**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Judge Ann Claire Williams (Ret.)**  
*Jumpstart Founder  
Of Counsel, Jones Day*

Judge Ann Claire Williams (Ret.), a trailblazer and leader, heads Jones Day’s efforts in advancing the rule of law in Africa. Devoted to promoting the effective delivery of justice worldwide, particularly in Africa, she has partnered with judiciaries, attorneys, NGOs, and the U.S. Departments of Justice and State to lead training programs in Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. She also has taught at the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

President Ronald Reagan nominated her in 1985 to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, making her the first woman of color to serve on a district court in the three-state Seventh Circuit. In 1999, President William Clinton’s nomination made her the first and only judge of color to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the third woman of color to serve on any federal circuit court. She brings her vast experience on the bench to serve as a resource for Jones Day’s leading trial and appellate practices.

**Ben Alba**  
*Director of Academic Success  
DePaul University College of Law*

Professor Benjamin Alba is the Director of Academic Success at DePaul University College of Law. Prior to joining DePaul in 2002, Professor Alba was a Partner in the Chicago litigation firm of Sneckenberg, Thompson & Brody. During his 19-year litigation career, he taught legal writing, moot court, and pretrial litigation at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He also served as a certified arbitrator for the Circuit Court of Cook County.

**Honorable Jorge L. Alonso**  
*U.S. District Judge  
Northern District of Illinois*

The Honorable Jorge L. Alonso has served as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Illinois since 2014. Judge Alonso was nominated to his position by President Barack Obama. Judge Alonso previously served as an Associate Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County where he presided over felony cases in the Criminal Division. Before taking the bench, Judge Alonso worked as an assistant public defender in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender for over a decade.

**Lorianna Anderson**  
*2L  
Chicago-Kent College of Law*

Lorianna Anderson is a 2L at Chicago-Kent. She attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for undergrad where she received a degree in social work. She is the Academic Chair for BLSA, a member of the Trial Team, and the Vice-President of the Criminal Law Society. This summer, she’s interning at the Chicago Housing Authority in the General Counsel’s office. As a native of the south side of Chicago, Lorianna plans to use her law degree to reform inequities in our legal system.
Candace Bergeron  
**Associate Director of Student Engagement & Community**  
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law  

Candace M. Bergeron is the Associate Director of Student Engagement and Community at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. Previously, Candace served as the Associate Director of Student Affairs and Programs at the University of Chicago Law School. Candace earned her B.A. from Illinois State University, and her M.A. from the University of Chicago Graham School.

Meg Bingle  
**Associate Director of Admissions**  
University of Chicago Law School  

Meg Bingle is the Associate Director of Admissions at the University of Chicago Law School. She oversees the law school’s interviewing program and participates in all aspects of the admissions process. She is also active in working with current students in programs like the Doctoroff Business Leadership Program. Prior to joining the University of Chicago Law School community, Meg was an insurance defense litigator with a primary focus in medical malpractice.

Alice Brathwaite  
**Counsel – Employment and Litigation**  
Upwork  

Alice Brathwaite currently serves as Counsel – Employment and Litigation at Upwork, and previously served as Counsel at Grubhub. Alice litigated wage-and-hour class and collective actions – with a focus on joint employer and technology issues – and lawsuits brought under a variety of federal anti-discrimination statutes as an Associate in the Labor and Employment group at Jones Day for nearly five years prior to moving in-house. From 2013-2014, Alice served as Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Ann Claire Williams (Ret.) of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Kezmen Clifton  
**Associate**  
Jones Day  

Kezmen Clifton advises clients on the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of corporate acquisitions, dispositions, and mergers. Kezmen has experience drafting employment agreements, separation agreements, equity and incentive arrangements, and securities-related disclosures. She also assists with counseling clients on institutional investment and ERISA fiduciary matters.

Corrine Conway  
**2L**  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  

Corrine Conway is a rising 2L at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She studied anthropology in undergrad and thoroughly enjoy getting to know people and how their legal needs depend on their identities. She has three dogs at home, which is as chaotic as it sounds.

Herschella Conyers  
**Clinical Professor of Law / Director**  
Mandel Criminal and Juvenile Justice Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School  

Herschella G. Conyers is a clinical professor of law and the director of the Mandel Criminal and Juvenile Justice Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School. Before joining the law school, she served as an Assistant Public Defender, Supervisor, and Deputy Chief in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. She received both a J.D. and B.A. from the University of Chicago.
Cymone Forde
2L
UIC John Marshall Law School

Cymone Forde is a second-year law student at UIC John Marshall Law School. Originally from Florida, Cymone moved to Chicago last August. Prior to law school, she worked in project management for a software company. This past summer Cymone has been working in-house for Mondelez International, a global snacking company. She is also on the Professionals’ Council for Shriver Center on Poverty Law.

Jeremy Daniel
Assistant U.S. Attorney
U.S. Attorneys Office, Northern District of Illinois

Jeremy Daniel is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois. While attending Illinois Wesleyan University, Jeremy enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, Jeremy served as a Combat Engineer Officer in the Marine Corps. Jeremy has since worked at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and with the Honorable Virginia M. Kendall.

Megan DeMarco
Term Law Clerk
Northern District of Illinois

Megan DeMarco is a Term Law Clerk for the Honorable Manish S. Shah, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2016 and worked for three years as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan before moving to Chicago to clerk. She is originally from New Jersey.

Melissa Hale
Director of Academic Success & Bar Programs
Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Melissa Hale is the Director of Academic Success and Bar Programs at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She is very active with the Association of Academic Support Educators, and frequently presents at its conferences. Melissa received her undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University and her J.D. from New England School of Law.

Eddie Hasdoo
Associate
Jones Day

Eddie Hasdoo practices antitrust and competition law with a focus on mergers and acquisitions, federal and state government investigations and litigation, and antitrust compliance counseling. He has represented clients in a variety of industries, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, agricultural products, emerging technologies, and consumer retail goods.
Honorable LaShonda A. Hunt  
_U.S. Bankruptcy Judge_  
Northern District of Illinois

The Honorable LaShonda A. Hunt was appointed a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Illinois on January 6, 2017. She previously served as General Counsel of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, Chief Legal Counsel of the Illinois Department of Corrections, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois.

Tania Luma  
**Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**  
UIC John Marshall Law School

Tania Luma was appointed Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in 2019. She works to promote a culture at UIC that values and supports diversity through work in five main areas: institutional strategic planning, diversity programming and training, current student support, recruitment, and community partnerships. Prior to entering higher education, Assistant Dean Luma practiced civil litigation in the Cook County Child Protection Division from 2009-2016.

Tramell Moore  
2L  
DePaul University College of Law

Tramell Moore is a rising 2L student at DePaul University College of Law. He is originally from Chicago. Tramell is a 2015 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in history. Before law school, Tramell taught 9-11th grade history in Memphis, TN, through Teach for America and worked as a Docket Clerk at Winston & Strawn, LLP. He now works as a Law Clerk at Krzak Rundio Law Group, LLC. Tramell is a member of the DePaul Law Review and is the current President of the Black Law Student Association at DePaul.

Drew Page  
**Term Law Clerk**  
Northern District of Illinois

Drew Page is a Term Law Clerk for the Honorable LaShonda A. Hunt, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. He graduated from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in 2019 where he was Secretary of the Public Interest Law Group and Executive Producer of the Wigmore Follies. Prior to clerking he worked as a summer associate in the Finance and Restructuring group at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath. He is originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Juan Morado, Jr.  
**Of Counsel**  
Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP

Juan Morado, Jr. is a health care regulatory and policy attorney with extensive experience working with state and federal agencies, and providing strategic counsel to private and public corporations, organizations, and individuals. Prior to joining Benesch, Juan was General Counsel for the Health Facilities and Services Review Board of the State of Illinois. Juan also served in the Office of the Illinois Governor from 2013-2015 as a Deputy Chief of Staff and Associate General Counsel.

Sofia Orelo  
2L  
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Sofia Orelo is a rising 2L at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. On campus, she is involved with the Latinx Law Students Association. She is also an Apex Advisor and a TA for contracts. This summer she worked at DLA Piper.
Honorable Rebecca R. Pallmeyer
Chief Judge
Northern District of Illinois


Yogini Patel
Term Law Clerk
Northern District of Illinois

Yogini Patel is a Term Law Clerk for the Honorable Mary M. Rowland, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 2018 where she was President of the South Asian Law Students Association and Director of the Law School Musical. Prior to clerking, she worked as a Litigation Associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. She is from Marietta, Georgia.

Diona Rogers
Thompson Coburn LLP

Diona Rogers currently works at Thompson Coburn LLP in Chicago. Diona assists in the documentation and closing of syndicated and single-lender secured and unsecured credit facilities. Prior to joining Thompson Coburn, Diona served as a compliance associate in a Chicago trading firm and worked as a corporate attorney. Diona holds both a J.D. and an MBA, enabling her to apply a strong business-minded perspective to legal matters.

Artaka L. Ross, Jr.
2L
DePaul University College of Law

Artaka L. Ross, Jr., was born in Detroit, MI, to a single mother and is the eldest brother of five. He graduated from Denby High School on the city's east side and subsequently attended Adrian College in Michigan. He is currently a 2L at DePaul University College of Law, and aspires to one day work as a criminal defense attorney in Detroit.

Marsha Ross-Jackson
Assistant Dean, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Executive Director, Institute for Law and the Workplace

Marsha Ross-Jackson has served as an HR/legal business partner and adviser to senior leaders, boards of directors and operational leaders. Marsha has a B.A. in biology from Hampton University, and an M.A. in public administration and a J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. She is currently a senior lecturer and Assistant Dean at Chicago-Kent College of Law. Marsha is also the Executive Director of its Institute for Law and the Workplace.

The Honorable Mary M. Rowland
U.S. District Judge
Northern District of Illinois

The Honorable Mary M. Rowland was sworn in as a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois on August 22, 2019. She served as a Magistrate Judge for the same court from October 2012 to August 2019. Judge Rowland has also served in the Chicago office of the Federal Defender, first as a Staff Attorney and later as the office’s Chief Appellate Attorney. In 2000, she joined the law firm Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, where she led the criminal defense practice and also litigated high-profile civil cases. Earlier in her career, she clerked for District Judge Julian Cook in Detroit, Michigan.
Karen Alicia Shaw  
*Director of Graduate Legal Studies*  
*Loyola University Chicago School of Law*

Karen Alicia Shaw is the Director of Graduate Legal Studies at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She also teaches legal research and writing and thesis preparation as part of Loyola's LL.M. program, as well as a first-year legal writing course to J.D. students. She holds a B.A. from DePaul University, a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and an LL.M. in health law from Loyola.

Antonette Smith  
*Executive Director*  
*Just The Beginning*

Antonette N. Smith was appointed Executive Director of Just The Beginning - A Pipeline Organization in September 2017. Previously, she served as the Associate Director of Educational Programs for the American Bar Association Section of Real Property Trust & Estate Law. She has also served as a diversity and inclusion consultant to incoming law students at New York Law School.

Mike Trajkovich  
*Associate*  
*Jones Day*

Mike Trajkovich is an Associate at Jones Day where he practices corporate law, with a focus on financing transactions. Mike received a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from the University of Chicago. Mike is also a member of the Development Council at The Anti-Cruelty Society, an animal shelter and humane society located in Chicago.

Virginia Vermillion  
*Assistant Dean for Academic Administration and Dean of Students*  
*University of Illinois College of Law*

Virginia Vermillion is the Assistant Dean for Academic Administration and Dean of Students for the University of Illinois College of Law. With the assistance of those in student services, she serves as an advocate for students and student organizations, manages the many student awards, implements the college's academic policies, facilitates course and examination schedules, hosts orientation and convocation, serves on various unit and campus committees, and counsels with the College of Law students.