

Strategic Engagement Forum

A Conversation about Current Issues and Legal Challenges

Panelist Bios

Judge Jay D. Blitzman, is the first justice for the [Middlesex Juvenile Court](#) in [Middlesex County, Massachusetts](#). He was nominated to the court by former Governor William F. Weld in March 1996. Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Blitzman was a founder and the first director of the Roxbury Youth Advocacy Project, a community based interdisciplinary public defenders unit which created the basis for the development of a statewide department. Judge Blitzman also co-founded Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CfJJ).

Angela Bovill, is President and CEO of Ascentria Care Alliance formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England. She joined the organization in 2008 as Chief Financial Officer, was named Chief Operating Officer in 2011, and became President and CEO in January, 2013. Angela graduated magna cum laude from the University of Southern Maine, majoring in Economics, and earned an MBA with honors from Boston University. As President and CEO of Ascentria, Angela has led a transformation of the nonprofit – streamlining, rebranding and changing the model of care to be more client-centered and partnership-focused. With a new vision, name, strategy and leadership team, Ascentria is leading the human services sector in innovation and holistic care.

John Cerone, holds faculty appointments as the Paul Martin Senior Professor in International Affairs & Law at the University of Windsor Faculty of Law, and as a Visiting Professor of International Law at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy (Tufts University). During the 2014-15 academic year, he was the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Human Rights & Humanitarian Law at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and Visiting Chair in Public International Law at Lund University Faculty of Law. As a practicing international lawyer, he has worked for a number of different IGOs and NGOs, including the UN, the OSCE, the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, and the International Crisis Group. He also has extensive field experience in conflict and post-conflict environments, including Afghanistan, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and East Timor. He served as Special Adviser to the first U.S. delegation to the UN Human Rights Council.

Kade Crockford, is the Director of the [Technology for Liberty Program](#) at the ACLU of Massachusetts. Kade works to protect and expand core First and Fourth Amendment rights and civil liberties in the digital 21st century, focusing on how systems of surveillance and control impact not just the society in general but their primary targets—people of color, Muslims, immigrants, and dissidents.

Barbara J. Dougan, is the Civil Rights Director at the Council for American-Islamic Relations, Massachusetts (CAIR-MA) where she handles discrimination and hate crimes/harassment cases on behalf of Massachusetts' Muslim community. Barb was formerly the director of the Project to Combat Racial Violence at the Boston Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights for many years, representing the victims of hate crimes, police misconduct and discrimination in housing and public accommodations. She was part of the legal team that successfully sued the Boston Housing Authority in 1996 ([Jane Doe v. BHA](#)) in response to years of rampant racially-motivated violence against tenants of color in South Boston and Charlestown, resulting in the first-ever finding of systemic housing discrimination by the federal government. After 9/11, Barb helped organize a 9/11 Legal Response Network, in conjunction with the ACLU, American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Lawyers Guild, which presented "know your rights" talks at area mosques and Islamic Centers, developed informational materials and set up a hotline. She was also part of the legal team that litigated one of the first post-9/11 airline cases ([Alshrafi v. American Airlines](#)) on behalf of a U.S. citizen from Jordan. In 2010, Barb was named one of the "Top Women in Law" by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* and has been honored by the NAACP, National Lawyers Guild, Community Change, and Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston.

Nathan Freitas, leads the Guardian Project, an open-source mobile security software project, and directs technology strategy and training at the Tibet Action Institute. His work at the Berkman Center focuses on tracking the legality and prosecution risks for mobile security apps users worldwide.

Sharon Goldberg, is an associate professor in the Computer Science Department at Boston University. Her research uses tools from theory (cryptography, game-theory, algorithms), and networking (measurement, modeling, and simulation) to solve practical problems in network security. She received her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2009, her B.A.Sc. from the University of Toronto in 2003, has worked as a researcher at IBM, Cisco, and Microsoft, as an engineer at Bell Canada and Hydro One Networks, and has served on working groups of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). In 2014 she received two IETF/IRTF Applied Networking Research Prizes, an NSF CAREER Award, and a Sloan Research Fellowship.

Jasmine Gomez, is the 2016-18 Democracy Honors Fellow at Free Speech For People. Ms. Gomez, a graduate from the Boston University School of Law, served on the Journal of Science and Technology Law and has written about potential state responses to corporate "Big Data" surveillance. She has held a number of leadership roles at the law school, including as Co-President of the Latin American Law Student Association, Vice President of the American Constitution Society, Co-Chair for the First-Year Advisory Program at BU, and Networking Chair for OutLaw. During her leadership positions, Jasmine helped create, facilitate, and host at least 30 events at the law school and around the city of Boston. She also received the Emerging Leader Award from the Black Law Students Association.

Rob Kirsch, is a partner in the Boston office of WilmerHale. His practice is focused on environmental law. Between 2004 and 2015, he was a leader of the Firm's pro bono team representing six men who were illegally seized in Bosnia in 2001, and rendered to the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The WilmerHale team prevailed before the Supreme Court of the U.S. in *Boumediene v. Bush* in 2008. Later that year, Rob and the team conducted the first habeas corpus trial for a Guantanamo prisoner before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, resulting in the grant of the writ to 5 of the 6 men. In 2010, the WilmerHale team prevailed before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for the team's sixth client, in what would prove to be the sole decision to favor a prisoner out of more than 20 Guantanamo habeas corpus rulings by that court. In 2009, Rob successfully negotiated with the Government of the Republic of France, which became the first EU nation to accept men from Guantanamo who had no citizenship or residency in the country. All six WilmerHale clients are free and living with their families.

Mason Kortz, is a clinical instructional fellow at the Harvard Law School Cyberlaw Clinic, part of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. His areas of interest include online speech and privacy and the use of data products (big or small) to advance social justice. Mason has worked as a data manager for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a legal fellow in the Technology for Liberty Project at the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, and a clerk in the District of Massachusetts. He has a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA in Computer Science and Philosophy from Dartmouth College. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, reading, and game design.

Michelle Leung, is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Rights Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. Previously, she served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, and as a Trial Attorney in the Special Litigation Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, where her practice focused on police misconduct matters. She is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.

Abeer Massri, is a Syrian lawyer based in Boston. She is the Legal director for Urban Refugee an organization at Boston University to generate innovative solutions to problems facing refugees

around the world. She practiced law in Syria for seven years and earned a Master's in Civil and Commercial Laws from Damascus Law University. Massri worked at one of the biggest law firms in Damascus, supervised by a former judge who also was the Minister of Justice. After arriving in Massachusetts, United States, she has worked with several non-profit organizations to help new Syrian immigrants and to send aid for refugees. Her interests include international human rights. She writes as a legal expert for a Syrian law journal. Massri holds an LLM Masters in American Law from Boston University, School of Law. In 2016 she passed the Massachusetts Bar and become an active member. Last semester, she was a teaching assistant at Boston University School of Law. She is working on many Pro Bono cases for refugees who seek asylum to the United State.

Elizabeth McIntyre, is an attorney who staffs the School to Prison Pipeline Intervention Project at Greater Boston Legal Services. She represents poor children of color in school discipline and related special education proceedings and collaborates with youth organizers and community groups to achieve statewide school discipline policy changes. Elizabeth graduated magna cum laude from the University of Missouri's School of Journalism and Boston University School of Law. She is the recipient of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Top Women of Law Leadership Award, Boston University Law School's Community Service Award, and Supreme Judicial Court's Adams Pro Bono Publico Award.

Patricia Montes, is the Executive Director of Centro Presente, one of the longest standing immigrant-led, immigrant rights organizations in Massachusetts. Patricia, who is originally from Honduras, is a recognized immigrant rights leader and a tireless advocate for just economic and social policies, including a just U.S. immigration policy.

Tatum A. Pritchard, is an attorney with Prisoners' Legal Services (PLS) where she litigates civil rights actions aimed at achieving systemic reform in the Massachusetts correctional system. Before joining PLS, Tatum provided representation to indigent criminal defendants as a staff attorney with the Committee for Public Counsel Services Public Defender Division and prepared strategic human rights litigation as a visiting attorney with the Legal Resources Centre in Grahamstown, South Africa. Tatum also serves as Strategic Litigation Consultant to the International Justice Resource Center, an international human rights organization based in San Francisco.

Laura Rótolo, Laura Rotolo is staff counsel and community advocate at the ACLU of Massachusetts where she focuses on issues relating to immigrants. Currently, Laura works to create policies that safeguard fundamental rights, as well as challenge policies that do not.

Hannah Tanabe, has been an attorney fellow in Greater Boston Legal Services CORI & Re-entry Project since September 2015. She graduated from Boston University School of Law in 2015. In 2011, Hannah graduated from Wesleyan University with high honors in Sociology.

Lisa H. Thurau, is the Executive Director and Founder of Strategies for Youth, a national nonprofit committed to improving police/youth interactions and reducing disproportionate minority contact. Strategies for Youth provides Policing the Teen Brain training for law enforcement officers and the Juvenile Justice Jeopardy game for youth, as well as conducts original research and policy initiatives.

Carl Williams, Staff Attorney ACLU - Carl joined the ACLU of Massachusetts as staff attorney in September 2013. He was previously a criminal defense attorney with the Roxbury Defenders Unit of the Committee for Public Counsel Services. Carl is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School where he worked for the innocence project. A long-time resident of Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, he has been an activist and organizer on issues of war, immigrants' rights, LGBTQ rights, and racial justice. Carl is a member of the National Lawyers Guild and has served on its Massachusetts board of directors.

Susan Yanow, is a long-time reproductive rights activist and was the founding executive director of the Abortion Access Project. She is currently a consultant to a number of U.S. and international reproductive rights and health organizations that work to advance access to abortion, including ANSIRH (Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health) at UCSF, Ibis Reproductive Health, the Reproductive Health Access Project (RHAP), the International Consortium on Medical Abortion (ICMA), and Women on Web. Susan serves on the boards of the ACLU of Massachusetts, the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women, and Chennai Children.

Heather Yountz, Attorney Heather Yountz has been an attorney at Demissie & Church since 2015, and her practice focuses on employing her civil and criminal litigation experience to provide the highest quality representation of immigrants, criminal defendants, and clients in family and other civil matters. Heather Yountz was part of the team who was on the front lines in federal court in Boston when the first travel ban took effect.