



**ORGANIZING FOR DEMOCRACY AND LIBERATION:  
THE RIGHT TO LEARN, THE RIGHT TO TEACH, THE RIGHT TO THRIVE**

**Critical (Legal) Collective  
Inaugural Convening  
November 10 – 12, 2023  
Duke University School of Law**

**DRAFT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

\*Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at Duke Law School

**Day One: Friday, November 10, 2023**

8:15 – 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Loggia)

9 – 9:15 a.m. **Welcome, CLC History, and Conference Overview (Room 3041)**  
(Trina Jones, Frank Valdes, Angela Harris)

**BLOCK ONE – PROTECTING & EXPANDING ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

This Block kicks off the conference’s objective of developing strategies to thwart threats to the right to learn, teach and thrive posed by antidemocratic censorship and miseducation campaigns. These are partially embodied in expanded and critical understandings of academic freedom. Importantly, these threats are meant not only to silence and erase conversations about CRT, race, gender, and LGBTQ+ rights, but they are also designed to intimidate and to exclude marginalized groups and students from schools, public spaces, and civic activities like voting.

9:15 – 9:20 a.m. **Introduction of Keynote Speaker (Room 3041)**  
(Athena Mutua)

9:20 – 10:15 a.m. **Keynote Address by Irene Khan, UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression (Room 3041)**

In 2020, the prior Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression published a report on academic freedom as a human right. CLC is working with the current Special Rapporteur to supplement that report by including insights from the United States. This keynote address will examine these ongoing efforts.

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

*B1-1: Documenting the Effects of Censorship & Miseducation Campaigns*

Using a variety of media, participants in this workshop will share their personal experiences of the effects of miseducation campaigns on themselves, the people they serve, and institutions with which they are affiliated. Participants who are comfortable sharing identifying information should feel free to do so. Others need only identify the state in which the events occurred. These stories will only be shared with the author's express permission.

*B1-2: Brainstorming On-Campus Speech: The Tensions Between Free Speech and Academic Freedom*

Based on a limited survey of college practices, the CLC Statement on Free Speech, the 1994 ACLU statement on "Speech on Campus," and other scholarship, this workshop will develop campus speech guidelines for hosting controversial speakers. It will also explore messaging that encompasses the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the freedom to learn, and academic freedom.

*B1-3 Faculty Governance with the African American Policy Forum (AAPF): Resolutions as a Response to Attacks on CRT and Related Scholarship*

This workshop will discuss faculty governance and work with participants to draft Faculty Resolutions in support of academic freedom, critical race theory and related scholarship.

## **BLOCK TWO – DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE: "BARGAINING FOR THE COMMON GOOD"**

**This Block centers organizing, advocating and bargaining for the common good - in solidarity with others - across job categories and social boundaries.**

12:00 – 1 p.m. **Lunch and Keynote Address by Erica Smiley, Executive Director, Jobs with Justice**

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Jen Hill

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

**Plenary: Bargaining for the Common Good in Unionized Higher Ed**

From the perspective of participants, this plenary explores the Rutgers' Strike and the work of the following organizations:

- **American Association of University Professors (AAUP)**, an association, union, affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, and advocate for academic freedom;
- the national coalition of **Higher Education Labor United (HELU)**, whose members come from all academic ranks;
- and the **United Faculty of Florida**, a union at the epicenter of the anti-woke campaign

This session recognizes that unions, particularly those in collaboration with diverse communities, are in a position to advance racial, gender, economic and other democratic justice projects. They are also a counterweight to corporate power, which too often is committed to privatizing public education, maintaining high levels of student debt, and controlling colleges and universities by supporting efforts to strip them of their autonomy.

2:30 – 3:45

**Concurrent Workshops**

*B2-1: Armoring Frontline Teachers: Brainstorming How A Law School/Education School Partnership Can Help*

This workshop, the first in a planned series, brings frontline teachers and graduate school educators together with law professors, union representatives, and students to identify the needs of frontline teachers and to explore partnerships between law and education schools.

*B2-2: Organizing Academics for the Common Good*

This workshop will teach techniques for organizing the academy and beyond, with the goal of increasing and leveraging legal educators' participation and activism in labor movements.

*B2-3: Clinics Enhancing Local Community Co-Governance Mechanisms*

This workshop seeks to showcase the work of clinics in working with local community organizations to enhance co-governance mechanisms.

*B2-4: Graduate Student Unions, Part I*

This workshop will offer an opportunity for graduate student unions to build solidarity and share insights across institutional boundaries.

- 3:45-4 p.m. Cookie Break (4<sup>th</sup> Floor Loggia)
- 4 - 5 pm **Concurrent Panels and Poster Presentations**
- 5 – 5:45 **Regroup, Share, Identify Gaps and Strategize**
- 7 p.m. Dinner for out-of-town guests

## Day Two: Saturday, November 11, 2023

8:15 – 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Loggia)

### BLOCK THREE – SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY: WHAT’S THE 411 ON 303?

This block seeks to develop a campaign for protecting and expanding ABA Standard 303. It uses an industry approach to ensure students’ freedom to learn about racial, gender, and economic justice, as well as gain structural and cross-cultural competence that goes beyond making client groups feel welcome and respected and enables the lawyer to learn from their histories and struggles.

9 – 10 a.m. **Plenary: Building a Campaign in the Midst of Backlash**

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

#### *B3-1: Developing Toolkits for Schools for Robust Compliance with 303*

To ensure schools go beyond check-the-box compliance, this workshop advocates for compliance informed by the critical schools of legal knowledge. Critical perspectives steeped in critical histories and reflecting modern realities expose law’s failure by design to deliver lived equal justice. Legal educators trained in critical thought about racism and bias must confront systems and systemic racism in order for their students to begin to situate themselves within any response toward change. Students need an understanding of how the law and legal actors, such as lawyers and judges, are connected to (and pull the levers of) other subordinating systems. As part of their Standard 303 training, then, faculty must ensure that students gain structural competence in understanding the interconnectedness of systems including law. This workshop will address how educators can design 303 compliance that is framed by the goal of structural competence.

*B3-2: Strategies for Working with the ABA*

Progress is subject to backlash and contested. As with DEI measures in corporate settings now being reversed, the gains of revised Standard 303 are expected to draw efforts to undo the mandate of training on racism, bias, and cross-cultural competence. This concurrent will map the power behind the ABA's accreditation standard enactment to ensure protection and even expansion of the 303 mandates.

*B3-3: Student Activism: Fighting for a Healthy Democracy and Students Rights to Learn and to Vote, Part I*

Students have increasingly become targets of oppression, with their access to information limited, their protests in favor of a multivalent democracy and against hate speech demonized, and their right to vote suppressed – all while struggling with historic levels of academic debt. This workshop offers students space to build solidarity across institutional and other boundaries.

11:45 – 12:45 p.m.    **Concurrent Panels & Poster Sessions**

1:00 – 2 p.m.            LUNCH

**BLOCK FOUR – BETWEEN A ROCK AND A RUNAWAY COURT:  
CRITICAL PROJECT BASED LEARNING – DOBBS & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

**This Block introduces conference participants to Community and Project Based Learning (CPBL) through case studies of the Dobbs, Students for Fair Admissions, and 303 Creative LLC cases. The workshops, in part, are conducted in partnership with Centering Equity, Race, and Cultural Literacy in Family Planning (CERCL).**

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.    **Plenary: The Systemic Advocacy Project Template**

Panelists: Teri McMurtry-Chubb, Frank Valdes, Margaret Montoya

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.    Ice Cream Break (4<sup>th</sup> Floor Loggia)

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.    Concurrent Workshops

*B4-1: CPBL and Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*

*B4-2: CPBL and 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*

*B4-3: CPBL and Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard/UNC*

*4B-4: Graduate Student Union Activism: Part II*

*4B-5: Student Activism: Part II*

5 – 6 p.m.                    **Regroup, Share, Identify Gaps & Next Steps**

7 p.m.                         Dinner for out-of-town guests

**Day Three: Sunday, November 12, 2023**

9 – 11 a.m.                   **Center Directors' Circle & Crit Board Meetings**

11:15 – Noon                **Regroup, Identify Gaps and Strategize**

Noon                            Boxed lunches to go (available on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor loggia)