

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER
HOUSTON LAW REVIEW
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

HURRICANE KATRINA:

Lessons about Immigrants in the Modern Administrative State

Featuring

KEVIN R. JOHNSON

*MABIE-APALLAS PROFESSOR OF
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
AND CHICANA/O STUDIES
U.C. DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW*



**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2007**

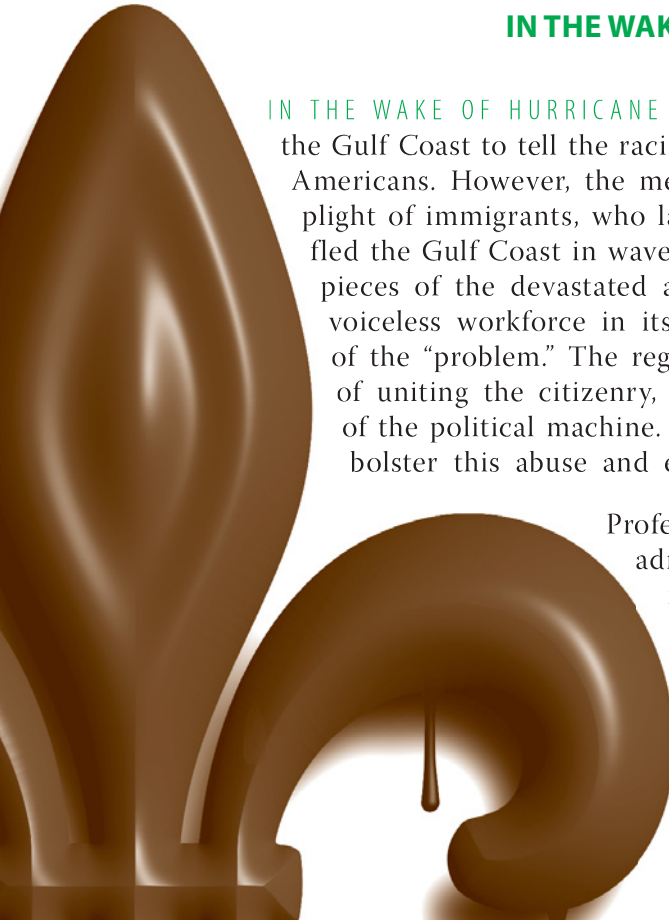
11:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M.

ROOM 109

**BATES LAW BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER**

TWO HOURS OF PARTICIPATORY MCLE CREDIT.

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LESSONS FROM THE STORM: REVELATIONS ON IMMIGRATION LAW IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA

IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA, THE MEDIA FLOCKED TO THE DEVASTATED REGION OF the Gulf Coast to tell the racially charged story of the federal government's treatment of African Americans. However, the media failed to account for the troubling decision to disregard the plight of immigrants, who lack a political voice to speak for themselves. As the local citizens fled the Gulf Coast in waves, legal and illegal immigrants flocked to the region to pick up the pieces of the devastated area. Despite the federal government's willingness to exploit this voiceless workforce in its effort to rebuild, many Americans targeted immigrants as part of the "problem." The region's immigrants have become a symbol to rally against in hopes of uniting the citizenry, with statements such as "chocolate city" becoming rallying cries of the political machine. Most disturbing is the fact that immigration law has been used to bolster this abuse and exploitation of immigrants in a time of great disaster and need.

Professor Kevin Johnson presents his theory that judicial deference to administrative bodies such as the Department of Homeland Security makes the abuse and exploitation of immigrants possible. He argues that the lack of political accountability to non-citizens creates the potential for arbitrary enforcement of laws without recourse for those affected. Johnson demonstrates how Hurricane Katrina revealed the broader implications of the government's unchecked power in its enforcement of immigration law. He advocates for judicial review of agency determinations to ensure lawful administration of immigration law and to protect basic human rights for non-citizens.

ANNA W. SHAVERS*Professor of Law**University of Nebraska College of Law*

PROFESSOR ANNA W. SHAVERS'S primary interest is Immigration Law, particularly its intersection with gender issues. She teaches Administrative Law, Immigration Law, Gender Issues, and Civil Procedure at the University of Nebraska College of Law. Professor Shavers is also the faculty co-advisor to the Multi-Cultural Legal Society and the Black Law Students Association (BALSA). Prior to joining the University of Nebraska College of Law faculty, she was an associate at Faegre & Benson law firm in Minneapolis. She has also served as Director of University Student Legal Services and Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Minnesota where she established the law school's first immigration clinic.

She received her J.D. cum laude from the University of Minnesota where she served as Managing Editor of the Minnesota Law Review. She is admitted to practice in both Minnesota and Nebraska. She has a particular interest in alternative forms of dispute resolution and has served as both a mediator and arbitrator. She has served as Chair of the AALS Section on Immigration Law, Council Member and Immigration Committee Chair of the ABA Administrative Law Section, member of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, and member of ABA Coordinating Committee on Immigration Law. She currently serves as Board Member of the Midwestern People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, Inc., Liaison for ABA Administrative Law Section to the ABA Commission on Immigration, and Publication Chair of the ABA Administrative Law Section.

RAQUEL E. ALDANA*Professor of Law**William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada*

PROFESSOR RAQUEL E. ALDANA teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, International Public Law, Immigration Law, and International Human Rights at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Professor Aldana earned her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School where she served as Articles Editor of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Nevada, she worked as an associate for Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue in Washington D.C. She also has worked for the Center for Justice and International Law representing victims of gross human rights violations in the Inter-American System of Human Rights. While with the Center for Justice and International Law, she filed amici briefs with international tribunals and courts within Latin American countries and traveled to Latin America and the Caribbean to conduct training workshops on international human rights laws and to investigate violations of human rights.

Professor Aldana spent the Spring of 2006 as a Fulbright Scholar in Guatemala where she taught courses on the International Criminal Court and an advanced course on Economic Development and Human Rights in the Guatemalan context. She has been published in a variety of publications concentrating on various immigration and human rights issues.

KEVIN R. JOHNSON

*Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law
and Chicana/o Studies
University of California at Davis*

KEVIN R. JOHNSON is the Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law and Chicana/o Studies at the University of California at Davis, where he also is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Johnson graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School where he served as Articles Editor of Harvard Law Review. He clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit in Los Angeles before working as an attorney at the international law firm Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe in San Francisco. For over a decade, Professor Johnson has served on the Legal Services of Northern California board of directors, and is the current President of the board. In 2006, he was elected to the board of directors of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Professor Johnson has taught a variety of courses including Immigration Law, Latinos and Latinas and the Law, Refugee Law, Civil Procedure, Public Interest Law, and Critical Race Theory. He is the 2004 recipient of the Clyde Ferguson Award for service by the Minority Groups Section of the Association of American Law Schools. Professor Johnson has written and co-authored various books. His book *How Did You Get to Be Mexican, A White/Brown Man's Search for Identity*, was nominated for the 2000 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. He has been published in numerous law reviews and journals and has co-authored two amicus curiae briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court, both concerning immigration cases.

**SCHEDULE**

11:30 A.M.

OPENING REMARKS

PROFESSOR MICHAEL A. OLIVAS
*William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law
University of Houston Law Center*

11:40 A.M.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

KEVIN R. JOHNSON

12:10 P.M.

COMMENTARY

ANNA W. SHAVERS

12:25 P.M.

COMMENTARY

RAQUEL E. ALDANA

12:40 P.M.

RESPONSE

KEVIN R. JOHNSON

12:50 P.M.

DISCUSSION

Professor Michael A. Olivas will also moderate the discussion.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL HOUSTON LAW REVIEW

Frankel Lecture

2007

HURRICANE KATRINA

LESSONS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS IN THE MODERN ADMINISTRATIVE STATE

ATTENDING THE HOUSTON LAW REVIEW FRANKEL LECTURE WILL EARN
TWO HOURS OF PARTICIPATORY SKILLS MCLE CREDIT.

To register for the lecture, kindly RSVP to 713.743.2201 or Briefcase@uh.edu.

Professor Johnson's article and the commentaries will be published in a symposium edition of the Houston Law Review: Volume 45, Issue 1, 2007.
For more information, please contact [JAMIE MILLER](#) at the Houston Law Review at
[713.743.2250](tel:713.743.2250).

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