

MELYNDA J. PRICE

Robert E. Harding, Jr. Professor of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law
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EDUCATION

- 2006 **PhD**, Political Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2002 **J.D.**
The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX
- 1995 **B.S.**, Physics
Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- 2015-present *Robert E. Harding, Jr. Professor of Law*, University of Kentucky College of Law
- 2013- present *Director*, African American and Africana Studies, University of Kentucky
- 2009-present *Affiliated Faculty* and Supporter of Founding Proposal, Quantitative Initiative for Policy and Social Research Institute, University of Kentucky
- 2006-present *Faculty Affiliate*, African American and Africana Studies Program, University of Kentucky
- 2006-present *Faculty Affiliate*, Gender and Women's Studies Department, University of Kentucky
- 2009-2015 *Robert E. Harding, Jr. Associate Professor*, University of Kentucky College of Law
- 2008-2009 *Ford Foundation Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow*, Capital Punishment Center, University of Texas School of Law
- 2006-2009 *Assistant Professor*, University of Kentucky College of Law
- 2002-006 *Graduate Student Instructor and Academic Advising*, Department of Political Science and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
- 1997-1999 *Instructor*, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

1997-1999 *Graduate Student Instructor, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies and Women Studies Department, University of Michigan*

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

At the Cross: Race, Religion and Citizenship in the Politics of the Death Penalty Among African Americans (Oxford University Press, 2015).

“Are we imprisoned in narratives of progress?: The work of Hanes Walton and its lessons for an Afrofuturistic black politics,” *Politics, Groups and Identities* 1(4):577-588 (2013)

“The Self Interested Politics of Collective Religious Transformation: Issues of Family Definition and LGBT Inclusion in Black Churches” in anthology through the Religion and Public Life Series, Columbia University Press (submitted for publication).

“Policing the Borders of Democracy: The Continuing Role of Batson in Protecting the Citizenship Rights of the Excluded,” *Iowa Law Review* (Spring 2012).

“Performing Discretion or Performing Discrimination: An Analysis of Race and Ritual in Batson Decisions in Capital Jury Selection” *Michigan Journal of Race and Law* (Fall 2009).

“Balancing Lives: Individual Accountability and the Death Penalty as Punishment for Genocide (Lessons From Rwanda),” *Emory International Law Journal* (Spring 2008).

“Litigating Salvation: Race, Religion and Innocence in the Cases of Karla Faye Tucker and Gary Graham,” *Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice* (Spring 2006).

MEDIA AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“As Marriage Expands So Does Singlehood,” *New York Times*, July 6, 2015.

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/07/06/has-being-single-in-america-changed/as-marriage-expands-so-does-singlehood> .

“Get Rid of the Right to Bear Arms,” *New York Times*, July 8, 2012.

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/07/08/another-stab-at-the-us-constitution/revisiting-the-constitution-do-we-really-need-the-second-amendment> .

“Thoughts in the Aftermath of An Execution,” *Tidal Basin Review* (Spring 2012).

“What Does “Next of Kin” Mean,” *New York Times*, February 15, 2012.

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/02/13/family-ties-without-tying-the-knot/what-next-of-kin-means> .

“The Trouble with the Help,” *ACE Weekly*, August 26, 2011.

http://www.aceweekly.com/index.php/site/cover-story/the_trouble_with_the_help/ .

“The Trouble with the Help,” *Pluck! Journal of Affrilachian Arts and Culture*, reprint, January 2012.

“Everything I Know About Power My Uncles Learned in Viet Nam,” *Lone Star Legacy: African American History in Texas*, ed. Delicia Daniels, 2011.

“Randall Horton, The Ridge, and Why Family is Not Enough to Make the World Do the Right Thing,” *Pluck! Journal of Affrilachian Arts and Culture*, July 2011.

Blog, *Thoughts of an Ivory Tower Interloper*, <http://ivorytowerinterloper.blogspot.com>.

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

My research focuses on race, gender and citizenship, the politics of punishment and the role of law in the politics of race and ethnicity in the U.S. and at its borders. I am also interested in the impact of race and gender in the political mobilization of black women

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Kentucky

Torts

Women and the Law

Law and Social Science,

Law and Popular Culture

Immigration

Kentucky Legal Educational Opportunities (KLEO) Program Summer Workshop and Academic Success Program

University of Michigan

GSI, PS 111 Introduction to American Politics,

GSI, PS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics

GSI, CAAS 200 Special Topics: Affirmative Action and Reparations

Course Grader, PS 324 African American Politics

COMMITTEE, ORGANIZATIONAL, AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

University of Kentucky

2012-present *Chair*, Appointments Committee, College of Law.

March 2015 *Organizer*, “Leap for Joy: Black Women and Dance,” 21st Annual Black Women’s Conference, African American and Africana Studies Department.

March 2014 *Organizer*, “Finding Our Place: A Conference in Honor of the Work of bell hooks,” 20th Annual Black Women’s Conference, African American and Africana Studies Program.

- March 2013 *Organizer, "Voices of Resistance: Black Women and the Power of Music," 19th Annual Black Women's Conference, African American and Africana Studies Program*
- May 2012 *Organizer, "Pencilshout," 3-day writing workshop for Black women creative and academic writers funded by \$3,000 Arts Meets Activism Grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women in Lexington, KY.*
- March 2012 *Organizer, "Learning the Ropes: Black Girlhood, Identity and the Power of Play," 18th Annual Black Women's Conference, African American and Africana Studies Program.*
- June 2010 *Organizer, 4th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop (Harnessing the Written Word) at the University of Kentucky College of Law in Lexington Kentucky.*
- October 2009 *Facilitator, Graduate Student Workshop, African American and Africana Studies Department.*
- 2007-2008 *Chair, Recruitment and Scholarship/Honors Committee, College of Law.*

National

- 2011-2014 *Co-chair, American Political Science Association Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession*
- April 2015 *Organizer, Workshop on Violence, Memory and the Legacies of Violence in the United States and Abroad with Professor Nan Woodruff, National Humanities Center, Raleigh, NC.*
- January 2008 *UKCOL Representative, American Association of Law School Annual Meeting, New York, NY.*
- March 2009 *Co-Chair, Section of Inequality and Social Justice, National Conference of Black Political Scientists Annual Meeting (NCOBPS), Houston, TX.*

SEMINAR, CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- June 2015 *"Tilling in One's Own Field," Telluride Association, Ann Arbor, MI.*
- February 2015 *"At the Cross," in the Race and Theory Group at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.*
- June 2012 *"Incidents of Slavery: The Death Penalty and the Contemporary Relevance of the Thirteenth Amendment," The Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, Suffolk University School of Law, Boston, MA.*

- March 2012 “Whispers in the Dark: Privileged Recognitions in Law and To Kill a Mockingbird at Rethinking Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*,” 50 Years Later: A Critical Race Perspective on Atticus Finch Conference, Tom Robinson and Maycomb County, Alabama, Seattle University Law School, Seattle, WA.
- October 2011 “Policing the Borders of Democracy: The Continuing Role of *Batson* in Protecting the Citizenship Rights of the Excluded,” Symposium on the 25th Anniversary of *Batson v. Kentucky*, University of Iowa Law School, Iowa City, IA.
- March 2011 “Ready for the Journey: Some Thought on Living an Activist Life” (keynote address), 18th Annual Black Women’s Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- August 2009 “Who I Am: The Links Between Private and Intellectual Life” (keynote address), Summer Institute Closing Address, University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies, Ann Arbor, MI.
- May 2009 “Thoughts on Race, Power, and Death,” Resistencia Book Shop, Austin, Texas.

Presentations as Invited Chair, Moderator, or Commentator

- April 2012 Panel Chair, “Academic Appointments,” 2012 National Summit of Women Lawyers, Black Women Lawyer’s Association of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- March 2011 Panel Moderator with Randall Horton, “Criminal Justice and the Prison Industrial Complex,” Symposium on Affrilachia, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- February 2011 Panel Moderator, “Sociological Perspectives,” The Inaugural James and Mary Lassiter Conference entitled “Structural Racism: Inequality in America Today,” University of Kentucky College of Law, Lexington, KY.
- March 2009 Chair, “The Poetics of Black Politics and the Politics of Black Poets: A Conversation with Nikky Finney” at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Annual Meeting, Houston, TX
- February 2009 Moderator, “40 Acre and A Mule or the White House: Imagining Justice,” Bringing Human Rights Home Conference, Bernard and Audre Rapaport Center for Human Rights and Justice, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX.
- October 2008 Chair, “Being A Successful Law Student,” National Black Prelaw Conference, Houston, TX.
- October 2009 Presenter, Mock Class, National Black Prelaw Conference, Houston, TX.
- October 2008 Speaker, Capital Punishment Seminar, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX.

- June 2008 "Performing Discretion, Performing Discrimination: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection," Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Professor's Conference, University of Denver, Denver, CO.
- April 2008 "Litigating Salvation: Race/Gender, Religion and Innocence on the Texas Death Row," Wesleyan University, Department of Political Science, Middletown, CT.
- November 2007 "They Make it Harder for Black Men: The Death Penalty and Its Imprint on Black Politics," Conference: "Towards A Transformative Agenda on Race," Ohio State University, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Columbus, OH.
- November 2006 "Litigating Salvation: Race, Religion, and Innocence in the Cases of Karla Faye Tucker and Gary Graham," Carter G. Woodson Lecture, African American Studies and Research Program, Martin Luther King Cultural Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- September 2002 Select participant, Women of Color Studies Workshop, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.

Conference Presentations

- May 2012 "99 Problems: African American Men and Police Interactions" with Allison Connelly, S.T. Roach Conversations at the Lyric Theater, African American and Africana Studies Program University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- June 2011 Participant, "Freedom Writers," The Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX.
- October 2009 "The Death Penalty and the Shared Legacy of Race" for Northern Kentucky Law Review Symposium on Race and the Death Penalty in Covington, Kentucky
- October 2009 "Doing Home Work: Researching Race and Searching for Justice in the Place of Your Birth" in the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.
- April 2009 "Racial Discrimination in Capital Jury Selection," at University of Texas School of Law Capital Punishment Center Annual Symposium: "Imprisoned by the Past: The Enduring Role of Race in the American Death Penalty" in Austin, Texas.
- April 2009 "Reflections on Race, Culture and the Death Penalty," at University of Texas School of Law Capital Punishment Center Annual Symposium: "Imprisoned by the Past: The Enduring Role of Race in the American Death Penalty" in Austin, Texas.
- November 2008 "The Self-Interested Politics of Collective Religious Transformation: The Redefinition of Family and LGBT Inclusion in Black Churches" at A Convening of Scholars on African American Religion by Public/Private Ventures in Philadelphia, PA.

- March 2008 "The Curious Connection Between Black People and Dogs in American Law and Politics: The Death Penalty as a Metric for the Quality of African American Citizenship," Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Chicago, IL.
- August 2007 "They Make it Harder for Black Men: The Death Penalty and Its Imprint on Black Politics," Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- March 2006 "'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection,'" 13th Annual Black Women's Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- July 2006 "'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection,'" Annual Law and Society Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- March 2006 "'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection,'" Conference: The Death Penalty, Texas Southern University Graduate School and Barbara Jordan/Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, Houston, TX.
- September 2005 "Testing the Boundaries of Blackness: Race and the Politics of the Death Penalty Among African Americans," American Political Science Association Meeting, Washington, DC.
- September 2005 "'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection,'" Pre-conference: "Emerging Paradigms, Residual Issues," Women's Caucus of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC.
- March 2005 "Litigating Salvation: Race, Religion and Innocence in the Cases of Karla Faye Tucker and Gary Graham," Association for the Study of Law, Culture and Humanities, Austin, TX.
- March 2005 "Folk Stories: The Historical Underpinnings of Contemporary Narratives of the Death Penalty in Texas," Texas State Historical Association, Fort Worth, TX.
- January 2005 "Testing the Boundaries of Blackness: African Americans and Narratives of the Death Penalty," Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.
- June 2004 "Testing the Boundaries of Blackness: African Americans and Narratives of the Death Penalty," Law and Society Conference, Chicago, IL.
- March 2003 "Lesson From Karla: The Meaning of When the State Kills Women," Conference: "Thinking Gender," , University of California, Los Angeles, CA.
- March 2002 "Gaining Access to Sites and Participants," Workshop with Ruth Nicole Brown and Kimala Price, Graduate Student Conference: "The Stories We Tell: Strategies,

Experiences, and Innovations in Qualitative Research,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

March 2002 “Doing Research in Your Own Backyard: The Challenges of Positionality, Objectivity, and Defamiliarization,” Workshop with Ruth Nicole Brown and Kimala Price, Graduate Student Conference: “The Stories We Tell: Strategies, Experiences, and Innovations in Qualitative Research,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Community Presentations

April 2011 Presenter and Discussion Leader, “The Knock at the Midnight Hour” (Ch.6) of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s *The Strength to Love* for the MLK Mixtape Project, St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Lexington, KY.

May 2012 “We Who Live Among Them,” 6-week community study group based on Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (curriculum provided by the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference), Nia Community of Faith, Lexington, KY.

Community Work

2014- present Board Member, Lexington Community Radio, Lexington, KY.

2006-2012 Board Member, Kentucky Equal Justice Center.

2007-2012 Volunteer, Maxwell Street Legal Clinic, Lexington, KY.

2007-2008 Lexington Public Library Village Branch, Bilingual Volunteer with After School Homework Assistance Program.

2003 Facilitator and Member of Organizing Committee, “America through the Lens of Race,” Film Series at the Michigan Theater commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. the Board of Education*, College of Literature Science and Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

1999, 2000 AIDS Walk, Austin, TX.

1998 – 1999 Volunteer, Women’s Health Resource Center, University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI.

1998, 1999 Volunteer, Prostate Cancer Awareness Screening, Coalition of 100 Black Men, Houston, TX

1992 – 1995 Volunteer Firefighter, Prairie View Volunteer Firefighters Association, Prairie View, TX.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

2007-2012 Member of Board of Directors, Kentucky Equal Justice Center, Lexington, KY

- 2008-2009 *Postdoctoral Research Scholar*, Capital Punishment Center, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX.
- 2001-2002 *Advanced Student* Capital Punishment Clinic, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX.
- 2001 *Student*, Capital Punishment Clinic, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX.
- 2001 *Law Clerk*, Political Asylum Project of Austin, Austin, TX.
- 2001 *Law Clerk*, Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Texas, Houston TX.
- 2000-2001 *Law Clerk*, Texas Defender Service, Austin, TX.

HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2013 Duncan Teaching Award at the College of Law, University of Kentucky
- 2008-2009 Ford Foundation Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2008 Fellowship, Center for the Study of Law and Culture, Columbia University Law School (declined)
- 2006 Best Dissertation, Race and Ethnicity Politics Section of the American Political Science Association
- 2006 Thesis Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
- 2005 One-Term Dissertation Award, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- 2003-2004 Award Nominee, Kingdon Teaching Award Nominee Political Science Department
- 1995-2003 Rackham Merit Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan (1995-1996, 2002-2003)
- 1996-1999 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
- 2000-2002 Texas International Law Journal, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX
- 2002 University of Texas Co-op Award for Public Interest Law (2002)
- 2000-2001 Baron and Budd Scholarship for Public Interest Law, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX
- 1991-1995 Dean's List, Prairie View A&M University
- 1991-1995 Endowed Presidential Scholarship, Prairie View A&M University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Texas Bar Association
 American Association of Law School
 Law and Society Association
 American Political Science Association
 National Conference of Black Political Scientists
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History
 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians

