

UK College of Law Diversity Initiatives

2019-2020 Academic Year

College of Law Events

- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a discussion on “Flogging Mollie: Scapegoating and the Politicization of Tragedy,” led by Professor Cortney Lollar.
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a video series on a short produced film by Law IT staff member Zach Smith titled “A Place to Call Home,” featuring his grandmother and her experience living in Japan at the time of the atomic bombing.
- UK Law, under the leadership of Associate Dean Doug Michael, held its annual Volunteer Income Tax Clinic on site, 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 hosted a discussion forum on the topic “Collin Kaepernick’s Protests and the Varied Responses to Them.”
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted an exam potluck for all students, with faculty and staff bringing and serving the food.
- College of Law’s Randall Park Speaker Series, hosted by the faculty speaker’s committee, featured Mehrsa Baradaran, University of Georgia, to discuss her book, “The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap.”
- College of Law Diversity Committee, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, hosted a panel discussion on “Travel Restrictions: Public Health Precautions or Xenophobia.”
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a panel discussion on the “Controversy Involving Covington Catholic” regarding the incident involving students in D.C.
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a panel discussion on “When Cops Kill.”
- College of Law Diversity Committee hosted a panel discussion, “Hate On Campus.”

Student Events

- Black Law Students Association hosted a “Welcome/Welcome Back BBQ” for returning and new students to engage with each other, faculty, and staff.
- OUTLaw (the LGBTQ* student organization) hosted a discussion on “Doing draft in the current political climate and using draft for activism and education,” with guest speaker, Gilda Wabbit.
- Women’s Law Caucus hosted a panel discussion with guest speakers, Shelly Chatfield, in-house counsel for Fayette County Public Schools; Leila O’Carra, in-house counsel for Tempur Sealy; and Paula Holbrook, associate counsel for University of Kentucky Healthcare.
- Appalachian Law Caucus hosted a discussion on “Public Interest Law in Eastern Kentucky and Advice for Pursuing public Interest Law Careers.”

- Women’s Law Caucus hosted its “Inspiration Women in the Law Series” with guest speaker, Jennifer Coffman, retired chief judge of the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky.
- Black Law Students Association hosted guest speaker, John M. Rosenberg, a long-time civil rights activist and attorney in Eastern Kentucky, to discuss the film “Mississippi Burning,” followed by an evening viewing of the film.
- Black Law Students’ Association participated with the John Rowe Chapter, a local organization comprised of minority attorneys, for an annual cookout to welcome new minority students to UK Law and to create networking opportunities between new and existing UK 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 its annual Drag Show, a social event bringing together students, faculty and staff to raise funds to support LGBTQ* initiatives and resources.
- Veterans Law Society hosted a discussion on “Legal Issues Facing Veterans,” with guest speakers Stephanie Willis, Senior Attorney, Veterans Unit, Legal Aid of Louisville, and Kathy Vasquez, Licensed Social Worker, Veterans Justice Outreach Program.
- Christian Legal Society hosted guest speaker, Judge Gregory Van Tantenhove, Eastern District of Kentucky.
- Women’s Law Caucus hosted its annual Spring Luncheon to honor women who have impacted the legal profession, with this year’s honorees being UK Law Professor Jane Grise and retired Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Janet Stumbo.
- Black Law Students Association hosted guest speaker, Judge Denise Clayton, Kentucky Court of Appeals.
- Christian Legal Society hosted guest speaker and UK Alumna State Treasurer Allison Ball

Community Events

- College of Law served as a sponsor for the Feast On Equality Fundraiser, hosted by UK’s Office of LGBTQ* Resources.
- College of Law served as a sponsor for UK’s Lyman T. Johnson Awards Dinner, honoring alumni, students, staff and faculty, and hosted by UK’s Alumni Association Lyman T. Johnson African-American Alumni Group.
- College of Law provided funding for two faculty and four students to travel during spring break on the university led “Hope and History” civil rights tour to Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama.
- College of Law is a sponsor for the 4th Annual National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference to be held at American University in Washington, DC. Professor Melynda Price will attend to represent the College at the conference.

- Dean David Brennen and Professor Allison Connelly served during the 2018-2019 academic year on the Kentucky Bar Association's Diversity Committee representing the College of Law.
- Assistant Dean Danny Murphy is currently serving on the committee for university programming in conjunction with the upcoming 70 Year Anniversary recognition of Lyman T. Johnson and integration at the University of Kentucky.
- College of Law served in partnership with the Lexington office of Frost Brown Todd and local attorneys as part of the national Leadership Council on Leadership Diversity (LCLD) initiative that provides mentors to 1L students.
- Professor Melynda Price was named next director of the John R. Gaines Center for the Humanities