a critique of the ways in which the law creates vulnerability for purposes of exploitation. My past, current, and future scholarship is without question devoted to a critique of white heteropatriarchal privilege in all of its devastating forms. My service reflects my scholarly and pedagogical commitments. When I taught at Wayne State University School of Law, in Detroit, Michigan, I served on the Appointments, Clinics, and Damon J. Keith committees. Wayne Law had the honor of hosting the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. The work of the committee was the material realization of equality in Detroit. During my tenure at Wayne as the head of the Damon J. Keith Center committee, we hosted numerous events, scholars, and workshops with that commitment in mind. Currently, I serve on the hiring committee for the University of Kentucky College of Law. As part of the hiring committee, I am devoted to creating a critical mass of scholars that reflect diversity and inclusion.

## **LIST OF REFERENCES**

### **LEGAL ACADEMY**

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## **CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL LAW PRACTICE**

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## **EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAININGS**

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