

# 2016 Law Symposium

## In Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966

*This is a milestone for a southern state...a great step forward for any state. [It] will serve as a great beacon of light for all men of goodwill... and hopefully inspire other states to follow suit.*

*[It] is the strongest and most comprehensive civil rights bill passed by a southern state.*

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
(circa 1966)

On January 27, 2016, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, in conjunction with the University of Kentucky, College of Law will present a Law Symposium Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966. The Act was signed into law by Governor Edward T. Breathitt on January 27, 1966. The Kentucky Civil Rights Act, by any measure, remains one of the most significant pieces of legislation to have been passed in the last fifty (50) years. At the time of its passage, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. noted that *[It] is the strongest and most comprehensive civil rights bill passed by a southern state.*

The one day symposium will be presented in the Courtroom at the University of Kentucky, College of Law, 620 S. Limestone, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0048 on January 27, 2016. Registration will begin at 8:00 A.M. The program will begin at 8:30 A.M. and conclude at 5:00 P.M. Early registration is encouraged and may be completed by going to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights website (<http://kchr.ky.gov>) and following the link to the University of Kentucky, College of Law website. The University of Kentucky Alumni Association will host a reception immediately following the symposium in the foyer outside of the Courtroom.

The symposium will consist of judges, lawyers, professors, scholars, and activists prominent in the civil rights arena speaking on and discussing what it was like in Kentucky before passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, how the Kentucky Civil Rights Act continues to protect our civil rights, and what issues remain to be addressed in furtherance of our civil and human rights. Our keynote speaker is Patricia Timmons-Goodson, appointed by President Obama to serve as Vice Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In addition, students and activists will be asked to participate by posing questions throughout the symposium.

Our agenda is as follows:

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**Registration:**

**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

**Presiding Remarks:**

**8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.**

John J. Johnson  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

**Greetings / Welcoming Remarks:**

**8:35 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.**

George Stinson  
Chair  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

David Brennen  
Dean and Professor  
University of Kentucky College of Law

Eli Capilouto  
President  
University of Kentucky

**Entertainment:**

**8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Kentucky School for the Deaf Signing Choir  
Ann Arnold and Barb Snapp, Directors  
Kentucky School for the Deaf  
Danville, Kentucky

**Welcoming Remarks:**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.**

Honorable Jenean Hampton  
62<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Governor of Kentucky

**9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.**

Honorable Andy Beshear  
Attorney General of Kentucky

**9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

Honorable John D. Minton, Jr.  
Chief Justice, Kentucky Supreme Court

**9:30 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.**

Douglass Farnsley  
President, Kentucky Bar Association  
Board of Governors

**9:40 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**

I. **Panel Discussion:**

**The Way We Were** -- *Life in Kentucky before the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966*

**Moderator:**

Raoul Cunningham  
President, Kentucky Conference of NAACP Branches

**It's been said, those who fail to remember their past are doomed to repeat it**

This panel will consist of persons who actually experienced life in Kentucky prior to the passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966. The panelists will open a window to a period in our not so distant past which many of us prefer not to remember, but dare not forget – a period in which African Americans and other minorities routinely suffered the scourge and humiliation of discrimination in employment and public accommodations. It's difficult for persons, even a single generation removed from that disturbing period, to believe that African Americans in Kentucky were often routinely prohibited from entering restaurants, movie theatres or other places of public accommodation simply because of their race or the color of their skin. Even after passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, Kentucky remained highly segregated, and discrimination continued to be practiced by state law and by custom.

After the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 was passed, state laws that authorized or permitted discrimination in employment and public became null and void. In addition, the enforcement powers of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 provided victims of discrimination ready access to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and Kentucky Circuit Courts to obtain monetary and injunctive relief. With the stroke of a pen, the right to be free from discrimination in employment and public accommodations became more than a distant dream in Kentucky – it became an enforceable reality.

**Panelists:**

Reverend Thurman Coleman  
Former Commissioner  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

Dr. Betty Griffin  
Chair, Kentucky Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights  
Frankfort, Kentucky

Valinda Livingston  
Retired Educator  
Lexington, Kentucky

Tom Owen  
Archivist for Regional History, Archives and Special Collections, University of Louisville  
Louisville/Metro Council (8<sup>th</sup> District)

Porter G. Peeples  
President and CEO  
Lexington Fayette County Urban League

David Welch  
Former Mayor of Ashland, Kentucky  
Former Chair of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

**BREAK**  
**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

Introduction of Keynote Speaker:

Dean David Brennen  
University of Kentucky, College of Law

Keynote Address:

Honorable Patricia Timmons-Goodson  
Vice Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Honorable Patricia Timmons-Goodson will deliver the symposium's keynote address. In July 2014, she was appointed by President Obama to serve as Vice Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Prior to her appointment, she served as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of North Carolina from 2006 to 2012. She served as an Associate Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals from 1997 to 2005 and a District Court Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District of North Carolina from 1984 to 1997. She is a nationally recognized scholar and jurist.

**LUNCH**  
**(On Your Own)**  
**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**

**Afternoon Topics: *Where we are and where we're going***

**II. Discussion:**

**1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m**

**Nourishing the dream: *The Role of Law Schools to Encourage Law Students to Pursue the Practice and Advancement of Civil Rights Law***

David Brennen  
Dean, UK College of Law

Susan Duncan  
Dean, UL Brandeis School of Law

Jeffrey A. Standen  
Dean, NKU Chase College of Law

In this segment, the deans of Kentucky's three law schools will discuss what policies, programs and practices are in place and/or are being pursued to expose students to the challenges and rewards of civil rights law and to encourage them to consider engaging in the practice of civil rights law upon completion of their law studies.

**III. Speaker: 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

***Breaking Barriers: It's Personal -- Overcoming Disability Discrimination as a Law Student, Lawyer and Judge***

Honorable David L. Holton II  
Judge, Jefferson District Court

As Kentucky's only blind judge, Judge Holton will provide a unique perspective on the daily challenges and barriers faced by disabled persons in Kentucky. Since its original passage in 1966, the Kentucky Civil Rights Act has been amended to include "disability" as a protected class in employment, public accommodations, and housing. Obviously, barriers remain.

**IV. Interview and Discussion: 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Trends in Fair Housing Law: *Where we've been and where we're going***

Art Crosby, Executive Director of the Lexington Fair Housing Council, will engage in a discussion about trends in fair housing law with Robert Schwemm, Professor, University of Kentucky, College of Law. Professor Schwemm is well known as one of the nation's foremost fair housing scholars.

Robert Schwemm, Professor  
UK College of Law

Art Crosby, Executive Director  
Lexington Fair Housing Counsel

**BREAK**  
**3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**V. Panel Discussion: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

***Where do we go from here...Issues of Civil and Human Rights that must be addressed***

**Moderator:**

Cortney E. Lollar, Professor  
UK College of Law

Professor Lollar will moderate this panel which will discuss multiple topics of current concern with an emphasis on what issues pertaining to civil rights need to be addressed going forward and how state and local agencies can help achieve these goals. How can we achieve greater protections for the LGBT and immigrant communities? How can we combat housing segregation, and encourage greater integration of our segregated neighborhoods? At what point does freedom of speech and religion trump civil rights?

When does private derogatory speech directed at an employee or neighbor because of their race or national origin become actionable discrimination under the civil rights act? When can a person be denied the goods and services of a business because of the owner's sincerely held religious belief? These and other issues will be discussed by well-respected scholars and activists in the civil rights community, including:

**Panelists:**

Michael Aldridge  
Executive Director  
Kentucky American Civil Liberties Union

JoAnne Bland  
Attorney/Civil Rights Activist  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

Cathy Hinko  
Executive Director, Metropolitan Housing Coalition  
Louisville, Kentucky

Guion Johnstone  
Program Director at Maxwell Street Legal Clinic  
Lexington, Kentucky

Carolyn Miller-Cooper  
Executive Director  
Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission

Cedric Merlin Powell  
Professor/Constitutional Law Scholar  
University of Louisville, Brandeis School of Law

Ray Sexton  
Executive Director  
Lexington/Fayette Civil Rights Commission

Ed Dove, Attorney  
Lexington/Fayette Civil Rights Commission

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*In addition, there will be a number of students, organizations and activists within the civil rights community that will participate by asking questions of presenters and panelists as time permits.*

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**4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**VI. Presentation of the Georgia Davis Powers Legacy Award**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

John J. Johnson  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

David Brennen  
Dean and Professor  
UK College of Law

**VII. *Reception Sponsored by University of Kentucky Alumni Association***