

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

Hurry and register for KY Human Rights and UK Law Symposium on January 27 at UK Law School for 50th Anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966-see agenda below

Press Release
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On Wednesday, January 27, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, in conjunction with the University of Kentucky College of Law, will present a "Law Symposium Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act." The law was signed by Gov. Edward T. Breathitt on Jan. 27, 1966. The one day symposium will be presented at the UK College of Law. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. (EST), and the program will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Join with Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, Ky. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Minton, Jr., Ky., Attorney General Andy Beshear, and Kentucky Bar Association President Douglass Farnsley, who will be among the guest speakers.

The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Patricia Timmons-Goodson, vice chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Prior to her appointment by U.S. Pres. Barack Obama to this position in July 2014, she served as an associate justice on the Supreme Court of North Carolina from 2006 to 2012. She served as an associate judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals from 1997 to 2005 and a district court judge of the 12th Judicial District of North Carolina from 1984 to 1997. She is a nationally recognized scholar and jurist.

To register, follow this link or copy the link into the internet website browser:
<http://law.uky.edu/academics/registration-civil-rights-act-symposium> . Or call Mary Ann Taylor of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights to register at 502.566.9961 or email her at maryann.taylor@ky.govKy.

The symposium will consist of speakers and panelists of judges, lawyers and activists prominent in the civil rights arena. They will discuss general topics of interest. Students and activists will be asked to participate by posing questions throughout the symposium.

Gov. Edward T. Breathitt signed the Kentucky Civil Rights Act into law on Jan. 27, 1966. The Act [Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 344] made segregation and discrimination illegal. It remains one of the most

significant pieces of legislation of the last 50 years. At the time of its passage, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. noted, “[It] is the strongest and most comprehensive civil rights bill passed by a southern state.”

The agenda is being finalized and, thus far, consists of the following:

Registration: 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Presiding Remarks, John J. Johnson, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Executive Director

Greetings and Welcoming Remarks, George Stinson, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Chair

David Brennen, University of Kentucky College of Law Dean and Professor

Eli Capilouto, University of Kentucky President

Entertainment

Kentucky School for the Deaf Signing Choir, Kentucky School for the Deaf, directed by Ann Arnold and Barb Snapp

Guest Remarks

Kentucky Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton

Attorney General of Kentucky Andy Beshear

Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice John D. Minton Jr.

Kentucky Bar Association Board of Governors President Douglass Farnsley

Panel Discussion, “The Way We Were -- Life in Kentucky before the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966”

Moderator

Kentucky Conference of NAACP Branches President Raoul Cunningham

“It’s been said, those who fail to remember their past are doomed to repeat it”

This panel will consist of persons who actually experienced life in Kentucky prior to the passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966. The panelists will open a window to a period in our not so distant past which many of us prefer not to remember, but dare not forget – a period in which African Americans and other minorities routinely suffered the scourge and humiliation of discrimination in employment and public accommodations. It’s difficult for persons, even a single generation removed from that disturbing period, to believe that African Americans in Kentucky were often routinely prohibited from entering restaurants, movie theatres or other places of public accommodation simply because of their race or the color of their skin. Even after passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, Kentucky remained highly segregated, and discrimination continued to be practiced by state law and by custom.

After the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 was passed, state laws that authorized or permitted discrimination in employment and public became null and void. In addition, the enforcement powers of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 provided victims of discrimination ready access to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and Kentucky Circuit Courts to obtain monetary and injunctive relief. With the stroke of a pen, the right to be free from discrimination in employment and public accommodations became more than a distant dream in Kentucky – it became an enforceable reality.

Panelists

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Former Commissioner Reverend Thurman Coleman

Kentucky Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights Chair Dr. Betty Griffin

Retired Educator Valinda Livingston

Louisville/Metro Council (8th District) and Archivist for Regional History, Archives and Special Collections,
University of Louisville Tom Owen

Lexington Fayette County Urban Leagues President and CEO Porter G. Peeples

Former Mayor of Ashland, Kentucky and Former Chair of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights David
Welch

Introduction of Keynote Speaker, University of Kentucky, College of Law Dean David Brennan

Keynote Address, US Commission on Civil Rights Vice Chair Patricia Timmons-Goodson

The Honorable Patricia Timmons-Goodson will deliver the symposium's keynote address. In July 2014, she was appointed by President Obama to serve as Vice Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Prior to her appointment, she served as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of North Carolina from 2006 to 2012. She served as an Associate Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals from 1997 to 2005 and a District Court Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District of North Carolina from 1984 to 1997. She is a nationally recognized scholar and jurist.

LUNCH BREAK FROM NOON TO 1:30 P.M.

Afternoon Topics: "Where we are and where we're going"

II. Discussion

Nourishing the dream: "The Role of Law Schools to Encourage Law Students to Pursue the Practice and Advancement of Civil Rights Law"

University of Kentucky College of Law Dean David Brennan

University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law Dean Susan Duncan

Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law Dean Jeffrey A. Standen

In this segment, the deans of Kentucky's three law schools will discuss what policies, programs and practices are in place and/or are being pursued to expose students to the challenges and rewards of civil rights law and to encourage them to consider engaging in the practice of civil rights law upon completion of their law studies.

III. Speaker

"Breaking Barriers: It's Personal -- Overcoming Disability Discrimination as a Law Student, Lawyer and Judge"

Jefferson District Court Judge David L. Holton II

As Kentucky's only judge who is blind, Judge Holton will provide a unique perspective on the daily challenges and barriers faced by disabled persons in Kentucky. Since its original passage in 1966, the Kentucky Civil Rights Act has been amended to include "disability" as a protected class in employment, public accommodations, and housing. Obviously, barriers remain.

IV. Interview and Discussion

Trends in Fair Housing Law: "Where we've been and where we're going"

University of Kentucky College of Law Professor Robert Schwemm,

Lexington Fair Housing Council Executive Director Art Crosby

V. Panel Discussion

“Where do we go from here...Issues of Civil and Human Rights that must be addressed”

Moderator

University of Kentucky College of Law Professor Cortney E. Lollar,

Professor Lollar will moderate this panel which will discuss multiple topics of current concern with an emphasis on what issues pertaining to civil rights need to be addressed going forward and how state and local agencies can help achieve these goals. How can we achieve greater protections for the LGBT and immigrant communities? How can we combat housing segregation, and encourage greater integration of our segregated neighborhoods? At what point does freedom of speech and religion trump civil rights? When does private derogatory speech directed at an employee or neighbor because of their race or national origin become actionable discrimination under the civil rights act? When can a person be denied the goods and services of a business because of the owner’s sincerely held religious belief? These and other issues will be discussed by well-respected scholars and activists in the civil rights community, including:

Panelists

Kentucky American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Michael Aldridge

Attorney/Civil Rights Activist JoAnne Bland of Elizabethtown, Kentucky

Metropolitan Housing Coalition (Louisville) Executive Director, Cathy Hinko

Maxwell Street Legal Clinic Program (Lexington) Director Guion Johnstone

Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission Executive Director Carolyn Miller-Cooper

University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law Professor/Constitutional Law Scholar Cedric Merlin Powell

Lexington-Fayette Civil Rights Commission Executive Director Ray Sexton

Lexington-Fayette Civil Rights Commission Attorney Ed Dove

(There will be students, organization representatives and activists within the civil rights community who will participate by asking questions of presenters and panelists as time permits.)

VI. Presentation of the Georgia Davis Powers Legacy Award

VII. Reception sponsored by the Univeresity of Kentucky Alumni Association

CLOSING REMARKS

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Executive Director John J. Johnson

University of Kentucky College of Law Dean and Professor David Brennan

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government agency that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and the U.S. Civil Rights Act, both of which make discrimination unlawful