



# BOSTON COLLEGE

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020–2021

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**THE RAPPAPORT CENTER FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Despite a challenging year amidst a global pandemic, the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy forged ahead with programming to maintain meaningful connections with our Boston College community, Rappaport Fellows, Advisory Board members, and government partner agencies. We are deeply thankful to be part of a community that continues its extraordinary dedication to serving the public good.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated issues of equity and inequity. Towards that end, with the urgency to address the most challenging law and public policy issues of today, the Center kicked off the academic year with a webinar entitled, “Civil Rights and Criminal Justice: A Time of Reckoning.” The distinguished experts explored how inherently complex and multidimensional the impact of systemic racism is on the justice system and civil rights. This topic has remained at the forefront of American public discourse and set the theme for the remaining academic year, which included a deep dive into critical issues of racial injustice, socioeconomic disparity, education, public health, and so much more.

In closing the year, the Center joined forces with the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston at the Harvard Kennedy School to launch the “Greater Boston Debate Series.” The initiative was formed to recognize the crucial role state and local governments have in shaping laws and policies that directly impact communities and residents.

We also welcomed Richard Cordray, the esteemed Jerome Lyle Rappaport Distinguished Visiting Professor, in the fall 2020 term. Cordray, the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and a former Ohio Attorney General, drew upon his broad background in government service and consumer advocacy to illuminate significant matters of policy-making. He taught a seminar on consumer finance law and federalism, presented a community lecture, and participated in classes and panel discussions—all remotely—throughout the semester. Cordray recently joined the Biden Administration’s Education Department Office of Federal Student Aid as the top official overseeing the federal government’s \$1.6 trillion student loans and financial aid programs.

Also new this past year, in the spring 2021 term, the Center’s Faculty Director, Professor Dan Kanstroom, offered a seminar to BC Law students to explore contemporary issues at the intersection of law and public policy. The Rappaport Center’s Senior Fellows in Residence, Ajmel Quereshi, senior counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), and Jonathan Miller, legal director at the Public Rights Project (PRP), participated in the seminar, as well as enriched our community through various lectures and one-on-one office hours.

We were once again tremendously impressed by the talent of the Rappaport Center cohort of Fellows and their unwavering flexibility during a challenging, and totally virtual, summer. They were passionate and committed to bettering communities in diverse areas, including education,

access to justice, racial equality, housing, public health, and more. Despite the Fellowship program being entirely online, we provided opportunities for Fellows to meet with public officials and to experience the complexities and rewards of public policy and public service within the highest levels of state and municipal governments. For the first time, we also provided grants to three Fellows to support research and production of white papers on policy topics related to the Fellows' summer placements.

The vision and support of Jerry and Phyllis Rappaport continue to enable the Rappaport Center to encourage the ideal of service to others and to foster respectful discourse on critical issues that impact communities. Law students are given the opportunity to contemplate careers in public policy and public service through Fellowships. We remain grateful for their unwavering dedication and inspiration.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for the leadership of Dean Vincent Rougeau who recently left BC Law after 10 years to join College of the Holy Cross as President. Dean Rougeau was instrumental in bringing the Rappaport Center to BC Law and on behalf of the Rappaport Center team, we thank him for his steadfast support over the years.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth J. Medvedow



Daniel Kanstroom



Cindy Nguyen

## THE RAPPAPORT CENTER FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY



*Jerry and Phyllis Rappaport*

Established through a gift from the Phyllis & Jerome Lyle Rappaport Foundation, the Rappaport Center at BC Law convenes local, state, and national policy makers and thought leaders to engage in dynamic discussions on critical public policy issues. Through forums, conferences, and symposia, experts from government, business, academia, and the non-profit sector address challenging and complex societal problems. To inspire future public leaders, the Rappaport Center offers a Fellows Program for exceptional law students providing education, mentorship, and funding for summer internships in state and local government.

RICHARD CORDRAY

**First Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and Former Ohio Attorney General**



Richard Cordray, the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) created under President Obama and a former Ohio Attorney General, was selected as the Jerome Lyle Rappaport Distinguished Visiting Professor at Boston College Law School for the fall 2020 semester.

Among Cordray's achievements are years in Ohio state government as a legislator, treasurer, solicitor general, and another six years at the CFPB. His book *Watchdog*, published in March 2020, delves into the agency's work on behalf of consumers. He has also taught at Ohio State Law School, argued seven cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and served as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justices Byron White and Anthony Kennedy.

With his multi-faceted career, Cordray drew upon his broad background in government service and consumer advocacy to illuminate critical matters of policy-making during his tenure at BC Law. He taught a seminar entitled "Consumer Finance Law and Federalism," presented a community lecture, and participated in classes and panel discussions—all remotely—throughout the semester.

Cordray's public address at BC Law on September 23 compared the nature and effects of the current financial crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and those of the Great Recession of 2008. Cordray provided background on the economic collapse of 2008, adding that he, like many, never expected to see another similar economic failure. Cordray explained that the Great Recession was marked by two major weaknesses in the U.S.: the housing market and damaged financial channels.

Turning his attention to how the 2008 crisis differed from the current one brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Cordray explained that the unusual nature of the public health crisis has made it difficult to interpret the data related to the economic effects. This led him to ask, "What are the effects on the world's largest economy when it is halted instantaneously as though shutting off a light switch? Can it be switched back on all at once just by listening to government edicts?" These kinds of questions have led Americans into the debate over what the economic recovery will look like in the coming years. Cordray offered three possibilities: a v-shaped recovery, a u-shaped recovery, or a w-shaped recovery.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic, it is difficult to say where the economy will go from here, but Cordray believes there are lessons to be learned from what we've seen so far.

Cordray currently serves as Chief Operating Officer of the Office of Federal Student Aid for the U.S. Department of Education, overseeing the federal government's \$1.6 trillion student loans and financial aid programs in the Biden Administration.

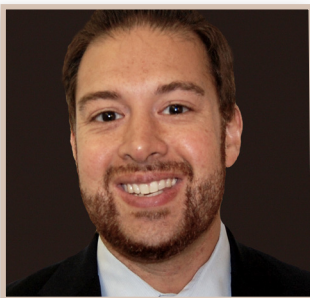
## RAPPAPORT SENIOR FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE 2021

### SENIOR FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy welcomed two Senior Fellows in the spring 2021 term, each of whom taught in the law and public policy seminar, delivered a public lecture, and engaged with the BC and Rappaport communities over separate three-day periods.

Ajmel Quereshi, senior counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), gave a community address entitled, “Defunding vs. Reforming the Police: Varying Approaches to Addressing Police Misconduct in the 21st Century.”

Jonathan Miller, legal director at the Public Rights Project, gave his address, “Towards Equitable Enforcement: Moving Beyond the Squeaky Wheel Problem of a Complaint-Based System.”



*Ajmel Quereshi*

At the NAACP, Quereshi maintains a diverse caseload spearheading LDF’s work in the areas of education and economic justice, among others. In 2019, he led LDF’s efforts in *Bradford v. Maryland State Board of Education*, a case on behalf of a class of school children in Baltimore who had been denied a constitutionally adequate education. In 2018, he served as lead counsel for LDF in multiple suits challenging the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s suspension of housing regulations that would have made housing more accessible and affordable.

Beyond his work at LDF, Quereshi serves as director of the Civil Rights Clinic at Howard University School of Law. He has also taught three courses: Torts, Federal Civil Rights, and Appellate Litigation. Under his direction, the clinic has filed amicus briefs in several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2018, the clinic filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration’s termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. His teaching has been recognized by Harvard Law School, which awarded him a Wasserstein Fellowship in 2016.

Quereshi’s editorial writings have appeared in the *Baltimore Sun* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. In addition, he has published articles in several legal journals on topics ranging from international environmental law to the compatibility of Islam and democracy, and his cases have been featured in *The New York Times* and the *Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, among others.

In his community address at BC Law on March 15, Quereshi took apart a prevailing narrative about police misconduct and sought to reconstruct it in a more multidimensional way. Quereshi argued that proper bias training can make a difference. The two pillars of successful bias training involve rigorous evaluation of the training—measurement of the actions of officers before and after their training—and examination of the policy, procedures, and enforcement practices in place. Quereshi further explained that a reimagination of how to address police misconduct should include tightening the scope of instances in which police are responsible for responding, as well as reallocating specific resources to build up the communities most susceptible to interactions with law enforcement.

## RAPPAPORT SENIOR FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE 2021



*Jonathan Miller*

At the Public Rights Project (PRP), Miller oversees the nonprofit's partnerships with more than 60 state and local government offices, fellowship programs for early-and-mid-career attorneys, and advocacy through litigation, amicus briefs, and strategic engagement. The organization works to bridge the gap between the promise of our laws and the lived experiences of marginalized and historically disenfranchised groups.

Before joining PRP, Miller was chief of the Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. In that role, he oversaw a 150-person team engaged in investigations, litigation, and other advocacy in the areas of civil rights, consumer protection, insurance and financial services, and workers' rights. Miller also served as chief of the Civil Rights Division. He was co-counsel with Attorney General Maura Healey in the successful challenge of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. In addition, he helped lead a team that secured more than \$100 million of consumer relief in an enforcement action against a subprime lender following the last decade's financial crisis.

Miller's portfolio of work has included a wide range of matters, from those brought on behalf of individuals facing housing discrimination or violation of their civil rights to U.S. Supreme Court advocacy on national topics such as affirmative action, reproductive rights, and marriage equality. He has participated actively in significant litigation, regulatory efforts, community engagement, and legislative advocacy throughout his tenure at the Attorney General's Office and now at the Public Rights Project.

More recently, Miller's docket has involved several challenges to President Trump's policy initiatives and administrative actions. For example, he participated in or oversaw Massachusetts's cases challenging the travel bans, the termination of the DACA program, regulations that would permit employers to deny contraceptive coverage to their workers, and several actions by the Department of Education affecting access to relief for students negatively impacted by for-profit schools. He also helped lead an initiative partnering with the Massachusetts Medical Society to develop instructional materials and other information for medical providers to engage in gun safety conversations with their patients.

Miller received a BA in history from Dartmouth College and a JD from Columbia Law School. He has taught courses at Harvard Law School, Northeastern University School of Law, and Suffolk University Law School.

His address to the BC community on March 22 exposed some of the flaws in the existing case-selection model used by prosecutors and other enforcement agencies. Miller posited strategies to illuminate a pathway forward for more effective and equitable enforcement. He pointed out that those who have been historically oppressed have greater distrust or fear of government. With less ability to access the levers of government, these individuals are more likely to experience bureaucratic fatigue and self-doubt. In short, the most vulnerable people are often the ones who stay silent. This issue exacerbates existing inequalities and makes it more difficult for marginalized people to secure the resources and remedies that the law provides.

Miller offered numerous changes to address this problem. These include updates to the legal system, such as addressing biases and rethinking arbitration clauses. Miller also proposes shifting our perspective to highlight the complainant's point of view, as is done in claims made under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

## FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

After having joined Boston College Law School in 2015, the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy underwent a five-year program assessment in December 2020. The results of the assessment revealed there is universal agreement that the Center is fulfilling its mission and has had a tremendous, positive impact on the careers of Rappaport Fellows and on their respective places of employment, including among others, government agencies, institutions of higher education, and the private sector. The Rappaport Center also has significantly enriched the BC Law community and enhanced the BC Law School’s reputation. The Rappaport Center has delivered a rich and varied set of programming, with consideration for delivering programs with balanced viewpoints and diverse panelists.

Five different groups of Rappaport Center stakeholders were surveyed: Fellows, the Advisory Board, BC Law students who had attended at least one Rappaport Center program, Faculty and Staff at BC Law, and Supervisors of Fellows. Ideas raised for future planning included holding programs at venues beyond the BC Law School campus, more active recruitment and support for under-represented Fellows, and enhancing connections with Fellow alumni.

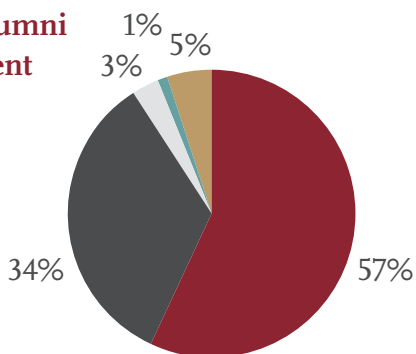
## RAPPAPORT CENTER FELLOWS SURVEY 2001–2018

In response to the five-year program assessment survey, there was interest in understanding more about the career trajectories of the Rappaport Fellows since the Rappaport Center’s inception in 2001. As a result, the Center authorized a second survey sent to 215 Fellows from 2001 through 2018. A total of 76 Fellows responded, constituting a 35% response rate.

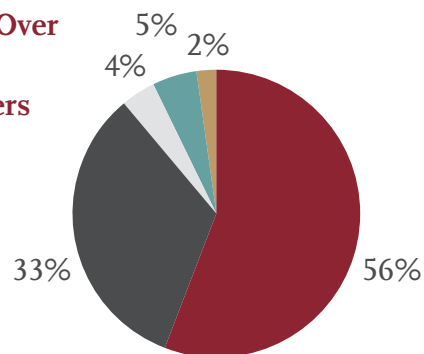
The survey had 18 questions and yielded information supporting one of the primary goals of the Rappaport Center: to provide public sector fellowships that inspire lawyers to spend part of their careers in service to the community and create a pathway to help them do so. Specifically, the Rappaport Center learned that 57% of Fellows currently work in the Public/Non-Profit sector with just slightly fewer (56%) who have worked in the same sector over the course of their careers. The vast majority of Fellows (92%) agreed that the Fellowship has positively impacted their careers.

The Rappaport Center intends to continue our outreach to the Rappaport Fellows alumni community and will explore ways in which to maintain connections with the Rappaport Center.

**Rappaport Alumni  
Fellows Current  
Employment**



**Employment Over  
the Course of  
Fellows’ Careers**



■ Public/Non-Profit   
 ■ Law Firm   
 ■ Academia/Education   
 ■ Judiciary   
 ■ Other

## 2020–2021 PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

After going remote in the spring 2020 term due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Center began the Rappaport Center Webinar Series.

### JULY 1 COVID-19 AND FEDERALISM: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

**Moderator:** Daniel Kanstroom, Professor, Boston College Law School; Faculty Director, Rappaport Center

**Panelists:**

- Elizabeth (Bessie) N. Dewar, Massachusetts State Solicitor
- Michelle Mello, Professor, Stanford Law School
- Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., Former U.S. Solicitor General; Partner, Munger, Tolles & Olson

### SEPT. 3 CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A TIME OF RECKONING

**Moderator:** Geraldine Hines, Former Associate Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; Visiting Professor, Boston College Law School

**Panelists:**

- Anthony J. Benedetti, Chief Counsel, Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS)
- Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, Executive Director, Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)
- Carol Rose, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts



The poster features a background image of a large crowd at a protest. On the left, the text reads: "RAPPAPORT CENTER WEBINAR SERIES", "CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A TIME OF RECKONING", "September 3, 2020", "3:30 - 5:00 PM", and "REGISTER: bit.ly/rappSept3". On the right, a red vertical bar contains the following information: "MODERATOR Geraldine Hines, Former Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; Visiting Professor at Boston College Law School"; "PANELISTS Anthony J. Benedetti, Chief Counsel for the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS); Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, Executive Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR); Carol Rose, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts"; and the Rappaport Center logo and "RAPPAPORT CENTER FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY BOSTON COLLEGE LAW".



SEPT. 15 COVID-19, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:  
THE MASSACHUSETTS PERSPECTIVE

**Moderator: Michael Caljouw**, Vice President for Government and Regulatory Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA); Rappaport Center Advisory Board Member

**Panelists:**

- **Gary D. Anderson**, Commissioner, Massachusetts Division of Insurance
- **Cindy F. Friedman**, Massachusetts State Senator, 4th Middlesex District



SEPT. 23 COMPARING THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE COVID CRISIS OF  
2020 WITH THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OF 2008

Jerome Lyle Rappaport Distinguished Visiting Professor in Law and Public Policy  
Community Address

**Richard Cordray**, First Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB); Former Ohio Attorney General; Jerome Lyle Rappaport Distinguished Visiting Professor in Law and Public Policy

## 2020–2021 PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

### OCT. 8 RANKED CHOICE VOTING: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

**Co-Sponsor:** The Good Governance Project, Boston College Law Student Organization

**Moderator:** Sue O'Connell, Commentator and Analyst, New England Cable News (NECN)

**Panelists:**

- **Jennifer C. Braceras**, Director, Independent Women's Law Center; Board Member, Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance
- **Evan Falchuk**, Chair, Yes on 2 Committee; CEO, VillagePlan; 2014 Candidate for Governor

**RAPPAPORT CENTER WEBINAR SERIES**

# RANKED CHOICE VOTING: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Thursday, October 8, 2020 | 2 - 3 PM  
REGISTER: [bit.ly/rappOct8](https://bit.ly/rappOct8)

Join us for a debate on Ranked Choice Voting.

**Co-Sponsor:** BC Law Student Organization, The Good Governance Project

**PANELISTS**

- JENNIFER C. BRACERAS**  
Director of the Independent Women's Law Center; Board Member, Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, which opposes RCV
- EVAN FALCHUK**  
Chair of the Yes on 2 Committee; CEO, VillagePlan; 2014 candidate for Governor

**MODERATOR**

- SUE O'CONNELL**  
Commentator and analyst at New England Cable News (NECN)

RAPPAPORT CENTER FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY  
BOSTON COLLEGE LAW

### OCT. 29 RACE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND: THE PATH FORWARD IN MASSACHUSETTS

Introduction by **Patricia A. McCoy**, Liberty Mutual Insurance Professor of Law, Boston College Law School

**Moderator:** **Richard Cordray**, First Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB); Former Ohio Attorney General; Jerome Lyle Rappaport Distinguished Visiting Professor in Law and Public Policy

**Panelists:**

- **William "Mo" Cowan**, President, Global Government Affairs and Policy (GAP) and Developed Markets, General Electric Co. (GE); Former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts
- **Tanisha M. Sullivan BCLS'02**, Associate General Counsel, Sanofi Genzyme; President, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Boston Branch; Rappaport Center Advisory Board Member
- **Karen E. Spilka**, Massachusetts Senate President (D-Ashland)

# 2020–2021 PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

RAPPAPORT CENTER WEBINAR SERIES

## RACE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND: THE PATH FORWARD IN MASSACHUSETTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM | REGISTER: [bit.ly/rappOct29](https://bit.ly/rappOct29)

Introduction by **PATRICIA A. MCCOY**, Liberty Mutual Insurance Professor of Law, Boston College Law School

**MODERATOR**



**RICHARD CORDRAY**,  
first Director of the Consumer  
Financial Protection Bureau  
(CFPB); former Ohio  
Attorney General; Rappaport  
Distinguished Visiting Professor

**PANELISTS**



**WILLIAM "MO" COWAN**,  
President, Global Government  
Affairs and Policy (GAP) and  
Developed Markets for General  
Electric Co. (GE); former U.S.  
Senator from Massachusetts



**TANISHA M. SULLIVAN, BCLS'02**  
Associate General Counsel,  
Sanofi Genzyme; President,  
NAACP | Boston; Rappaport  
Center Advisory Board Member



**KAREN E. SPILKA**,  
Massachusetts Senate  
President (D-Ashland)

 **RAPPAPORT CENTER**  
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY  
BOSTON  
COLLEGE **LAW**

## FEB. 2 POLICE REFORM IN MASSACHUSETTS: NEXT STEPS

**Moderator:** **Tanisha M. Sullivan BCLS'02**, Associate General Counsel, Sanofi Genzyme; President, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Boston Branch; Rappaport Center Advisory Board Member

**Panelists:**

- **Carlos González**, Massachusetts Representative (D-10th Hampden); Former Chair, Black and Latino Legislative Caucus
- **Iván Espinoza-Madrigal**, Executive Director, Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)
- **Brian Kyes**, Chief of Police, Chelsea Police Department; President, Massachusetts Major City Chiefs of Police Association
- **Ajmel Quereshi**, Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF); 2021 Senior Fellow, Rappaport Center

RAPPAPORT CENTER WEBINAR SERIES

## POLICE REFORM IN MASSACHUSETTS: NEXT STEPS

**MODERATOR**



**TANISHA M. SULLIVAN**  
BCLS'02, Associate General Counsel,  
Sanofi Genzyme; President, NAACP |  
Boston; Rappaport Center Advisory  
Board Member



**CARLOS GONZÁLEZ**  
Massachusetts  
Representative (D-10th  
Hampden); Former Chair,  
Black and Latino Legislative  
Caucus



**IVÁN ESPINOZA-MADRIGAL**  
Executive Director, Lawyers  
for Civil Rights (LCR)



**BRIAN KYES**  
Chief of Police, Chelsea  
Police Department;  
President, Massachusetts  
Major City Chiefs of Police  
Association

**PANELISTS**



**AJMEL QUERESHI**  
Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal  
Defense and Educational Fund  
(LDF); 2021 Senior Fellow,  
Rappaport Center

 **TUESDAY**  
FEB. 2, 2021  **4:00 -**  
5:30 PM  **HOSTED ONLINE ONLY**  
REGISTER: [bit.ly/rappaportFeb2](https://bit.ly/rappaportFeb2)  **RAPPAPORT CENTER**  
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY  
BOSTON  
COLLEGE **LAW**

## 2020–2021 PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

### FEB. 16 EVICTIONS: CONSEQUENTIAL CRISES

**Moderator:** **Norrinda Hayat**, Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Civil Justice Clinic, Rutgers Law School

**Panelists:**

- **Callie Clark**, Director of Policy & Co-Director of Center for Housing Data, Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP)
- **Katie McCann**, Community Organizer, City Life/Vida Urbana
- **Andrea M. Park**, Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)
- **Trevor Samios**, Vice President, WinnCompanies



### FEB. 25 THINKING ABOUT LEADERSHIP FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

**Jay Kaufman**, Founding President of Beacon Leadership Collaborative; Former Massachusetts State Representative

### MARCH 15 DEFUNDING VS. REFORMING THE POLICE: VARYING APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING POLICE MISCONDUCT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Senior Fellow in Residence Community Address

**Ajmel Quereshi**, Senior Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; 2021 Senior Fellow

### MARCH 22 TOWARDS EQUITABLE ENFORCEMENT: MOVING BEYOND THE SQUEAKY WHEEL PROBLEM OF A COMPLAINT-BASED SYSTEM

Senior Fellow in Residence Community Address

**Jonathan Miller**, Legal Director, Public Rights Project; 2021 Senior Fellow

## 2020–2021 PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

### MARCH 29 EQUITY GAPS IN EDUCATION: WHAT NOW?

**Co-Sponsor:** Boston College Carolyn A. and Peter S. Lynch School of Education and Human Development

**Moderator:** **Rebekah Levine Coley**, Chair and Professor, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College; Rappaport Center Advisory Board Member

**Panelists:**

- **Neema Avashia**, 8th Grade Civics Teacher, Boston Public Schools; Educational Activist
- **Marice Edouard-Vincent**, Superintendent, Medford Public Schools (MA)
- **Na'ilah Suad Nasir**, President, Spencer Foundation

The graphic features a teal and blue color scheme with a background image of a classroom. It includes the following text and images:

- RAPPAPORT CENTER WEBINAR SERIES**
- EQUITY GAPS IN EDUCATION: WHAT NOW?**
- MODERATOR**  
**REBEKAH LEVINE COLEY**  
Chair and Professor, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College; Rappaport Center Advisory Board Member
- PANELISTS**
  - NEEMA AVASHIA**  
8th Grade Civics Teacher, Boston Public Schools; Educational Activist
  - MARICE EDOUARD-VINCENT**  
Superintendent, Medford Public Schools (MA)
  - NA'ILAH SUAD NASIR**  
President, Spencer Foundation
- CO-SPONSOR: BOSTON COLLEGE CAROLYN A. AND PETER S. LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
- MONDAY**  
**March 29, 2021**  
**4:00 - 5:30 PM**
- REGISTER:**  
**[bit.ly/rappMar29](https://bit.ly/rappMar29)**
- RAPPAPORT CENTER FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY**  
**BOSTON COLLEGE LAW**
- BOSTON COLLEGE**  
Carolyn A. and Peter S. Lynch School of Education and Human Development

### APRIL 21 HOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE

**Moderators:**

- **Elizabeth Campbell**, Rising 3L, Boston College Law School
- **Elizabeth Platonova**, Rising 3L, Boston College Law School

**Panelists:**

- **Lydia Edwards**, Boston City Councilor, District One
- **Nika Elugardo**, Massachusetts State Representative (D-15th Suffolk)
- **Samantha Perlman**, Marlborough City Councilor at Large; Incoming 1L, Boston College Law School
- **Bradley Jones**, Massachusetts State Representative (R-20th Middlesex); Minority Leader

## 2020–2021 PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

### GREATER BOSTON DEBATE SERIES: A NEW INITIATIVE

More than ever, state and local governments have a critical role in shaping laws and policies that directly impact communities and residents. This past year, the ability and responsibility of state and local governments to address emergent needs have risen to the forefront. From economic devastation to racial justice movements, state and local governments maintain a unique role in achieving and sustaining progress on a long-term basis. How do we ensure equitable policies and laws for all our residents?

Recognizing that communities consist of diverse residents and perspectives and that problems and solutions need to be addressed in a multi-dimensional way, the Rappaport Center and our sister organization, the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston at Harvard Kennedy School, launched an annual debate series in summer 2021 to create ongoing forums for meaningful dialogues. Both organizations continue to enrich the Greater Boston communities by galvanizing the region's scholars, students, policymakers, and thought leaders to engage in dynamic conversations and research on important public policy issues. The 2021 debates will focus on police reform, transportation, housing, and education.

#### MAY 25 GREATER BOSTON DEBATE SERIES: "SHOULD QUALIFIED IMMUNITY FOR POLICE BE REDEFINED?"

**Moderator:** Tiziana Dearing, Host of Radio Boston on WBUR

**Panelists:**

- Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, Executive Director, Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)
- Leonard H. Kesten, Partner, Brody, Hardoon, Perkins & Kesten

#### JUNE 23 GREATER BOSTON DEBATE SERIES: "CAN (AND SHOULD) PUBLIC TRANSIT BE FREE?"

**Moderator:** Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Executive Director, 128 Business Council and Rappaport Institute Advisory Board member

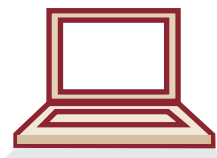
**Panelists:**

- David Bragdon, Executive Director, TransitCenter, NYC
- Stacy Thompson, Executive Director, LivableStreets

## 2020–2021 RAPPAPORT DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC POLICY SERIES



42  
speakers



14  
webinars



1,185  
viewers

## 2020–2021 RAPPAPORT FELLOWS

The Rappaport Fellows Program in Law and Public Policy provides gifted law students committed to public policy careers with opportunities to experience the complexities and rewards of public policy and public service within the highest levels of state and municipal governments. Each summer, the Center supports 12 students with generous stipends to work in a state or local government agency, during which students work with top policymakers, participate in weekly experiential programming, and are mentored by members of the Rappaport Center Advisory Board, former Fellows, or legal practitioners from the community.

The Rappaport Fellowships offer a first-hand look at the life of public policy lawyers and the influence these legal professionals have on the quality of life in our local communities, state, and nation. The Rappaport Fellows Program aims to inspire future civic leaders and policymakers to make a difference in society.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Fellowship program, the Rappaport Fellows and the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy were featured in the *Boston Globe* on October 8, 2020. For the last 20 years, the Rappaport Fellows Program has provided more than 230 law students opportunities to experience government service at the state and local level, focusing on public policy and law. Read the article: [bit.ly/rapp-BostonGlobe](https://bit.ly/rapp-BostonGlobe).



### **LINETTE DULUC**

Law School: Suffolk University Law School, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Duluc graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2015 with a BS in Biology, where through her service work, she discovered a passion for community health. She obtained a Master of Public Health degree at Boston University School of Public Health in 2018 with a concentration in monitoring and evaluation and was inducted into the Delta Omega National Honor Society. Her interest in healthcare grew in graduate school when she completed her practicum in Morelos, Mexico. There, she assessed the linkage rate to care in patients with diabetes and provided sexual education workshops to middle and high school students. After obtaining her master's, Duluc worked as a research associate in the pharmaceutical consulting field. She is passionate about improving health outcomes and access to healthcare for underserved communities.

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**ROBERT GIPSON II**

Law School: Boston University School of Law, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Office of Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu

Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Gipson recently moved to Massachusetts to pursue his legal education at Boston University School of Law. Prior to law school, he followed a nontraditional path to complete his undergraduate degree, starting at a community college, moving to the United States Military Academy at West Point, and finishing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) with a BA in Criminal Justice and a minor in Communication Studies.

During his studies at UNLV, Gipson created an organization to improve public discourse on controversial topics. Further, the occurrence of the mass shooting in Las Vegas ultimately led to his work for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada at the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center. There, Gipson was a legal victim advocate for shooting survivors and other violent crime victims, providing service on various legal matters, navigation of victim compensation programs and critical resources, and access to healthcare. Gipson is deeply passionate about civil rights, policy around gun violence, and access to justice.



**VANNESSA LAWRENCE**

Law School: Boston College Law School, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

Lawrence graduated from Colgate University in 2019, majoring in Sociology with a minor in Educational Studies, *cum laude*. While there, she discovered her passion for studying the intersections of race, socio-economic status, gender, and education through extensive qualitative and quantitative research. She put her interests to work abroad when she met with organizers of a social movement for the decolonization of education.



**CATHERINE "CATE" MCANULTY**

Law School: Harvard Law School, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

McAnulty is a 2016 graduate of Boston College, where she majored in Studio Art with a minor in Medical Humanities, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa. Before law school, Cate worked at the Massachusetts State House as the chief of staff for State Representative James O'Day. There, she developed an interest in health policy solutions to complex issues including opioid addiction and maternal mental health, which spurred her decision to attend law school. Born and raised in Oregon, McAnulty enjoys spending her spare time hiking, crafting, and generally being around trees.



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**CHRIS MCDONOUGH**

Law School: Northeastern University School of Law, 2021 Graduate  
Fellowship Placement: City of Boston Law Department

McDonough graduated in 2011 from Hampshire College, where he studied comparative literature. Prior to law school, he held many positions in technology, including as a project and product manager on software development teams. He completed internships in the office of State Senator Jamie Eldridge and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. A lifelong Massachusetts resident, McDonough is proud to have been selected as a Rappaport Fellow.



**KRISTOPHER “KRIS” PHIPPS**

Law School: Boston College Law School, Rising 3L  
Fellowship Placement: Massachusetts Inspector General’s Office

Phipps is a 2016 graduate of Temple University, where he double-majored in Political Science and Strategic Communication, focusing on Rhetoric and Public Advocacy. Prior to law school, he served as policy director for Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus Chair, Representative Joanna McClinton. Working for West and Southwest Philadelphia constituents, Phipps filled a number of roles, primarily working on legislation addressing criminal justice and prison reform. He is particularly interested in the intersection of poverty and law and hopes to pursue a legal career helping underserved members of society.



**KRISTEN ROSA**

Law School: Boston College Law School, Rising 3L  
Fellowship Placement: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Rosa is a graduate of Smith College and a law student at Boston College Law School, as well as a dual degree candidate for an MEd at the Lynch School of Education. She began her career as a Teach for America corps member as a guest on Sicangu Lakota land, on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. On Rosebud, Rosa taught high school English language arts and psychology for three years. She was also the English Department chair and freshmen grade leader, and a proud member of the teachers union. Following her time in the classroom, Rosa became a data facilitator and school coach at New Visions for Public Schools in New York City. She worked exclusively with transfer schools, alternative public high schools for over-age and under-credited students.

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**JULIA SAUVE**

Law School: Boston College Law School, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Committee for Public Counsel Services

Sauve is a 2014 graduate of Boston College, where she earned a BA in Economics. Before enrolling at Boston College Law School, she worked with orphanages and underprivileged youth in Tanzania, Vietnam, and Tijuana, Mexico. She spent nine months in Southeast Asia, two-and-a-half years in Tijuana, and time in Africa and Central America. In Tijuana, Sauve opened a shelter for orphaned and vulnerable children. She collaborated with Mexican authorities to help protect youth who were victims of exploitation and abuse. In furtherance of her efforts in Tijuana, she founded Agape Kids, Inc., a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Sauve also worked for two Boston-area law firms, one specializing in family law and the other specializing in personal injury. Her experiences have instilled within her a deep sense of duty to help victims of violence and abuse and a desire for justice on their behalf. She hopes to use her legal education and career to promote opportunities, resources, and support for at-risk youth.



**JAIME WATSON**

Law School: Northeastern University School of Law, 2021 Graduate

Fellowship Placement: Office of Representative Natalie Higgins, Massachusetts House of Representatives

Watson is a 2012 graduate of Arizona State University, where she earned her bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Women and Gender studies. Her studies and employment have focused on achieving gender equity. Watson worked extensively in providing direct support to survivors of sexual and domestic violence as a legal advocate with Sojourner Center, a domestic violence shelter in Phoenix, and as a Teaching Assistant with the Legal Assistance to Victims Project at the Domestic Violence Institute of the Northeastern University School of Law. Watson led statewide advocacy efforts and drafted successful legislative initiatives as the public information officer/legislative liaison at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and the Public Policy Advocate at the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.

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**CAITLIN WHITMAN**

Law School: New England Law | Boston, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)

Whitman is a graduate of Lesley University, where she earned a BS in Counseling Psychology. At New England Law | Boston, she plans to focus on civil rights and public interest work. Prior to law school, Whitman was a supervisor at Franciscan Children's Community Based Acute Treatment unit, a short-term residential program for children and adolescents experiencing behavioral and emotional difficulties. She also worked at a large immigration law firm and in a solo practitioner's office, concentrating on employee-side employment and discrimination law. Whitman has a strong interest in social justice and in fighting for all forms of equity.



**RACHAEL WYANT**

Law School: Northeastern University School of Law, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Office of Massachusetts State Senator Joan Lovely

Wyant is currently a Public Interest Law Scholar at Northeastern University School of Law. She graduated from Boston University with a BA in Political Science and later received an MA in International Development from The New School, where she studied international human rights law and labor protections for undocumented migrant workers. Before law school, Wyant spent time in New York City working in policy advocacy at the UN, focusing on gender equity and economic development. Most recently, she worked at a social justice nonprofit supporting city and state agencies that integrate racial equity into legislation and institutional change processes. Wyant is interested in furthering community leadership and engagement in local government and continuing her policy advocacy work from a legal perspective through the Rappaport Fellows Program.



**ADAM ZWETCHKENBAUM**

Law School: University of Massachusetts School of Law, Rising 3L

Fellowship Placement: Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Zwetchkenbaum is a graduate of Framingham State University, where he earned his BA in Psychology and had his work published in the *Framingham State Journal of Behavioral Sciences*. Prior to law school, he worked as a manager at small trade companies before deciding to change careers. Zwetchkenbaum's goal in the legal field is to positively impact the lives of vulnerable individuals and groups and be a resource in helping others lead self-directed, fulfilling lives. He is interested in philosophy, particularly Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Existentialism, and believes that philosophy is a valuable tool in developing an ethically-minded and inquisitive approach to work and life.

## FELLOW RESEARCH GRANTS: A NEW INITIATIVE

In an effort to further academic opportunities for Fellows, the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy launched a new initiative to provide grants for research on law and public policy related to the Fellows' internships culminating in a white paper. Three 2020 Fellows were awarded the inaugural grants. Throughout the 2020–2021 academic year, they conducted their research and produced their papers with support and mentorship from the Rappaport Center Faculty Director and Boston College Law School Professor Daniel Kanstroom.

The three 2020 Fellows who received the inaugural grants are:

**Kristopher Phipps**, Boston College Law School

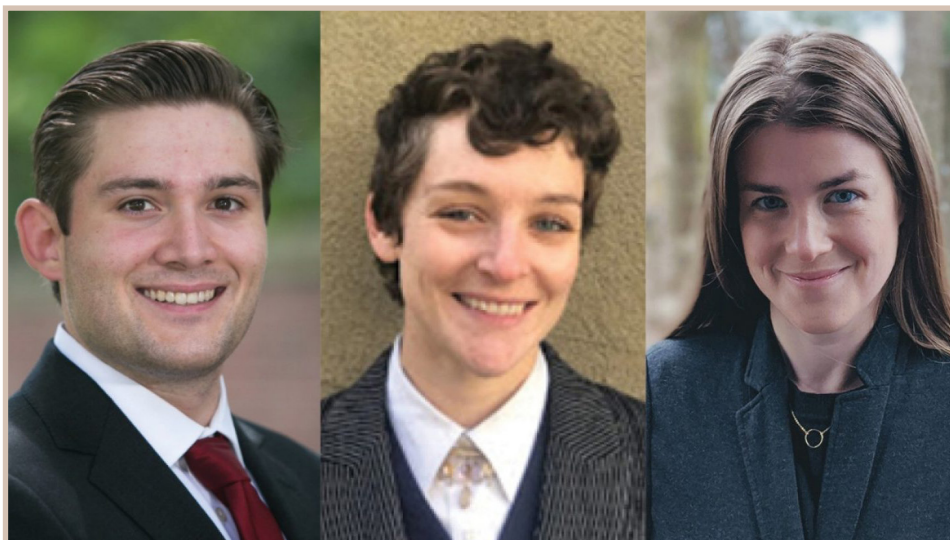
Research Topic: Examining the institutional design of federal inspectors general in comparison to those on the state level.

**Kristen Rosa**, Boston College Law School

Research Topic: Investigating derivative disclosure regulations regarding student information under both federal and state law.

**Rachael Wyant**, Northeastern University School of Law

Research Topic: Exploring the role and constraints of executive powers in a public health emergency, highlighting the particular constitutional issues emerging in Massachusetts as Governor Baker extends the COVID-19 state of emergency and issues executive orders under the Civil Defense Act of 1950 (CDA).



*From the left: Kristopher “Kris” Phipps, Kristen Rosa, and Rachael Wyant*

## RAPPAPORT FELLOWS PROGRAM EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The 2020 Rappaport Center Fellows had a productive and exciting summer. In addition to working at government agencies, the Fellows participated in weekly experiential learning forums to explore the intersection of law and public policy. Despite not being able to be in person, the Rappaport Center, in conjunction with the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston at Harvard Kennedy School, which runs a Fellows program for non-law graduate students interested in public policy, established a virtual Speaker Series. The Fellows had the chance to speak with elected officials, government representatives, judges, lawyers, and community leaders on topics including municipal governance, criminal justice, housing, transportation, and racial equity.

The Rappaport Center Fellows met with the following officials and policymakers over the course of the summer:

- Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins
- NAACP Boston President Tanisha Sullivan
- MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak
- Former Executive Director of Prisoner's Legal Services Leslie Walker
- Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu
- The late Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ralph Gants
- Chair of the Governor's COVID-19 Response Team Steve Kadish



*NAACP Boston President Tanisha Sullivan*

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The Advisory Board for the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy assists Center leadership in making strategic decisions on Center policies and programming. The Board is composed of some of the most experienced law and public policy leaders in New England.

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*City Councilor*  
City of Boston, Massachusetts

DRAFT

From the left: “Criminal Justice: Looking Ahead” (March 9, 2020) panelists Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan, and U.S. Senator Ed Markey; Not pictured: Massachusetts State Senator Will Brownsberger





**RAPPAPORT CENTER**  
FOR LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY  
**BOSTON COLLEGE | LAW**

*Prepared by the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy and  
the Office of University Advancement*

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or Teal Cole at [teal.cole@bc.edu](mailto:teal.cole@bc.edu) or 617-552-2016.*

*We invite you to visit our website and follow our activities at:  
[bc.edu/rappaport](http://bc.edu/rappaport)*

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