

Atiba Rondell Ellis

Morris G. Shanker Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Enrichment and Engagement
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

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EDUCATION

Duke University School of Law

- Juris Doctor, May 2000
- William Louis-Dreyfus Scholar

Duke University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

- Master of Arts, History, May 2000
- Thesis (unpublished): *The Veil of Neutrality: The Poll Tax in Virginia 1903-1966*

Duke University Trinity College of Arts and Sciences

- Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, with Distinction in History, May 1996
- Honors Thesis: *The Rhetoric of Liberty: John Wesley and the Political Rhetoric of the American Revolution*

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, OH

Professor of Law, January 2023 to present

Associate Dean for Enrichment and Engagement, July 2025 to present

Morris G. Shanker Professor of Law, October 2025 to present

Laura B. Chisolm Distinguished Research Scholar, January 2023 to October 2025

Arthur W. Fiske Lecturer, Fall 2023

Courses

- Election Law and Policy
- Civil Rights Litigation (Section 1983)
- Critical Race Theory
- Trusts and Estates
- Property

Associate Dean Responsibilities

- Leading initiatives to promote a culture of respect and opportunity that help build community for all members in the law school
- Supporting co- and extra- curricular programming that fosters intellectual engagement and critical educational inquiry from a range of perspectives
- Advising law school leadership, student leadership, faculty, and other law school constituencies on professional and leadership development
- Ensuring compliance with ABA and other regulations directed at professional formation and cultural competency

Other Service

- Admissions (2023 to present)
- Appointments (2024 to present)
- Curriculum (2024 to present)
- Dean Search Committee (Spring 2024)
- CWRU Faculty Senate (Interim Senator, 2024-25)
- Member, New Scholar Committee, Southeastern Association of Law Schools (2014 to present)
- AALS Section on Election Law (2018 to present) (Section Chair 2019-2020)

Volunteer Activity

- Judge, *We the People State Tournament*, Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, Columbus, Ohio, January 31, 2025

Marquette University School of Law, Milwaukee, WI

Professor of Law, August 2018 to December 2022

Boden Visiting Professor of Law, Fall 2017

Courses

- Election Law and Policy
- Civil Rights Litigation (Section 1983)
- Race Racism and American Law
- Race and the Constitution
- Voting Rights Seminar
- Race, Representation and Democracy
- Trusts and Estates
- Property

Major Service

- Chair, Law School Diversity Committee (2019 to 2022)
- Member, Appointments Committee (2018-19; 2021-2022)
- Member, University Academic Senate (2020 to 2022)
- Member, University Committee on Research (2019 to 2022)
- Member, Provost's Task Force on University Tenure Buyout Policy (Spring 2021)
- Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory, Inc., Board Member (2014 to 2022)
- Race Ethnicity and Indigenous Studies Program, participating faculty

West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, WV

Professor of Law, June 2015 to July 2018

Associate Professor of Law, July 2009 to June 2015

Courses

- Election Law and Policy
- Civil Rights Litigation (Section 1983)
- Race Racism and American Law
- Trusts and Estates
- Estate Planning
- Property
- WVU Law in Brazil Study Abroad

Committees and Major Service

- Advisory Committee, West Virginia University Humanities Center (2017 to 2018)
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2012 to 2018) (Co-Chair 2012-2016)
- WVU Law Alumni Magazine Editorial Board (2013-18)
- Promotion and Tenure Reporting Committee (2015-16)
- WVU Law Dean Search Committee (2014-2015)
- Faculty Appointments Committee (2010-2012)
- Subcommittee on Compliance and Assessment, Diversity Working Group for the 2020 Strategic Plan, West Virginia University (Chair) (2010)
- *Ad hoc* Committee on Policies and Procedures, West Virginia University Black Faculty Association (Chair) (2010)

Community Activities

- West Virginia State Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (2015 to 2019) (Chair, Project Planning Committee)
- Advisory Board, J.R. Clifford Project, Charleston, W.V. (2010 to 2019)

Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C.

Legal Writing Instructor, August 2006 to June 2009 (full time member of the governing faculty)

Courses

- Legal Reasoning Research and Writing
- Appellate Advocacy

Major Professional Activities

- *Star Trek and the Law Enrichment Series* (co-taught with Associate Dean Okainer Christian Dark and Professor Andrew Taslitz).
- Co-Director Alternative Spring Break Program (sponsored students to provide legal assistance in New Orleans, LA post-Hurricane Katrina) (with Professor Josephine Ross).

RESEARCH**Books and Book Chapters**

Voter Registration in [OXFORD GUIDE TO AMERICAN ELECTION LAW](#), E. Mazo, ed. (Oxford University Press 2024).

[RACE RACISM AND AMERICAN LAW: LEADING CASES AND MATERIALS](#) (with the late Derrick Bell, Cheryl Harris, Justin Hansford, Amna Akbar, and Audrey MacFarlane) (Aspen Publishing 2023)

It Ain't My Fault: Hip Hop, Confrontation, and Contemplation from the Jazz Perspective in [HIP HOP AND THE LAW](#) (Pamela Bridgewater, et. al, eds., Carolina Academic Press 2015).

Articles and Essays

[Unequal Access: The Perpetual Struggle for Voting Rights and the Case of Wisconsin](#), 3 FORDHAM L. VOTING RTS. & DEMOCRACY F. 1 (2024) (with Benjamin Edelstein and Mark L. Thomsen)

[*Democracy and the Common Good: Perils and Possibilities for a Multiracial Twenty-First Century America*](#), 101 U. DETROIT MERCY L. REV. ONLINE (2023)

[*“This Lawsuit Smacks of Racism”: Disinformation, Racial Coding, and the 2020 Election*](#), 82 LA L. REV. 453 (2022)

[*The Voting Rights Paradox: Ideology and the Incompleteness of American Democratic Practice*](#), 55 GA. L. REV. 1553 (2021)

[*Bug or Feature: The Long-Intertwined Legacy of Disinformation, Voting, and Race*](#), 100 B.U. L. REV. ONLINE 238 (2020)

[*Voter Fraud as an Epistemic Crisis for the Right to Vote*](#), 71 MERCER L. REV. 757 (2020)

[*The Dignity Problem of American Election Integrity*](#), 62 HOW. L. J. 739 (2019).

[*Normalizing Domination*](#), 20 CUNY L. REV. 493 (2017)

[*When Political Domination Becomes Racial Discrimination: NAACP v. McCrory and the Inextricable Problem of Race in Politics*](#), 68 S.C. L. REV. 517 (2017).

[*Economic Precarity, Race, and Voting Structures*](#), 103 KY. L. J. 607 (2016).

[*The Star Trek Enrichment Series: An Exploration in Teaching and Learning*](#), 58 HOWARD L. J. 557 (2015) (with Okianer Christian Dark).

[*Reviving the Dream: Equality and the Democratic Promise in the Post-Civil Rights Era*](#), 2014 MICHIGAN ST. L. REV. 789 (2015).

[*Tiered Personhood and the Excluded Voter: The Jurisprudence of Disenfranchisement in Twenty-First Century America*](#), 90 CHICAGO-KENT L. REV. 463 (2015).

[*Race, Class, and Structural Discrimination: On Vulnerability in the Political Process*](#), 28 ST. JOHN’S J. CIV. RTS. & ECON. DEV. 35 (2015).

[*A Price Too High: Efficiencies, Voter Suppression, and the Redefining of Citizenship*](#), 43 SW. L. REV. 549 (2014).

[*The Meme of Voter Fraud*](#), 63 CATH. U. L. REV. 879 (2014).

[*Polley v. Radcliffe: A New Way to Address an Original Sin*](#), 115 W. V. L. REV. 777 (2012).

[*Citizens United and Tiered Personhood*](#), 44 JOHN MARSHALL L. REV. 717 (2011).

[*The Cost of the Vote: Poll Taxes, Voter Identification Laws, and the Price of Democracy*](#), 86 DENVER L. REV. 1023 (2009).

Forthcoming Works

Voter Suppression in CAMBRIDGE GUIDE TO VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES, G. Daniels, ed., (Cambridge University Press forthcoming 2026).

Everything Old is New Again – Advancing Technology and Enduring Problems in American Democracy, 75 CASE W. RESV. L. REV. (forthcoming 2026) (Invited Symposium Introduction)

RACE RACISM AND AMERICAN LAW (with the late Derrick Bell, Cheryl Harris, Justin Hansford, Amna Akbar, and Audrey MacFarlane) (Aspen Publishing 7th ed. forthcoming).

Works in Progress

INVENTING THE VICIOUS VOTER: THE METHODS AND RHETORIC OF AMERICAN VOTE SUPPRESSION
(book proposal in progress)

Colorblindness, the Voting Rights Act, and Democratic Striving

The New Election Intimidation

SELECTED BLOG POSTS AND OPINION WRITING

[“Race, the Epistemic Crisis of Democracy, and the First Amendment.”](#) KNIGHT FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BLOG (Invited contribution for “Lies and the Law” symposium) (October 12, 2021).

[“The Great Dissent: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Shelby County v. Holder”](#), OXFORD HUMAN RIGHTS HUB BLOG, April 2021.

[“President Trump has committed crimes in plain sight. Use the 25th Amendment to remove him.”](#) MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL (January 8, 2021).

[“Trump is lying about election fraud. It’s distorting the 2020 presidential election.”](#) MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL (November 6, 2020).

[“What We Owe the Democracy: Martin Luther King, Jr., the Right to Vote, and the Call to Civic Duty.”](#) CANOPY FORUM ON THE INTERACTIONS OF LAW AND RELIGION AT EMORY UNIVERSITY (November 3, 2020).

[“This Fourth of July is Yours, Not Mine.”](#) (July 2, 2020).

[“When Diversity is At the Bottom of the List.”](#) RACE AND THE LAW PROF BLOG (March 6, 2019).

[“The Mirror of Racial Tyranny in the Civil Rights Cases.”](#) RACE AND THE LAW PROF BLOG (October 19, 2018).

[“Give Us the Ballot: On the Alabama Special Senate Election, Voter Suppression, and the Black Vote.”](#) (December 14, 2017).

[“Teaching Dred Scott in the Era of Trump.”](#) (September 7, 2017).

[“On Overstating the Case for Confederate Monuments.”](#) (August 23, 2017).

[“Trump, the Meme of Voter Fraud, and the Risk to American Democracy.”](#) (November 29, 2016).

[“Antonin Scalia’s Voting rights Legacy: Weakening the Franchise for Minorities.”](#) OXFORD HUMAN RIGHTS HUB BLOG, (March 3, 2016).

Editor, [Alternative Constitution Day Online Symposium](#), RACE AND THE LAW PROF BLOG, (January 30 to February 16, 2016) et. seq.

[“The Limits of Diversity-As-Tolerance.”](#) RACE AND THE LAW PROF BLOG, (October 8, 2015).

[“Missing Black Men, the Baltimore Uprising, and the Language Oppression.”](#) AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY BLOG (May 1, 2015).

“[Voter Identification, Ideology, and the Voter Fraud Meme](#),” AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY BLOG (Nov. 3, 2014).

“[The Constitution, Re-Invention and Equality](#),” AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY BLOG (Sept. 19, 2014).

“[Seeing Ferguson through the Lens of Structural Racism](#),” AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY BLOG (Aug. 21, 2014).

“[Shelby Co. v. Holder: The Crippling of the Voting Rights Act](#),” AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY BLOG (June 27, 2013).

PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, Opening Panel, *Rule of Law and Threats to Democracy*, Center for Constitutional Democracy, University of California San Francisco School of Law, November 14, 2025

Challenges to American Democracy and Preserving the Rule of Law, Ohio Black Judges Association Annual CLE, November 14, 2025

Panelist, *Critical Constitutional Realism: CRT, Fascism, and the Future of Racial Justice*, CRS at 25 Conference, Critical Race Studies Program, University of California at Los Angeles School of Law, October 25, 2025

The Vicious Voter Myth and Racial Authoritarianism in American Law, Institute for the Society of Societal Issues Event, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, October 21, 2025

Democracy, Critical Race Theory, and Forbidden Knowledge, CWRU Law Review Symposium, “Federal Reach, Academic Speech: The Legal Limits of Executive Authority in Higher Education,” September 19, 2025

Co-Instructor, *Policing the Police* Workshop, Widener Commonwealth University School of Law, Harrisburg, PA, July 28-Aug 2, 2025

Panelist, *Whitelash: Unmasking White Grievance at the Ballot Box* by Terry Smith Author-Meets-Reader Session, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 24, 2025

Voter Suppression, Cambridge Guide to American Election Law Convening, University of Baltimore, April 25, 2025

Democracy and Inclusion in the Post-Civil Rights Era, Keynote Address, Democracy Works-In-Progress Conference, Michigan State University College of Law, April 11, 2025

Democracy and Inclusion in the Post-Civil Rights Era, Cannon Lecture, University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, OH, March 26, 2025

Voter Suppression in Comparative Perspective, Symposium Presentation, “Defending Democracy: A Comparative Perspective,” Ga J. Int’l and Comparative Law, Athens, GA, February 21, 2025

The Vicious Voter Myth and American Democratic Life, Symposium Keynote Address, Tennessee Journal for Race, Gender, and Social Justice, February 20, 2025.

Panelist, *The Voting Rights Act at 60*, Election Law Section Panel, Association of American Law Schools 2025 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 11, 2025

Panelist, "Title IX, Sexual Harassment, Transgender Rights and Reproduction: 50+ Years, Two Rulemakings, and Seemingly Infinite Controversies." National Women's Studies Association 44th Annual Conference, Detroit, MI. November 17, 2024.

Speaker, Election 2024 Overview and Wrap Up. Street Law Association, Case Western Reserve University School of Law. November 6, 2024.

"*America is a Republic, not a Democracy*": *Race, Democracy Reinforcement and Constitutional Evolution*. "A Modern Examination of the Expansive Existence of Systemic Racism." Widener Law Commonwealth Law Journal Fall Conference. November 1, 2024.

Panelist, "[Higher Ed in Political Campaigns](#)," Critical Conversations" University Program, Case Western Reserve University, October 31, 2024.

Keynote Speaker, *The Electoral College and the Structure of American Democracy*. Presentation to Delta Sigma Theta Educational Workshop. October 29, 2024.

Faculty, Mentoring, and Purpose. Inaugural Community Gathering, First-Year Law Student Mentoring Program, Case Western Reserve University School of Law. October 25, 2024.

Invited Lecture, Provost Scholars Program, Case Western Reserve University. October 24, 2024

Commentator, *The Purge: How Ohio's voter suppression system disenfranchised over 500 unstably housed Cleveland residents in 2024*. Data Days Conference 10/22 Panel on homelessness and the right to vote Data Days 2024 Conference, Cleveland Public Library. October 22, 2024

Critical Race Theory: Distinguishing Myth from Fact. University Technology, [U]Tech DEIB+ Division Educational Workshop. October 16, 2024.

"*America is a Republic, not a Democracy*": *Democracy Reinforcement and Constitutional Amendments*. Ohio Black Judges Association Continuing Legal Education Program. October 4, 2024.

Panelist, "[An Impactful Debate + VP Watch Party](#)," ThirdSpace Action Lab (partnered with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and Cleveland Votes), Oct. 1, 2024.

Moderator, "Advanced Technology and Election Law," *Defending Tomorrow's Democracy: The Future of Elections in the Era of Advanced Technology*. Case Western Law Review Annual Symposium. September 20, 2024.

Panelist, Insurrection, Economic Liberty, and Voting. "The Fourteenth Amendment: Its Past and Future," Mississippi Law Journal Symposium. September 13, 2024.

Panelist, "The Power of Your Vote: Voter Suppression and Voting Rights in Florida." Florida Law School on Consortium on Racial Justice. September 10, 2024.

Panelist, Election Law Update, Bench and Bar Conference, Bar Association for United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, Colorado Springs, CO. September 5, 2024.

Discussant, Race and Federalism Discussion Group, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, July 26, 2024

Discussant, Election Law Discussion Group, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, July 24, 2024

Voting Rights Lecturer, *Connecting Past, Present, and Future; Teaching American History and Civics for Empowered Citizenship*, Constitutional Democracy Project, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL. June 14, 2024.

Colorblindness, Post-Racialism, and Voting Rights, Diversity, Discourse and Democracy Conference, University of Wisconsin School of Law. May 25, 2024.

Panelist, Nonprofit Organizations and the Protection of Voting Rights, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. May 2, 2024.

Panelist, "Improving Voter Registration and the Electoral Process." First Annual Conference on Election Law: "Voters, Voter Registration, and the Federal Laws Governing the Electoral Process." Florida State University College of Law Program on Election Law. April 26, 2024.

Speaker, Reconstruction Lunch and Learn, National Lawyers Guild CWRU Law Chapter, April 15, 2024.

Panelist, Education Law and Policy Engagement, Law and Education Special Interest Group, American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. April 13, 2024.

Keynote Address, *Unpacking Barriers to the Ballot: Reflections on the History and Future of Voting Rights*, University of Arkansas-Little Rock Journal of Social Change and Public Service Annual Symposium. March 31, 2024.

Panelist, *The Potential and Possibilities for Racial Healing in America*, American Constitution Society Chapter, Widener University School of Law. March 1, 2024.

Panelist, *Critical Constitutional Reinvention: A Proposal for Reimagining America's First Principles*, ClassCrits XIV, Southwestern School of Law, Los Angeles, CA. February 10, 2024.

Panelist, Election Integrity Panel, *From Ballots to Barriers: Voting Rights Symposium*. Nova Southeastern University School of Law, January 12, 2024.

Colorblindness, the Voting Rights Act, and Democratic Striving: Allen v. Milligan and Representation in America's Third Century, Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual Meeting, University of Technology Sydney. December 6, 2023.

Speaker, *The Voting Rights Act – History, Challenges, and Future*, Professional Development Training, Ohio Center for Law-Related Education. November 29, 2023

[Law and Democracy in a 'Post-Racial' America](#), Case Western Reserve University's Social Justice Institute, "Research and Refreshments" Series, Cleveland Public Library, Harvey Rice branch, October 25, 2023.

[Laboratories for Democracy? Recent Challenges and Transformations in Election Law](#), Case Western Reserve University School of Law, October 14, 2023.

Keynote Address, *Race, Colorblindness, and Democracy: Allen v. Milligan and Representation in America's Third Century*, Constitution Day Forum, Case Western Reserve University, September 18, 2023

Panelist, Election Law Update, Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, September 6, 2023

Democracy at the Turning Point: Representation, Fairness, and America's Third Century, Master Class Lecture, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, August 14-18, 2023

Denial, Disinformation, and Distortion: The Cycle of Racial Voter Suppression, University of Arkansas-Little Rock School of Law Faculty Colloquy Series and Provost's Diversity Lecture Series, April 24, 2023

Keynote Address, *Democracy and the Common Good: Perils and Possibilities for Twenty-First Century Multiracial America*, Midwestern People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, Detroit-Mercy School of Law, April 22, 2023

Lecturer, *How Colorblindness Distorts American Democracy*, Inaugural Broady Law School Symposium, Howard University School of Law, April 13, 2023

Participant, Panel on *Moore v. Harper* and the Independent State Legislature Theory, Penn State (University Park) School of Law (virtual)

Inventing the Vicious Voter, Tulane University School of Law Faculty Colloquy Series, March 27, 2023

Featured lecture, *How Colorblindness Distorts Democracy*, University of Nebraska College of Law and Democracy Lecture Series, March 21, 2023

Election Law and the Current Supreme Court Term, CWRU Public Affairs Discussion Group, March 10, 2023

Participant, Legal Issues around the American Dream, "American Dream Belongs to All of Us" Law Review Symposium, Florida A&M University College of Law, February 24, 2023

Keynote Address, *How Colorblindness Distorts Democracy*, Greenbriar County, WV, NAACP, February 23, 2023

Participant, Panel on Critical Race Theory in Contemporary Disputers, Spring 2023 Herff Chair of Excellence Symposium, University of Memphis School of Law, February 3, 2023 (virtual)

Participant (presented *Wisconsin Voter Suppression* as working draft), State Democracy Research Initiative Academic Roundtable, University of Wisconsin School of Law, January 27, 2023

The Right to Vote and the Enduring Civil Rights Struggle, featured lecture, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, January 18, 2023

Speaker, panels on "Narrowing of the Voting Rights Act" and "Election Gamesmanship," *Election Law Issues in the Past, Present, and Posterity*, University of Toledo Law Review Symposium, October 14, 2022.

"Race, Equity, & Law: A Lecture by Professor Atiba Ellis," Woman's Club of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, October 7, 2022.

"Free Speech and Student Grievance: The Decline of *Tinker v. Des Moines* and the Future of Protest," Keynote Address, Virgin Islands Bar Association 28th Annual High School Moot Court Competition, April 7, 2022.

"Race, Voting, and the Future of Democracy," CLE Program for the Wisconsin African-American Lawyers Association, March 26, 2022.

“Inventing the Vicious Voter,” Faculty Workshop, St. Louis University School of Law, March 23, 2022 (in person).

“Inventing the Vicious Voter,” Faculty Workshop, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, March 15, 2022 (in person).

Featured Guest, “Tea Time with the Jackson Center” Online Series Democracy on Trial, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, NY February 24, 2022.^{1 2}

Panel Chair, “Critically Interrogating the Twin Promises of American Democracy: Politics, Economics, and the Struggle for Full Equality,” for Critical Race Theory: Truth, Lies & the Law Conference, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and Memphis Bar Association, February 4, 2022.

Panelist, “The Evolution of Voter Suppression,” for The Aftermath of the 2020 Presidential Election: Voter Suppression, Misrepresentation, and Electoral Reform, Cardozo Law Review 2022 Symposium, January 27, 2022.

“A Conversation on Voting with Professor Atiba Ellis,” Creighton University School of Law and Creighton Black Law Students Association, January 14, 2022 (in person).

Panelist, “On the Issues: Changes to Election Laws—Is Your Right to Vote Secure?” Lubar Center for Public Policy at Marquette University Law School, October 20, 2021.

“The Battle for the Ballot Box: A Comprehensive Analysis of Voting Challenges in America,” Center for Excellence in Decision-Making, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, October 19, 2021.

Panelist, “Election Lies and the First Amendment,” Lies and the Law Series, Knight Foundation for the First Amendment, Columbia Law School, October 13, 2021.

Panelist, “Race and Redistricting — Wisconsin’s Maps and the Voting Rights Act,” North Shore Fair Maps Monthly Meeting, October 11, 2021.

Featured Speaker, “Protect the Vote,” Dane County League of Women Voters Meeting, October 5, 2021.

Panelist, “Voting Rights Past, Present, & Future: Constitutional, Legal, and Historical Context” Missouri Bar Association Annual Meeting Plenary, Sept. 24, 2021.

Plenary Keynote, “Facts and Fiction on Critical Race Theory,” West Virginia Conference of Chapters of the NAACP Annual Meeting, August 13, 2021.

Discussant of paper by Charlton Copeland, “Race, the Republican Party, and the Marketing of Voter Fraud,” John Mercer Langston Legal Scholarship Conference, July 8, 2021.

Panelist, “State of Play: Voter Suppression Bills in the Wake of the 2020 Election,” American Constitution Society, April 29, 2021.

¹ The Center promotes the legacy of Robert H. Jackson—Nuremberg Chief Prosecutor, Solicitor General, and Supreme Court Justice—and educates on the principles of justice and the rule of law by exploring ideas around law, democracy, and fairness.

² Unless otherwise noted, all presentations listed from April 2020 to April 2022 were virtual.

“The Voting Rights Paradox,” University of Kentucky College of Law Faculty Colloquy, April 7, 2021.

“The Voting Rights Paradox,” 150 Years of Voting in America, Georgia Law Review Symposium, March 25, 2021.

“This Lawsuit Smacks of Racism: Racial Coding and the Litigation of the 2020 Election,” The Impact of the 15th and the 19th Amendments on the 2020 Presidential Election, Louisiana Law Review Symposium, March 5, 2021.

Panelist, “The Political Economy of Inequality, Democracy, and Oligarchy,” Law and Political Economy Project, Yale Law School, November 13, 2020.

Panelist, “The Jurisprudence and Legacy of Justice Ginsburg,” Florida International University School of Law, October 30, 2020.

Panelist, “2020 U.S. Presidential Election Preview,” Northern Virginia Community College, October 27, 2020.

Panelist, “Fair Representation in an Increasingly Diverse America,” Voting and Representation Symposium, NYU Law Review and Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law, October 9, 2020.

Panelist, “Critical Race Theory, the 2020 Election and Structural Reform,” Democracy Reform for the 21st Century, California Law Review Symposium, UC Berkeley School of Law, September 14, 2020.

Discussant, “The Future of Inclusivity” Discussion Group, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, August 2, 2020.

“The Voting Rights Paradox: Ideology and the Incompleteness of Democratic Practice,” Colorado Law School 2020 Rothgerber Conference, Women’s Enfranchisement: Beyond the Nineteenth Amendment, Justice Byron R. White Center for Constitutional Law, April 3, 2020.

Moderator, “The Present and the Future of the Right to Vote,” Joint Program of the Sections on Constitutional Law and Election Law, Divergent Legacies – The Constitution and the Modern Right to Vote, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2, 2020.

Moderator, New York University Law Review Lunchtime Series on The Anatomy of Racism and Inequality: Race and an Exclusionary American Democracy, NYU Law School, November 4, 2019.

Participant, “Critical Voices: Impeachment and Beyond,” CUNY School of Law, November 4, 2019.

“Integrity, Equality, and the Fragility of the Right to Vote” Constitution Day Lecture, University of Puget Sound, September 20, 2018.

“Integrity, Equality, and the Fragility of the Right to Vote” Constitution Day Lecture, Penn State University School of Law, University Park, September 18, 2018.

Participant, “The Perils and Possibilities of Election Commissions,” American Constitution Society, National Press Club, Washington, D.C., January 18, 2018.

Participant, On the Issues with Mike Gousha: Voting Rights, Marquette University Law School, Eckstein Hall, November 16, 2017.

“[Using Memes to Break out of Voter Fraud Talk](#),” TEDxOshkosh, Grand Opera House, Oshkosh, WI, November 4, 2017.

Participant, [National Constitution Center Debate on Voter Identification Laws](#). Chicago, IL. October 5, 2016.

Panelist, “Reality Check! Voting Rights Are LGBT Rights!” LGBT Bar Association Lavender Law Annual Conference, Keynote Panel, Washington, D.C. August 4, 2016.

“The Ideological Content of Election Integrity Laws.” Marquette University School of Law (Faculty Colloquy) April 18, 2016.

“The Meme of Voter Fraud.” Northeastern University School of Law (Law Journal Symposium on [Accessing Democracy: How Law Shapes and Influences Our Elections](#)) March 11, 2016.

“Give Us the Ballot: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Ongoing Project of Voting Rights.” Washington and Lee University School of Law (Martin Luther King, Jr. University Holiday Celebration Panel on Voting Rights) January 18, 2016.

“The Constitutional, Institutional, and Interpersonal Imperatives of Diversity.” Crowell and Morning, LLC, Washington, DC (Diversity Speaker Series) October 14, 2015.

“The Voting Rights Act at 50: Past Successes, Future Challenges.” West Virginia University College of Law (Constitution Day Program 2015) September 17, 2015.

“Transforming the Second Reconstruction: The Right to Vote after *Shelby County*.” United States Department of Justice (Lecture Series on 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, Washington DC) June 9, 2015.

“Shared History as Reparations: *Polley v. Radcliffe* As Path Towards a Public Understanding of Slavery.” Mansfield College, Oxford University ([First Global Conference: Slavery: Past, Present and Future](#), Inter-Disciplinary.Net) July 9, 2015.

“Race, Class and Voter Suppression: Structural Inequality and the Political Underclass.” Tulane Law School ([Forum on the Future of Law and Inequality](#)) November 7, 2014.

“Voting Rights in West Virginia: Hanging by a Thread.” Testimony to the National Commission on Voting Rights, Nashville Regional Hearing, Nashville, TN. May 8, 2014.

“A Price Too High: Efficiencies, Voter Suppression, and the Redefining of Citizenship.” Southwestern Law School (Classcrits VI) November 16, 2013.

“The Political Economy of Disenfranchisement: Towards a Systemic View.” Law and Society Association Conference, Honolulu, HI. June 5, 2012.

“Old Exclusion in a New Guise: Voter Identification Laws and the Risk of Disenfranchisement.” Duke University School of Law (Federalist Society Debate Series) February 7, 2012.

“The Judicial Underpinnings of Disenfranchisement.” [Race, Law and Voting—Was Creating West Virginia a Good Idea?](#) (featured presenter) Continuing Legal Education Program sponsored by J. R. Clifford Project of West Virginia, Charleston, WV. October 19, 2011.

“*Citizens United* and the Concept of Personhood.” John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL. (John Marshall Law Journal Symposium, The Impact of *Citizens United*: Corporate Speech in the 2010 Elections) March 4, 2011.

“From *Dred Scott* to *Citizens United*: Political Personhood and the Future of the Political Process.” Capital Law School (Ohio Area Legal Scholarship Workshop) February 5, 2011.

“The Diversity Rationale: What it Means and Why It Matters.” West Virginia University (University Diversity Week Address) October 2010.

“Political Power, Personhood and Property: Defining the Political Economy of American Democracy.” University of Kentucky College of Law (Developing Ideas Conference) May 2010.

“Yield not to Temptation: Post-Racialism, Civil Rights and the Obama Moment.” Southern University Law Center. (SULC Journal of Race, Gender, and Poverty symposium: State of the Union: The Progress Report) February 2010.

PODCASTS, RADIO, AND LONG FORM MEDIA

Rachel Rood, “[New Ohio law expands foreign money ban to state ballot issues](#),” Ideastream Public Media (Cleveland), June 11, 2024.

Snollygoster: Ohio’s Political Podcast, “[New Ohio law tightens rules on issues, campaigns and foreign contributions](#),” WOSU, June 6, 2024.

Evan Casey, “[Jury finds former Milwaukee election official guilty of election fraud](#),” Wisconsin Public Radio, March 20, 2024. Also ran in [Urban Milwaukee](#).

Jonquilyn Hill, “[How the Voting Rights Act ended at the Supreme Court](#),” THE WEEDS PODCAST, VOX MEDIA, January 24, 2023.

“[Why some Republicans want to narrow who counts as Black](#),” CODE SWITCH PODCAST, NPR, December 7, 2022. Appearance begins at 22:31.

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Kate Stalter, “[Why Older Citizens Are More Likely to Vote](#),” U.S. News & World Report, February 15, 2024.

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Kennedy Chase, “[Ohio social media parental notification law on hold](#),” Spectrum News 1, January 23, 2024.

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Emily Schmall, “[Transgender Candidate in Ohio Is Disqualified for Not Disclosing Birth Name](#),” New York Times, January 6, 2024.

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Samana Sheikh, “[We take a look at 2023 politics ahead of the new year](#),” Spectrum News 1, December 25, 2023.

Morgan Trau, “[Ohio voting rights groups allege discrimination against those with disabilities in new lawsuit](#),” WCPO Cincinnati, December 21, 2023.

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Courtney Gousman, “[‘It’s going to be extremely difficult to achieve diversity:’ Experts weigh in on affirmative action decision](#),” NBC NEWS 5 CLEVELAND, June 29, 2023.

Morgan Trau, “[Ohio Supreme Court says Issue 1 ballot language must be rewritten](#),” OHIO CAPITAL JOURNAL, June 12, 2023.

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Nahiara S. Alonso, “[Este video de Biden es antiquo; no está relacionado con la actual imputación de Trump](#),” AFP FACTUAL (Estados Unidos), April 10, 2023.

Manon Jacob, “[Trump indictment does not bar him from running in 2024](#),” AFP FACTUAL, April 3, 2023.

Eamon Whalen, “[Minority Rule is Coming for Progressive Prosecutors](#),” MOTHER JONES, November 4, 2022.

Hansi Lo Wang, “[Who counts as Black in voting maps? Some GOP state officials want that narrowed](#),” MORNING EDITION, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, October 18, 2022 5:04 AM ET.

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Matt Mencarini, “[‘Blurring of lines’: Private lawyer plays starring role in taxpayer-funded Wisconsin election probe](#)” WISCONSIN WATCH, April 23, 2022.

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Scott Hurley and Charlee Rubesky, “[Green Bay mayor, clerk named as defendants in latest Trump lawsuit](#),” FOX 11 NEWS (Green Bay, WI) December 3, 2020.

Courtney Gerrish, “[Expert Says Trump Campaign’s Lawsuit Will be ‘Uphill Battle’](#)” SPECTRUM NEWS WISCONSIN, December 2, 2020.

“[Here and Now](#)” Weekly News Magazine, “Presidential Recount and Marginalized Communities,” PBS WISCONSIN, November 27, 2020.

Mary Spicuzza and Alison Dirr, “[In suspicions raised about validity of Milwaukee’s vote, leaders see harmful racial undertones](#),” MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL November 18, 2020.

Brendan Cullerton, “[Experts see Trump legal strategy to win White House as a longshot](#),” CBS 58 NEWS, November 6, 2020.

Kay Burley, "[How will Trump's court challenges work?](#)" SKY NEWS, November 5, 2020.

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Gerald Owens, "[Professor: Efforts to interfere with vote counting amount to 'desperation'](#)" WRAL-TV November 4, 2020.

Sarah Matusek, "[Poll watching: Democratic safeguard or intimidation](#)" CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR October 23, 2020.

Caroline Reinwald, "[On 'Loving Day' experts point out many things have not changed since Civil Rights movement](#)," WISN-TV, June 13, 2020.

REPRESENTED ADVOCACY

Moore v. Harper, BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* BOSTON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ANTIRACIST RESEARCH AND PROFESSOR ATIBA R. ELLIS IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENTS, (United States Supreme Court, No. 21-1271, October 26, 2022).

Jones v. DeSantis, Governor of Florida, *AMICI CURIAE* BRIEF OF VOTING RIGHTS SCHOLARS PROFESSORS JOSHUA A. DOUGLAS, ATIBA ELLIS, LUIS FUENTES-ROHWER, BERTRALL ROSS, DAVID SCHULTZ, AND FRANITA TOLSON IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLEES AND AFFIRMANCE, (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, No 20-12003, August 3, 2020).

Shelby County v. Holder, BRIEF OF GABRIEL CHIN, ATIBA ELLIS, CHRISTOPHER S. ELMENDORF, JANAI S. NELSON, BERTRALL ROSS, DANIEL TOKAJI, AND FRANITA TOLSON AS *AMICI CURIAE* IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENTS (United States Supreme Court, No. 12-96, February 1, 2013).

EXPERT ENGAGEMENT

Colorado Area NAACP et. al v. United States Election Integrity Project et. al
Expert Witness for Plaintiffs in Voter Intimidation Lawsuit, August 2022 to July 2024

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC
Visiting Scholar, Spring 2017

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP, Washington, D.C.
Associate, October 2002 to May 2006
Summer Associate, May 1999 to August 1999

The Honorable Theodore A. McKee
United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
Law Clerk, September 2001-September 2002

The Honorable James A. Beaty, Jr.
United States District Court, Middle District of North Carolina
Law Clerk, September 2000-July 2001

Professor James E. Coleman, Jr., Duke University School of Law
Research Assistant, 1998-2000

The Honorable Willis P. Whichard,
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.
Judicial Intern, May 1998-August 1998

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Professional Website (linking to research, public scholarship, and authored commentary)

- <http://www.atibaellis.com/>

Co-Edited Blog

- Editorial Board Member, Race Rights and the Law Blog (formally Race and the Law Prof Blog) <https://www.civilrights.pitt.edu/blog> (Recognized in ABA Blawg 100 in 2016, 2017)

Twitter: @atibaellis

Bluesky: @atibaellis.bsky.social

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/atiba-ellis-a292aa1>

HONORS

Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (Elected 2021)

Living the Dream Award, West Virginia Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission, January 2015 (in recognition of research and lecturing on voting rights)

Outstanding Faculty Contribution Award, West Virginia Law Review, April 2015

Frances Bounds Excellence in Leadership Award, North Carolina Association of Student Councils, March 2008.

COURT AND BAR ADMISSIONS

North Carolina State Bar, November 2002
District of Columbia Bar, September 2003
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, February 2004