

Save the Date!

Friday January 21st, 2022

A day-long conference on movement lawyering workshops for CLE credit; offered in-person or virtually.



staying true
to your roots
2022



staying true to your roots

Jan 21st 9AM-5PM
PROGRAM

9-10AM

MOVEMENT LAWYERING AGAINST POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE WAKE OF THE 2020 UPRISINGS

Walter Riley, JD & Tifanei Ressler-Moyer, JD

Harkening back to the days of slavery abolition uprisings, Black liberation movements have led the struggle against police abuse and murder. In the aftermath of the brutal murder of George Floyd, Black-led protests, organizing and uprisings filled streets across the United States and inspired international solidarity. For months, there were daily protests demanding accountability, defunding of police and reallocation of funds for the many things communities need to stay safe, be healthy and thrive. These protests were often met with the same excessive use of force, militarized weapons and crowd control methods that they were confronting. In response and in partnership with frontline organizations, movement lawyers in cities across the country have filed lawsuits against police departments towards restricting their ability to use force and militarized weapons and towards accountability not only of individual officers but police departments and institutions. This workshop will discuss the tactics and focus of these lawsuits and the principles guiding them.

10-11:30AM

ETHICS OF & ETHICAL APPROACHES TO MOVEMENT LAWYERING ON BEHALF OF INCARCERATED AND/OR UNHOUSED PLAINTIFFS

EmilyRose Johns, JD & Yolanda Huang, JD

A fundamental principle of movement lawyering is to respect the self-determination and goals of those we represent within the broader context of principles of justice and radical change. While we share our legal opinions and negotiate strategy with those we represent, we do not impose our will. And while we may request legal fees to compensate for the hours spent, movement lawyers do not seek to profit from these cases nor do movement lawyers take fees while those they represent are not offered any damages. This panel will offer case examples that illustrate the principles, injunctive relief demands, relationship to fees and damages, and legal strategies when representing people often most dismissed and unable to access the right to representation, particularly in solidarity with their freedom and interests.

11:30-12:30PM

BREAK



12:30–1:30PM

APPLICATIONS OF LABOR LAW FOR GIG WORKERS DURING COVID-19

Veena Dubal, JD & Catalin Vega, JD

Panelists will discuss legal issues in the “gig economy” including the current legal landscape for gig workers, legal challenges to Proposition 22, and proposals at the federal level. They will also highlight driver organizing to demand employer status and enforce AB 5, both in California and in other states.

1:30–3PM

TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEWING SKILLS FOR LAWYERS

Daniela Kantorová, PsyD

Many of the activists, organizers and frontline communities we represent have survived and/or remain in conditions of trauma, including the cases in which we represent them, often against state (and capitalist) repression, oppression or exploitation. Understanding and being sensitive to these experiences are important as a reflection of our care and solidarity with those we represent but also are more likely to support those we represent in being more willing to share their experiences and more capable of presenting them in court. This workshop will provide lawyers with an orientation and offer approaches to trauma-informed interviewing. The presenter will bring her experience interviewing people who are incarcerated and impacted by police violence and providing expert testimony in court.

3–4PM

ADDRESSING BIAS IN THE COURT: A CORE PRACTICE OF MOVEMENT LAWYERING

Bobby Shukla, JD & Beth Mora

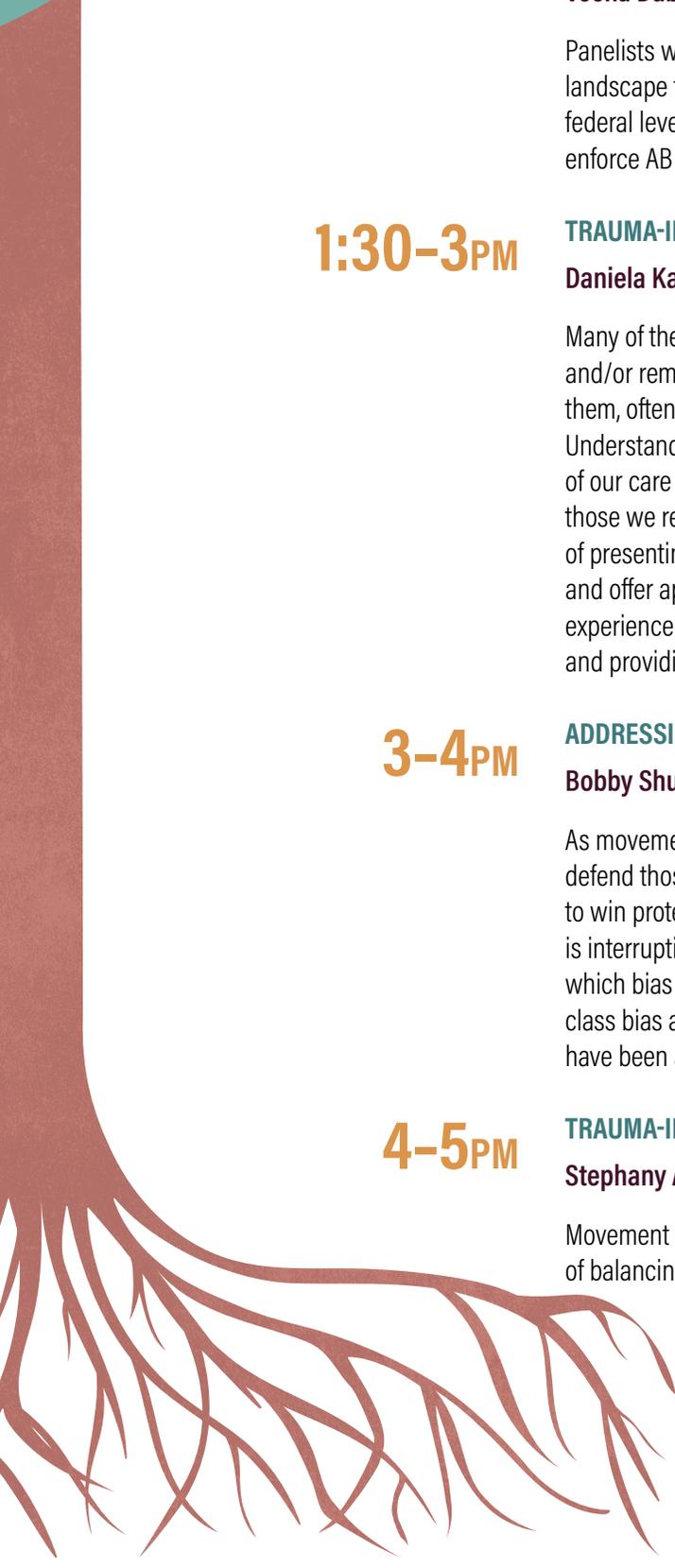
As movement lawyers, we look for ways to use the state against the state in order to defend those we represent against mistreatment, exploitation and repression and/or to win protections that advance the work of social justice. An important piece of this is interrupting and exposing the inherent bias of courts and to challenge the ways in which bias continue cycles of racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, xenophobia, class bias and ableism. This workshop will share strategies and examples of how they have been applied in specific cases.

4–5PM

TRAUMA-INFORMED LAWYERING MODEL DEVELOPED & PRACTICE

Stephany Arzaga, JD

Movement lawyering is distinct as a form of civil rights and legal defense—the challenge of balancing strong and effective legal strategy with the demands and desires of those most impacted and of the movements of which they are a part. This workshop will offer principles, examples, a model and practices of trauma-informed movement lawyering.





staying true to your roots

Jan 21st 9AM-5PM

SPEAKERS

BETH W. MORA, ESQ.

Beth W. Mora, Esq., Mora Employment Law, is a plaintiff employment attorney. Amongst her current volunteer activities, Beth serves as the co-chair of the Committee on Bias in the Judiciary for the California Employment Lawyers Association where she recently was awarded the Strike Force One award for her work relating to bias in the judiciary and legislative matters. Beth can be contacted with questions at bmora@moraelaw.com.

BOBBY SHUKLA

Bobby Shukla represents plaintiffs in employment litigation at Shukla Law. She currently serves on the Board of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and the Board of the National Lawyers Guild Foundation. She is also a former Vice President of the Bay Area Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. She has been named a Rising Star or a Super Lawyer every year since 2009 and named one of the Top Women Attorneys in Northern California every year since 2012. She is also a recipient of the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services.

CAITLIN VEGA

Caitlin Vega is the co-founder of Union Made, a union-side policy and lobbying shop. She has spent over 25 years in the Labor Movement, working as an organizer, a union representative and a labor lawyer. Prior to founding Union Made, she spent sixteen years at the California Labor Federation where she served as Legislative Director, specializing in efforts to combat misclassification and the fissured workplace. She now works with international, statewide and local unions in legislative, political and contract campaigns to build worker power. In all her work, she is guided by the memory of her dad who raised her in this movement, taught her to fight and never let her give up hope that a better world is possible.

DANIELA KANTOROVÁ

Daniela Kantorová obtained her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley, California, and currently works there as clinical faculty. Dr. Kantorová has taught classes on trauma, advocacy in the carceral system, and psychobiology. She specializes in working with survivors of trauma caused by interpersonal and state violence and provides forensic psychological evaluations. She is passionate about anti-racist community organizing and developing collaborations between mental health professionals and grassroots organizations. She is the coordinator of the Anti Police-Terror Project's Oakland MH First program, co-chair of APTP's first responders committee, and past president of Psychologists for Social Responsibility.

DEAN ROYER (MODERATOR)

Dean Royer has advocated for employees since 2005. He is experienced in three areas of employment law: (1) wrongful termination and harassment, (2) wage and hour, and (3) leaves of absence. Dean represents employees in both the private and public sector. He has handled a variety of wrongful termination cases, including discrimination, retaliation, harassment, and whistle-blower matters. Dean also represents individuals who have claims regarding their pay (minimum wage, overtime, and unpaid wages), meal and rest violations, and sick leave violations.

EMILYROSE JOHNS

EmilyRose Johns is a Senior Associate at Siegel, Yee, Brunner & Mehta and a NLG-SFBA chapter legal support co-coordinator. She fights tirelessly for her clients and has amassed numerous victories in the areas of prisoners' rights, police misconduct, discrimination in employment, education, athletic opportunities, and criminal defense. EmilyRose is an active member of the National Lawyers Guild and serves on several local committees, including the Demonstrations Committee, the Right to Shelter Committee and the NextGen committee. She also serves on the Legal Committee of the Anti Police-Terror Project.

SONYA Z. MEHTA (MODERATOR)

Sonya Z. Mehta is a trial and appellate attorney and partner with Siegel, Yee, Brunner & Mehta. She represents public and private sector labor unions, individual employees, consumers, students, and community organizations. Ms. Mehta is an experienced and committed advocate for workers' and civil rights. She has won a six-figure jury verdict, favorable bench rulings, and significant settlements in whistleblower, discrimination, and other civil rights cases. She graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and received her law degree from the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law. Before practicing law, Ms. Mehta was the Co-Executive Director of community and workers' organization Young Workers United (YWU) in San Francisco. At YWU, she won the first paid sick leave law in the country through a 2006 San Francisco ballot initiative.

STEPHANY ARZAGA

Stephany Arzaga graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law in May of 2016 with experience in many fields of social justice work. Born and raised in the border town of El Paso, Texas, she discovered her passion for immigrant rights and justice at a young age. She has pursued her passion for immigration justice through internships and staff attorney positions at various non-profit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Stephany is the Associate Legal Director at Legal Services for Children (LSC) and she is the Co-Lead of the of their Detained Immigrant Children's Project (DICP) representing youth in immigration detention. As part of the Detained Immigrant Children's Project at LSC, Stephany assists and represents youth who are currently detained by immigration in youth detention facilities located in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as youth in the community who were formerly detained.

TIFANEI RESSL-MOYER

Tifanei is a civil rights attorney whose work supports social justice movements. She is a Senior Staff Attorney and Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Fellow at Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. There she co-leads the Racial Justice Team and leads her team's work against violent policing and carceral systems. Tifanei uses strategic litigation, policy advocacy, direct services and organizing on behalf of

people of color in Northern California. For example, she litigates cases where people have been targeted and brutalized by police violence, publishes reports on the profound and dangerous impacts of low-level policing, and has designed successful campaigns that compelled multiple California cities to drop charges against protesters after the summer of 2020 uprisings. Previously, Tifanei worked for Disability Rights California where she investigated and litigated cases regarding dangerous conditions of jail, psychiatric institutions, juvenile detention centers, and cases regarding Black people's access to mental health care in their communities. Tifanei also regularly provides legal support to grassroots abolitionist organizations in her Sacramento community.

PROFESSOR VEENA DUBAL

Professor Veena Dubal's research focuses on the intersection of law, technology, and precarious work. Within this broad frame, she uses empirical methodologies and critical theory to understand (1) the impact of digital technologies and emerging legal frameworks on the lives of workers, (2) the co-constitutive influences of law and work on identity, and (3) the role of law and lawyers in solidarity movements.

Professor Dubal has been cited by the California Supreme Court, and her scholarship has been published in top-tier law review and peer-reviewed journals, including the California Law Review, Wisconsin Law Review, Berkeley Journal of Empirical and Labor Law, and Perspectives on Politics. Based on over a decade of ethnographic and historical study, Professor Dubal is currently writing a manuscript (Driving Freedom, Navigating Neoliberalism) on how five decades of shifting technologies and emergent regulatory regimes changed the everyday lives and work experiences of ride-hail drivers in San Francisco.

Complementing her academic scholarship, Professor Dubal's writing has also been published in The Los Angeles Times, The Guardian, and Slate. Her commentary and research on the intersections of technology, low-wage work, and organizing (particularly in the so-called "sharing" or platform economy) are regularly featured both in the local and national media and in a number of documentaries, including When Rules Don't Apply, City Rising, and Gig a Uberização do Trabalho.

Professor Dubal joined the Hastings Faculty in 2015, after a post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford University (also her undergraduate alma mater). Prior to that, Professor Dubal received her J.D. and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, where she conducted an ethnography of the San Francisco taxi industry. The subject of her doctoral research arose from her work as a public interest attorney and Berkeley Law Foundation fellow at the Asian Law Caucus where she founded a taxi worker project and represented Muslim Americans in civil rights cases.

WALTER RILEY

Growing up in the Jim Crow South, [Walter Riley](#) became an activist at a young age. He served as President of the Young Adult Chapter of North Carolina's NAACP, organizing voter registration campaigns, lunch counter sit-ins, job campaigns, and desegregation campaigns in public accommodations, schools, and businesses. He also chaired the Durham chapter of CORE's (Congress of Racial Equality) Freedom Highways Project, which sought to desegregate public facilities on Highway 1 from Maine to Florida.

Walter moved to San Francisco in 1965 and continued his activism. While a student at SF State University, he was involved in Students for a Democratic Society, Black Students for Open Admissions, and the push for Black and ethnic studies. After leaving school in 1968, he helped organize a Rank and File Black Caucus among the Muni bus drivers. He also worked in the labor and antiwar movements, as well as with The Black Panthers and in community efforts to stop urban removal of black and other working-class communities. As a founding member of the Peace and Freedom Party Central Committee, he co-chaired the Peace and Freedom's Black Caucus with Eldred Cleaver and chaired Kathleen Cleaver's State Assembly Campaign. In 1970 he moved to Chicago, where he became a rank and file activist of the United Auto Workers, a welfare rights activist, and a housing advocate. Later, in Detroit, he organized as a rank and file labor activist in the automobile industry.

Walter is currently a member of the California Bar Association, National Lawyers Guild, Charles Houston Bar Association, ACLU, #BlackLivesMatter, and Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). He is Chair of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, Co-Chair

of the John George Democratic Club, National Board member of the Black Worker Center, and Chair of the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund. His activism has centered around education and schools, anti-apartheid, police misconduct, voter registration and cultural issues. Recently, Walter was the lead attorney for the Blackfriday14 and other #BlackLivesMatter protesters.

YOLANDA HUANG

Yolanda Huang is an Oakland civil rights attorney who believes in advancing social justice by battling institutional racism. She has several cases against the Alameda County Sheriff's Office on behalf of people incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail in response to the cruelty, mistreatment and neglect they receive there. She has also defended Black Lives Matter activists. Most recently, Yolanda represented people incarcerated in Santa Rita Jail objecting to the Babu vs. Ahern settlement claiming to address medical and mental health neglect despite concerns from class members that their conditions will not improve and in some cases be worse if the settlement is approved.