

## UK College of Law Diversity Initiatives

2016-2017 Academic Year

### College of Law Events

- Dean Brennen increased diversity efforts by restructuring staff positions at the College of Law to have a designated diversity officer position. The diversity duties were assumed by Danny Murphy whose title changed from Assistant Dean of Administration and Community Engagement to Assistant Dean of Community Engagement and Diversity.
- College of Law Diversity Committee and law faculty hosted book group discussions of *Flagrant Conduct* with incoming first-year law students. The initiative began the weekend of orientation for incoming law students.
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted an ice cream social with a focus on student members of the Black Law Students Association, Latino Law Students Association, Muslim Law Students Association, Women's Law Caucus and OUTLaw.
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a discussion forum on the topic "Zimmerman's Gun."
- College of Law Admissions hosted undergraduate students, faculty and staff from Kentucky State University as part of a pipeline initiative to increase diversity in law school.
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a discussion forum with facilitators, UK Law Professor Beau Steenken and Professor Cortney Lollar.
- College of Law, under the leadership of Associate Dean Doug Michael, held its annual Volunteer Income Tax Clinic on site, which is a clinic in which students from the College of Law and College of Business work together to prepare tax returns for foreign and low income individuals.
- College of Law Diversity Committee, in collaboration with UK Analytics and Technologies' Media Depot, the Media Arts and Studies (MAS) Program, and the Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies (WRD) Program, screened the first episode of a new video series entitled, *Perspectives*, a new initiative that strives to increase awareness and appreciation for a diverse and inclusive community across campus, consists of a video series created and produced by staff at the College of Law. The event was held at W. T. Young Library.
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a Forum "Sex in higher Ed: Do universities provide equal benefits of education to students regardless of sex?"
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a Happy Hour Mixer in downtown Lexington bringing together diverse members of the legal community with diverse law students.
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted its *Perspective Series* on the topic "Campus without Borders," at W. T. Young Library

- College of Law hosted its Judicial Conversation Series with featured guest, Judge Curtis Lynn Collier, an African-American judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee.
- College of Law and its Diversity Committee, co-hosted a conference in conjunction with the Institute for Compassion in Justice to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *In re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967), a look back at the landmark United States Supreme Court decision, which established a right to counsel in juvenile delinquency cases, as well as a glimpse at current issues facing the juvenile justice system.

### **Student Events**

- College of Law Diversity Committee and Muslim Law Students Association hosted *Understanding the Veil: Women, Islam, and Religious Freedom* featuring UK Law Professor Paul Salamanca and Dr. Ghadir Zannoun, UK Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies.
- Black Law Students Association participated with the John Rowe Chapter, a local organization comprised of minority attorneys, for an annual picnic to welcome new minority students to UK Law and to create networking opportunities between new and existing College of Law students and local minority attorneys.
- Black Law Students Association hosted “Law Student for a Day,” a pipeline initiative to increase diversity in law school and the profession. This event assists UK Law Admissions’ efforts to increase diversity in the entering classes at the College of Law.
- OUTLaw hosted a discussion on “Let’s Talk About Sex (in the workplace)” featuring speakers UK Law Professor Scott Bauries and Professor Robert Schwemm.
- OUTLaw (LGBTQ\* student group) hosted guest speaker, Sam Themer.
- OUTLaw and the American Constitution Society hosted a discussion on how transgender issues will play out in politics moving forward, featuring guest speaker Professor Gregory Magarian from Washington University School of Law.
- Women’s Law Caucus hosted its series “Inspirational Women in the Law” with guest speaker, Kate Smith, Assistant United States Attorney.
- Women’s Law Caucus hosted “International Women’s Day Discussion: The State of Women in America” with guest speakers UK Law Professor Antognini and Professor Bird-Pollan.
- Women’s Law Caucus hosted its Annual Spring Luncheon honoring the outstanding contributions of women in the law.
- Women’s Law Caucus hosted a panel discussion “Working Mothers” to discuss work/life balance.
- Women’s Law Caucus hosted its “Inspirational Women in the Law Series” with guest speaker, local attorney Kristeena Johnson.
- Muslim Law Student Association and College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a discussion on “Working For Human Rights,” featuring guest speaker, Noura Erakat.

- Black Law Students Association and Women’s Law Caucus hosted a presentation “#FreetheHair: Locking Black Women’s Hair to Contemporary Civil Rights” with speaker, UK Law Visiting Professor Wendy Greene.
- Black Law Students Association hosted “Housing Discrimination Talk” with speaker, UK Law Professor Robert G. Schwemm.
- Muslim Law Student Association hosted a talk “The Ban on Immigration” with guest speaker, UK Law Adjunct Professor Guion Johnstone.
- Muslim Law Students Association hosted a book discussion.
- The Kentucky Law Journal hosted a symposium on the “30-Years of Batson: a Retrospective.” The symposium featured the nation's top scholars in a program focused on the 30-year history of *Batson v. Commonwealth*. In the case, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a prosecutor's use of peremptory challenge in a criminal case (the dismissal of jurors without stating a valid cause for doing so) cannot be used to dismiss jurors based on their race.
- Christian Legal Society hosted guest speakers from Centerpoint Church in Lexington, Pastor Tim Parson, Todd Thomas and Chuck Vellios.
- Latino Law Society hosted a film showing of "American Harvest" followed by a discussion panel.
- Student Public Interest Law Foundation and Women’s Law Caucus hosted a discussion on “Wage Gap,” with guest speaker UK Law Visiting Professor Wendy Greene.
- American Constitution Law Society and Tax Law Society hosted a discussion “Taxes and Income Inequality.”

### **Community Events**

- Professor Allison Connelly again headed up, and UK Law Faculty taught mock classes in, the Kentucky Legal Education Opportunity (KLEO) program which selects five admitted students from each of the state’s three public law schools to participate in a rigorous two week program and receive a \$5,000 scholarship. The program is designed to prepare students from low-income, minority and disadvantaged backgrounds for the rigors of law school study.
- Dean David Brennen and Professor Allison Connelly served during the 2016-2017 academic year on the Kentucky Bar Association’s Diversity Committee representing the College of Law.