



ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

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What is the Role of Lawyers During Crises?

March 23, 2021

80 NEW SCOTLAND AVENUE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12208-3494
TEL: 518-472-5888 FAX: 518-445-2303
WWW.ALBANYLAW.EDU/CLE

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Speaker Biographies

Dahlia Lithwick

Dahlia Lithwick is a senior legal editor at *Slate*, and in that capacity, writes the "Supreme Court Dispatches" and "Jurisprudence" columns, and hosts the biweekly podcast *Amicus*. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, and *Commentary*, among other places. She won a 2013 National Magazine Award for her columns on the Affordable Care Act. She has been twice awarded an Online Journalism Award for her legal commentary and was the first online journalist invited to be on the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press. She received the 2017 Golden Pen Award from the Legal Writing Institute. Ms. Lithwick has testified before Congress about access to justice in the era of the Roberts Court. She has appeared on CNN, ABC, The Colbert Report, and is a frequent guest on *The Rachel Maddow Show*. Ms. Lithwick earned her BA from Yale University and her JD degree from Stanford University.

Muneer Ahmad

Muneer Ahmad is Deputy Dean for Experiential Education, Sol Goldman Clinical Professor of Law, and Director of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale Law School. He co-teaches in the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic (WIRAC). In WIRAC, he and his students represent individuals, groups and organizations in both litigation and non-litigation matters related to immigration, immigrants' rights, and labor, and intersections among them. He has represented immigrants in a range of labor, immigration, and trafficking cases, and for three years represented a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay; he has written on these and related topics. In the Transnational Development Clinic, Professor Ahmad and his students work on projects designed to identify productive sites for intervention for U.S.-based lawyers in global poverty work. This included work regarding the rights of street vendors in India, the barriers faced by immigrant communities in sending remittances to their home countries, access to essential medicines, institutional accountability among international financial institutions, and advocacy on behalf of workers displaced by changes in trade policy. His scholarship examines the intersections of immigration, race, and citizenship in both legal theory and legal practice. Previously, he was Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law. Prior to joining the faculty at American in 2001, he was a Skadden Fellow and staff attorney at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles. He clerked for the Hon. William K. Sessions III in the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont.

Baher Azmy

Baher Azmy is the Legal Director of the Center of Constitutional Rights. He directs all litigation around issues related to the promotion of civil and human rights. At the Center for Constitutional Rights, he has litigated cases related to discriminatory policing practices (stop and frisk), government surveillance, the rights of Guantanamo detainees, rights of asylum seekers, and accountability for victims of torture. Baher is currently on leave from his faculty position at Seton Hall University School of Law, where he taught Constitutional Law and directed the Civil Rights and Constitutional Litigation Clinic. While a Clinical Law Professor, Baher represented Murat Kurnaz, a German resident of Turkish descent imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, until his release in August 2006. In addition, he litigated cases challenging police misconduct and violations of the rights of immigrants, prisoners, and the press. He has authored numerous legal briefs in the federal appeals courts and the United States Supreme Court on issues related to human rights and constitutional law, testified before Congress, and produced substantial scholarship on issues of access to justice. He is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and of NYU School of Law, where he was a Root-Tilden-Snow Public Interest Scholar. From 2012-2019, Baher has been selected as one of the top 500 lawyers in America by *Lawdragon Magazine*.

Baher has been published by and appeared on major media outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, 60 Minutes, PBS Newshour, and MSNBC.

Lee Wang

Lee is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Immigrant Defense Project, where she leads the development of IDP's strategic vision, working across program areas to ensure that the organization advances its goals and mission. Previously, she was the founding Director of the New York Immigrant Freedom Fund, a program at the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund that fights to free immigrants from detention. She started her legal career at IDP as a Skadden Fellow and has played a key role in building the organization's ICE Out of Courts campaign. Lee is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, and Yale College. In a previous life, she was a muckraking journalist and documentary filmmaker.

Ray Brescia

Ray Brescia is the Hon. Harold R. Tyler Chair in Law & Technology and a Professor of Law at Albany Law School. Prior to joining the Albany Law faculty full-time in the summer of 2007, he was the Associate Director of the Urban Justice Center, a staff attorney at the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, and a Skadden Fellow at The Legal Aid Society of New York. He also served as a law clerk to the Hon. Constance Baker Motley, U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York. He is the author of "The Future of Change: How Technology Shapes Social Revolutions" (Cornell University

Press, 2020), as well as the co-editor of “Crisis Lawyering: Effective Legal Advocacy in Emergency Situations” (NYU Press, 2021); as well as “How Cities Will Save the World: Urban Innovation in the Face of Populations Flows, Climate Change, and Income Inequality” (Routledge, 2016). His opinion pieces have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, *The National Law Journal*, *Slate*, and the *Huffington Post*.

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Program Materials

Ethical Issues in Crisis Lawyering: Representation and Advocacy Challenges

Brescia, Ray and Stern, Eric K, *Lawyers as Problem Solvers*, Introduction from *Crisis Lawyering: Effective Legal Advocacy in Emergency Situations* (NYU Press, 2021) (excerpted with permission) available here:

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Ahmad, Muneer I., **Resisting Guantánamo: Rights at the Brink of Dehumanization**, 103 Northwestern University Law Review 1683 (2009), available here:

https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6259&context=fss_papers

Azmy, Baher, **The Pedagogy of Guantánamo**, 26 Maryland Journal of International Law 47 (2011), available here:

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Azmy, Baher, **Executive Detention, Boumediene, and the New Common Law of Habeas**, 95 Iowa Law Rev. 455 (2010), available here:

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1357788

Immigrant Defense Project, **The Protect Our Courts Act is Now Law in New York State! Community FAQ**, available here: <https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Community-FAQ-POCA-EN-1.pdf>

Immigrant Defense Project, **Denied, Disappeared, and Deported: The Toll of ICE Operations at New York's Courts in 2019** (January 2020), available here:

<https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/Denied-Disappeared-Deported-FINAL.pdf>

Brescia, Raymond H., **The Lawyer for the (Crisis) Situation** (September 4, 2020), Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics, Forthcoming, Albany Law School Research Paper No. 8 for 2020-2021, available here:

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3686892

Brescia, Raymond H., **Lessons from the Present: Three Crises and Their Potential Impact on the Legal Profession**, Forthcoming, Hofstra Law Review, available here:

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3792987