

UK College of Law Diversity Report 2015-16 Academic Year

College of Law Events

- College of Law celebrated a critical role in its history – the 60th anniversary of Ollen B. Hinnant’s graduation from law school. In recognition of this milestone, Dean Brennen and a group of alumni established a scholarship bearing Mr. Hinnant’s name to honor what Hinnant lived for – providing support and opportunity to underrepresented applicants who aspire to pursue legal careers. The fund will ensure that future deserving students, those who contribute to the diversity of the law school, have the opportunity to attain a legal education.
- College of Law hosted Judge Roger Gregory, an African-American on the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, as a Judicial Conversation Series Speaker. The student noon forum was co-hosted with the Black Law Students Association and the College of Law Diversity Committee.
- College of Law cost-hosted with the Kentucky Human Rights Commission the KY Civil Rights Act Symposium – 50th Anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, featuring speakers, and panelists of judges, lawyers and activists prominent in the civil rights arena.
- College of Law Diversity Committee sponsored a Diversity Video Project in which law students were encouraged to record a statement of support for diversity within the legal profession.
- College of Law hosted as its Distinguished Ray Lecturer, Justice Albie Sachs, who was appointed by Nelson Mandela to serve on the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Justice Sachs delivered a presentation on “The Sacred and Secular: South Africa’s Constitutional Court Rules on Same-Sex Marriages.”
- College of Law and the Black Law Students Association hosted Campbell Law Professor Amos Jones, who delivered a presentation on “The Dismantling of De Jure Segregation in Kentucky: How Slave Religion, Strategic Voting, and Creative Lawyering Broke Barriers in a Socially Advanced Border State.” The event was co-sponsored with UK’s Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center, Black Student Union, NAACP, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences, and Program in African-American and Africana Studies.
- UK 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. This year, the tax clinic assisted in filing approximately 520 returns resulting in clients saving an estimated \$100,000 in preparation fees and receiving total federal refunds of approximately \$325,000.

Student Events

- 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 UK College of Law students and local minority attorneys.

- OUTLaw student organization began using a private offices in the College of Law as a “safe space” for students wanted to discuss LGBT and other personal matters.
- Latino Law Society hosted a Hispanic Heritage Month immigration speaker.
- Black Law Students Association hosted its “Law Student For A Day” program, which brings in minority undergraduates and high school students interested in going to law school. This event assists UK Law Admissions’ efforts to increase diversity in the entering classes at the College of Law.
- OUTLaw hosted UK Professor Dr. Ellen Riggle who presented on “For Better or Worse: The Impact of Law and Discourse on LGBT Well-Being.”
- OUTLaw hosted a panel discussion that included local attorney Carl Frazier and UK Law Library Professor Franklin Runge, who spoke on their experiences as practicing LGBT attorneys.
- Black Law Students Association hosted a discussion panel on the topic “Art Censorship and Historical Injustices.”
- OUTLaw hosted its Drag Show Pageant bringing together students, faculty and staff for a fundraiser to support LGTBQ initiatives.
- Women’s Law Caucus held its annual Spring Luncheon at the Boone Faculty Center, celebrating women in the law and honoring Julia Morris and retired UK Law Associate Dean of Admissions Drusilla Bakert.
- Black Law Students Association hosted Professor Elizabeth Jones who presented on “The Civil Rights Movement in the Colorblind Era.”
- Kentucky Law Journal hosted its symposium entitled “An Elective Perspective: Judicial Regulation of Politics in an Election Year,” with five different panels of legal scholars from across the nation, local attorneys, and a keynote by Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes discussing identification laws, gerrymandering, referendum initiatives, election litigation, campaign finance, the right to vote, election contests, and many other topics.

Community Events

- Drusilla Bakert, now retired Associate Dean of Admissions, received the prestigious Nathaniel Harper Award from the Kentucky Bar Association’s Young Law Division, which honored Dean Bakert for her commitment to, and impact on, diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.
- 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 2015-2016 academic year on the Kentucky Bar Association's Diversity Committee representing the College of Law.
- UK Law Assistant Dean Danny Murphy's efforts as chair of a subcommittee for Commerce Lexington (the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce) resulted in the official launch of a Minority Business Accelerator Program. This initiative seeks to increase projects and revenue opportunities for established local minority-owned businesses. University of Kentucky Facilities and its Vice-President, Bob Wiseman, committed as a participant in the effort and has awarded a multi-million dollar project to a local minority-owned business as part of the initiative.