Dear King Hall Community,

Thank you for your continued support of the Aoki Center for Critical Race & Nation Studies. The Center remains committed to its mission of fostering multi-disciplinary scholarship and practice that critically examine the law through the lens of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, citizenship, and class.

This 2022-2023 calendar year, the Center invited scholars, researchers, directors, and leaders from the UC Davis Campus and beyond to speak on a wide array of issues that impact our culture and society. The Aoki Center hosts the 1L Critical Perspectives Series, the Interdisciplinary Speaker Series, the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Series and co-hosts the Racial Justice Speaker Series (which will be detailed on pages 2 - 4). Altogether, the Center hosted and co-hosted about 30 speakers across various disciplines on topics ranging from Crimmigration to Linguistic Solidarity in Black and Latinx Youth.

The Center is fortunate to have the support of King Hall faculty who share the Center's commitment to affect change in critical. This year, Professor Mary Ziegler became one of our Aoki Faculty Affiliates. Professor Ziegler is a leading expert on the law, history, and politics of reproduction, health care, and conservatism. Our Faculty Affiliates continue to be leaders in ground-breaking research and some of this work & accomplishments that relates to the mission of the Aoki Center will be detailed on pages 5 - 6 of this report.

Furthermore, the Aoki Co-Directors, Dean Johnson and Professor Aldana, continue to defend and implement CRT initiatives. Most notably, they created a book series devoted to contemporary Critical Race Theory and its challenge to racism and discrimination in U.S. society, details of which will be provided on page 7 of the report. Dean Johnson and Professor Aldana are supporters of initiatives like the Opportunity for All Campaign, which was approved by the UC Regents a few weeks ago, and the termination of the Dedicated Docket - which is a fast-track immigration court initiative targeting families seeking asylum in the United States. The Aoki Center also filed a brief in conjunction with the Korematsu Center on Tingley v. Ferguson, and Professor Aldana drafted a statement in support of the the name change for UC Law San Francisco (formerly known as UC Hastings).

The Aoki Center also has a blog and we welcome commentators to send us posts pertaining to CRT. Some recent posts include: MLK and Border Justice, The End of the Title 42 Order – a Return To Border Migration Normalcy and Due Process of Law, Victory for Undocumented Students: Hiring Restrictions Removed for All UC Students and The Ninth Circuit, Racism, and Immigration Law.

Lastly, in my capacity as the Aoki Fellow, I organized and moderated the Migrant Busing Crisis & Advance Parole Talks and participated in the LatCrit Conference last October (all which will be detailed on page 8). Thank you once again for making this program successful. Our program would not have been possible without the help from Nina Marie Bell, our Program Coordinator, and Andrea Lopez Arguallo, King Hall IT. We look forward to the amazing things, Giselle Garcia, the Aoki Center Legal Fellow '23, will do.

Sincerely,

Yoxira Espinoza Guzman
Aoki Center Legal Fellow '22
The purpose of the “Critical Perspectives” talks is twofold. First, we seek to expose first-year students to critical perspectives that often do not make it onto the syllabus of regular first-year classes. Given the high level of interest among King Hall students in social justice, this exposure will connect many students to the concerns and perspectives that brought them to law school in the first place.

The second goal of the series is to connect King Hall students more closely with their faculty. King Hall has an extraordinarily accomplished faculty with expertise in areas of race, immigration, gender, and sexuality. Through these lunch talks, interested students can learn more about the cutting edge of legal scholarship in these fields and develop a better understanding of faculty research projects.

In 2019, the UC Davis Hispanic Serving Institution Taskforce issued a report titled Investing in Rising Scholars and Serving the State of California: What it means for UC Davis to Become a Hispanic Serving Institution. The recommendations in this report embarked UC Davis on an equity project and called for transformative changes that aligned with the UC Davis mission as a public, land grant university in one of the most diverse states in the nation.

This speaker series explores topics related to the role of higher education in promoting equity at UC Davis, our neighboring communities, and the state of California.
The series aims to engage in conversation with colleagues from other disciplines who are writing and thinking about areas that intersect with law and policy, and in particular with racial and social justice.
King Hall's Racial Justice Speaker Series

Created in response to the tragic killings by police of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others and the widespread protests that followed, UC Davis Law’s Racial Justice Speaker Series is now in its third year. Reaffirming the law school’s longtime commitment to racial justice, the series invites leading scholars from around the country to explore systemic racism as it pertains to all communities of color and areas of law.

The goals are to inform, enlighten, and - most important - engage in meaningful conversation with our King Hall community and the larger public.
Andrea Cann Chandrasekher is a Professor of Law, whose research lies within the fields of empirical arbitration and criminal justice public policy. Some of her works in progress include: “Race and Space: An Experimental Examination of How Exposure to Other Races Affects Perceptions of Personal Space” (with Richard Brooks), and An Empirical Investigation of Diversity in U.S. Arbitration.

Gabriel Chin is a teacher and scholar of Immigration Law, Criminal Procedure, and Race and Law. Some of his recent publications include: Slave Law, Race Law, 94 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW REVIEW 551 (2023) and The End of California’s Alien Land Law: A Case Study in Reparations and Transitional Justice, 29 ASIAN AMERICAN LAW JOURNAL 17 (2022) (with Anna Ratner).

Mary Louise Frampton is Professor of Law Emerita and former Director of the Aoki Center. She is currently a visiting scholar at UNC Chapel Hill working on a book on the trials arising out of the 1979 Greensboro Massacre. Some of her latest publications are: “Can Restorative Justice Transform School Culture in California? Qualitative Research Shines a Little Light,” UC Hastings Race and Poverty Journal and UC Hastings Gender and Law Journal Special Issue (Spring 2023) “Common Threads of Racial Injustice From Tulsa to Greensboro to the Present,” 57 TULSA Law Review 141 (2022).

Angela P. Harris is Professor of Law Emerita and while at King Hall founded the Aoki Center. Her research & expertise are in CRT, Feminist Jurisprudence, Law & Cultural Studies, Race Relations, Women's Rights, and Law & Society.

Lisa C. Ikemoto teaches bioethics, health care law, public health law, reproductive rights, law & policy, and marital property. Some of her recent projects include: rewrite of the California Supreme Court's opinion in Moore v. Regents of the University of California (Cal. 1990), from a feminist perspective, and a chapter in "Religious Lochnerism in Health Care, Reproducing Racial Purity in Direct to Consumer Markets and Fear and Hope for Reproductive Justice After Roe."

Irene Oriseweyinni Joe teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Professional Responsibility (Legal Ethics), and Voir Dire (Jury Selection). Some of her recent contributions include: Learning from Mistakes (forthcoming Washington and Lee Law Review 2023) and Everyday Injustice, Podcast Episode 145, Vanguard News Group (March 2022).
Aoki Faculty Affiliates


Lisa R. Pruitt is a Professor of Law, her research interests and expertise include: Law and Rural Livelihoods, CRT, Feminist Jurisprudence, Legal Profession, Critical Whiteness Studies & Torts. Some of her recent publications include: Rural Bashing, 57 University of Richmond Law Review 963 (2023) (with Kaceylee Klein) and “Investigating Access to Justice, the Rural Lawyer Shortage, and Implications for Civil and Criminal Legal Systems,” 67-68 in Research Methods for Rural Criminologists (Ralph Weisheit, Artur Pytlarz, and Jessica Peterson, eds.) (Routledge, 2022) (with Andrew Davies).

Leticia Saucedo is a Professor of Law and an expert in employment, labor, CRT and immigration law. She teaches immigration law, employment law, labor law and torts. She is also completing an in-residence at MALDEF as National Senior Counsel and has begun a Migrant & Labor Center.

Mary Ziegler is an expert on the law, history, and politics of reproduction, health care, and conservatism in the United States from 1945 to the present. Some of her recent contributions include: editing a comparative volume on the international law of abortion with Elgar Press that includes scholars from every continent, and a piece in the Harvard Law Review Forum responding to Dov Fox’s article on medical disobedience.

Raquel E. Aldana is Co-Director of the Aoki Center and Professor of Law. Her research interests & expertise include: Immigration Law And Policy, Latinos And The Law, International Human Rights, and Sustainable Development in Latin America and Central American Studies. Some of her recent publications include: Repairing Fixable Trauma in Immigration in Trauma-Informed Lawyering (ABA 2023); Taming Immigration Trauma, Cardozo L. Rev. (Winter 2022); and Trauma as Inclusion, Tennessee Law Review (along with Koga, Patrick Marius and O’Donnell, Thomas and Skwara, Alea and Perris, Caroline). She was selected as a fellow of the prestigious Council of Foreign Relations in 2022.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY BOOK SERIES

Dean Johnson and Professor Aldana, in their position as Aoki co-directors are working with the UC Press on a CRT book series. The series aims to provide an insight on the past, present, and future of Critical Race Theory. Although the intricacies of the program are still being discussed, the co-directors envision an early book in the series offering background about what CRT is and is not and dispelling myths about CRT. They further propose "that another of the early installments in the series focus on the full richness of multiracial America, including the many different communities marginalized throughout U.S. history."
We applaud Alexis S. Elston, Director of Diversity and Student Life, and the MLK committee for their leadership and planning of the MLK Day of Service at King Hall. The Day of service consisted of a blood drive, naturalization workshop at the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento and donations for the Malcolm X Academy.

Aoki Legal Fellow

From October 13 through October 15, 2022, I attended the Society of American Law Teachers Conference in the beautiful city of Chicago. In a matter of three days, I was exposed to a plethora of work and ideas from academics and activists across the nation. The theme was Rest and Resistance, so the importance of rest was emphasized throughout the conference. In order to fight the resistance, the injustices, and the attacks on CRT, lawyers need to learn to sustain themselves through self-care of the soul, mind and body. Though there was a profusion of talks during the three-day conference, one of the highlights was listening to a panel of Afghan refugees. The women, some prosecutors and another journalists, recounted their heart-wrenching stories of persecution in their home country. They left promising careers as professional women due to concerns for their safety. Despite all of the adversity they experienced, they remained hopeful and willing to continue the fight to help the women in their country. Listening to them, reaffirmed my commitment and mission to help the immigrant and refugee community. Additionally, in my capacity as the Aoki Fellow, I organized and moderated the Migrant Busing Crisis and Advanced Parole Talks.