



National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

**2020 Virtual Symposium
November 13th, 2020**

**Session C:
Reimagining Policing**

Speaker Biographies



Keenan Keller is Senior Democratic Counsel for the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House of Representatives. In this capacity, he drafts and analyzes legislation on range of issues, including civil rights, immigration, intellectual property, criminal and constitutional law questions, for both the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the full Judiciary Committee. While Keller has provided counsel for all members of the Committee, he has primarily served as senior advisor to Judiciary Committee Chairmen/Ranking Members John Conyers (D-MI) and Jerrold Nadler (D-NY).

For more than two decades Keller has worked with the Committee to develop bipartisan solutions to challenging social and legal issues. Keller's major legislative initiatives have included: Voting Rights Act Reauthorization; George Floyd Justice in Policing Act; Second Chance Act; Pigford Claims Act; Hate Crimes Prevention Act; Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act; End Racial Profiling Act; and the USA Patriot Act. He also served as senior policy advisor to Rep. John Conyers on OSCE, European Union and United Nations matters impacting civil rights, civil liberties and the African diaspora.

As Senior Committee Counsel, has managed a range of substantive issues, including the full civil rights agenda, immigration, abortion rights, national security and criminal justice reform issues (e.g., death penalty and sentencing) for the full Committee. He coordinates oversight of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Community Relations Service. He has represented the Committee at numerous United States and European convenings on critical topics including democracy building, racism, civil rights and hate speech. Keller also provides counsel on behalf of the Committee for numerous international NGOs in Europe and the Caribbean to support the development of emerging leaders, promotion of diversity and inclusion, and effective prosecution of hate crimes.

Prior to joining the Committee staff, Keller was associated with the law firms of Latham & Watkins in Washington, DC, and Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and Brown University. Keller also studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies, focusing on international relations. Keller began his legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Myron Thompson, Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

While immersed in his legal career, Keller has also been active in the community, serving on numerous community boards in the Washington area. He was elected

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the Mount Pleasant community in the District of Columbia and elected to the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee, where he served as General Counsel and member of the Executive Committee. He has also served as Board Chairman of the Washington United Planning Organization, the D.C. community action agency and was appointed by Mayor Anthony Williams to the D.C. Police Standards and Training Board. He is an active member of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, where he has served on the Vestry and Outreach Committee.



Dominique Johnson is a racial justice warrior, and current Senior Director of Community Engagement at the Center for Policing Equity. She provides a mix of grassroots level activism and high-level strategic innovation to meet the needs of communities most vulnerable to burdensome policing. Dominique believes in the power of community-- the lived experiences, expertise and collective influence-- anchoring a quest to uplift community-centered equitable policing practices. Never one to back down in advocating for equity in every space, Dominique has led systemic change in youth civic engagement, gun violence prevention, and domestic and wartime sexual violence against women. Her most notable experience? After the Yugoslav Wars, advancing the interests of the Office of the President of Kosovo in development and implementation of protocol extending resources to the National Council on the Victims of Wartime Sexual Violence. Dominique authored several notable Presidential speeches and managed multinational events for the 2014 Global Summit to End Sexual Violence. She has linguistic competence in Albanian, Dutch, and Spanish, loves to travel and spends all of her remaining time with her adopted puppy, Obi and his puppy friends at the dog park. Dominique holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Spanish from Bowdoin College, and a Master's Degree in International Affairs, with a concentration in Governance and Rights from The New School.



Christy E. Lopez is a Professor from Practice at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington D.C. She teaches courses on policing and criminal procedure and co-directs Georgetown's Innovative Policing Program, including the Police for Tomorrow Fellowship and the ABLE (Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement) Project. She currently is co-chair of the Washington D.C. Police Reform Commission. She also is a Fellow on the American Law Institute (ALI) Principles of Law, Policing, Project and a contributing columnist to the Washington Post opinions page.

From 2010 to 2017, Professor Lopez served as a Deputy Chief in the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. She led the Division's group

conducting pattern-or-practice investigations of police departments and other law enforcement agencies, including litigating, negotiating, and implementing consent decrees. Professor Lopez directly led the team that investigated the Ferguson Police Department and was a primary drafter of the Ferguson Report and negotiator of the Ferguson consent decree. Professor Lopez also helped coordinate the Department's broader efforts to ensure constitutional policing. Professor Lopez was a Senior Trial Attorney in the Civil Rights Division from 1995 to 2000.

From 2003 to 2010, Professor Lopez served as a federal court monitor of the Oakland (California) Police Department for Senior District Judge Thelton E. Henderson of the Northern District of California. Professor Lopez holds a juris doctor from the Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Riverside.



Captain Sonia Pruitt began her law enforcement career as an officer with the Montgomery County Police Department in Maryland. She served as the Deputy Director of The Internal Affairs Division and was later promoted to Administrative Lieutenant for the Office of the Chief of Police, where she helped to oversee the department's budget and staff. She has worked as a call taker for the police 911 dispatch center, an investigative sergeant, and a supervisor of the school resource officer program. In 2019, Pruitt's was promoted to captain. She concurrently serves as a duty commander supervising calls for service county-wide. Pruitt is the past-president of the Coalition of Black Police

Officers in Montgomery County, Maryland, and since 2018 has served as the Chairperson of the National Black Police Association. She holds a B.S. in criminal justice from the University of Maryland University College and an M.A. in forensic psychology from Argosy University. She is an adjunct professor of criminal justice administration at Montgomery College and teaches courses including Introduction to Policing, Criminal Investigation, and Police Organization and Administration.



Kimberley Taylor-Riley Kimberley Taylor-Riley graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a degree in social work and a minor in criminal justice. Ms. Taylor-Riley is certified as a law enforcement officer in the State of Nebraska and holds certifications in basic and family mediation. Since graduation from Creighton Law School, Ms. Taylor-Riley has engaged in a myriad of civil and criminal practice areas with a concentration in family and juvenile law. In 2005, she closed her private practice and took a position with the Nebraska Attorney General's Office. Ms. Taylor-

Riley worked in the Civil Division handling Inmate litigation matters before moving to the Violence against Women Act Prosecutor position wherein she prosecuted domestic and sexual violence cases. She served as the Resource Prosecutor for Nebraska during that time while coordinating a training team to address best

practices/protocols for successful intervention in domestic and sexual violence cases. In 2012, she became the Director of Equity and Diversity for the City of Lincoln involving supervision of the of the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, performing internal discrimination/harassment investigations, serving as the ADA co-coordinator, assisting with federal civil rights contract compliance issues and working with a team designated by the Mayor to create a more inclusive workforce. In 2018, she relocated to Missouri to serve as the Diversity and Inclusion Manager for the Office of State Courts Administrator involving supervision of unit staff, drafting of the Diversity Statement and chairing the Civility Team. In addition to those tasks, she served as the Executive Director of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness. In January 2020, Ms. Taylor-Riley became the Commissioner of the Civilian Oversight Board for the City of St. Louis.



Greear Webb is a community-centered organizer who cares deeply about lessening North Carolina's racial divide. Greear is a sophomore Morehead-Cain Scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill and is the Co-Founder of NC Town Hall and Young Americans Protest (YAP)--Two youth-led nonprofits. He is a committed student striving for progress in gun violence prevention and police accountability legislation. Greear was selected as a 2020 Youth Voter Engagement Ambassador through Harvard University's Graduate School of Education because he knows that our diversity as a people is our strength and that reflective representation matters. Greear is a passionate, faith-driven leader eager to make change.



James E. Williams, Jr received a B.A. in Political Science and J.D. from Duke University. He was Chief Public Defender for Orange and Chatham Counties from 1990-2017 and previously the Felony Chief of the Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office. While a member of the N.C. Advocates for Justice Board of Governors, Mr. Williams helped establish and served as Chair of the Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Criminal Justice System which ultimately led to the establishment of the NC CRED. Mr. Williams is also a founder and Board member of the N.C. Public Defender Committee on Racial Equity and serves on numerous boards, including the N.C. Fines and Fees Coalition, National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, N.C. Association of Black Lawyers, Orange Bias Free Policing Coalition. He serves as Co-chair of the District 18 Bar Racial Justice Force. He has received numerous awards, including the N.C. Advocates for Justice Thurgood Marshall Award, the MLK University/ Community Planning Inc. MLK Jr. Citizenship Award, the N.C. ACLU Champion of Justice Award, and the North Carolina Bar Association James McNeil Smith Jr. Award.
