MELYNDA JANEA PRICE

Associate Professor
University of Kentucky College of Law

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EDUCATION

2006 **PhD**, Political Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

2002 **J.D.**
The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX 78705

1995 **B.S.**, Physics *cum laude*
Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX 77446

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2009 – present *Associate Professor*
College of Law
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506

2006 – 2009 *Assistant Professor*
College of Law
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506

Courses taught: Torts, Law and Social Science, Law and Popular Culture and Immigration
Committees: Diversity (Chair 2007-2008), Recruitment and Scholarship/Honors
Instructor: Kentucky Legal Educational Opportunities (KLEO) Program Summer Workshop (2008, 2009) and Academic Success Program (2007, 2009)

Affiliated Faculty
African American Studies and Research Program
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506

2008-2009 *Ford Foundation Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow*
Capital Punishment Center

University of Texas School of Law

2002 – 2006 *Graduate Student Instructor and Administrative Assistant*
Department of Political Science and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Courses Taught: PS 111 Introduction to American Politics (3 semesters—Head Graduate Student Instructor for all terms), PS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics, CAAS 200 Special Topics: Affirmative Action and Reparations

Courses Graded: PS 324 African American Politics (2 semesters)

Instructor
Department of Political Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Course Taught: PS 447 Comparative Religion and Politics (Summer 2002 and 2005)

1997 – 1999 *Instructor*
Department of Political Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Course: PS 447 Comparative Religion and Politics

Graduate Student Instructor
Center for Afroamerican and African Studies and Women Studies Department
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Courses Taught: CAAS 100 Introduction to African American Studies and WS 100 Issues of Women of Color

PUBLICATIONS

Performing *Discretion or Performing Discrimination: An Analysis of Race and Ritual in Batson Decisions in Capital Jury Selection* in the MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF RACE AND LAW (Fall 2009)

Balancing Lives: Individual Accountability and the Death Penalty as Punishment for Genocide (Lessons From Rwanda) in the EMORY INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL (Spring 2008)

Litigating Salvation: Race, Religion and Innocence in the Cases of Karla Faye Tucker and Gary Graham in the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (Spring 2006)

At the Cross: Race and Religion in the Politics of the Death Penalty Among African Americans (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Michigan, 2006)—Awarded Best Dissertation by the Race and Ethnicity Politics Section of the American Political Science Association

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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.

Facilitated a workshop for graduate students in African American Studies.

August 2009 — "Who I Am: The Links Between Private and Intellectual Life," Keynote Address for closing of University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies Summer Institute in Ann Arbor, MI.

July 2009 — Invited Speaker for NAACP Legal Defense Fund Annual Death Penalty Training in Airlie, Virginia (could not attend).

May 2009 — "Thoughts on Race, Power, and Death" at Resistencia Book Shop in Austin, Texas.

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.

"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.

March 2009 — Co-Chair of Section of Inequality and Social Justice for the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Annual Meeting (NCOBPS) in Houston, Texas

Chair, "The Death Penalty and Modern Meaning of Social Justice" and presented paper, "Doing Home Work: Researching Race and Searching for Justice in the Place of Your Birth."

Chair, "The Poetics of Black Politics and the Politics of Black Poets: A Conversation with Nikky Finney"

February 2009 — Moderator, "40 Acre and A Mule or the White House: Imagining Justice," at Bringing Human Rights Home Conference sponsored By the Bernard and Audre Rapaport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the University of Texas School of Law 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.

October 2008 — Speaker, Capital Punishment Seminar at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas.

Chair of "Being A Successful Law Student" and taught Mock Class at National Black Prelaw Conference in Houston Texas.

June 2008 — Attended the National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, OH

"Performing Discretion, Performing Discrimination: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection," at the Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Professor's Conference at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado.

April 2008 — "Litigating Salvation: Race/Gender, Religion and Innocence on the Texas Death Row" at Wesleyan University Department of Political Science in Middletown, CT.

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" at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists in Chicago, IL.

January 2008 — UKCOL Representative, American Association of Law School Annual Meeting in New York, NY.

November 2007 — "They Make it Harder for Black Men: The Death Penalty and Its Imprint on Black Politics" at "Towards A Transformative Agenda on Race" Conference at the Ohio State University Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in Columbus, OH.

August 2007 — "They Make it Harder for Black Men: The Death Penalty and Its Imprint on Black Politics" at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Chicago, IL.

March 2006 — "'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection" at the 13th Annual Black Women's Conference at the University of Kentucky in Lexington KY

November 2006 — "Litigating Salvation: Race, Religion, and Innocence in the Cases of Karla Faye Tucker and Gary Graham" as the African American Studies and Research Program Carter G. Woodson Lecture at the University of Kentucky Martin Luther King Cultural Center in Lexington, KY

July 2006 — "'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection" at the Annual Law and Society Conference in Baltimore, MD.

March 2006	"'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection" at conference entitled, The Death Penalty at Texas Southern University Graduate School and Barbara Jordan/Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs in Houston, TX.
September 2005	"Testing the Boundaries of Blackness: Race and the Politics of the Death Penalty Among African Americans" on panel entitled Race Religion and Politics at American Political Science Association Meeting in Washington, D.C.
	"'I Believe in Justice: Race and Ritual in Capital Jury Selection" at Pre-conference entitled, Emerging Paradigms, Residual Issues, sponsored by the Women's Caucus of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C.
March 2005	"Litigating Salvation: Race, Religion and Innocence in the Cases of Karla Faye Tucker and Gary Graham" at the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and Humanities Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.
March 2005	"Folk Stories: The Historical Underpinnings of Contemporary Narratives of the Death Penalty in Texas" on panel entitled From Lynching to the Death Penalty in Texas at the Texas State Historical Association in Fort Worth, TX
January 2005	"Testing the Boundaries of Blackness: African Americans and Narratives of the Death Penalty" at Southern Political Science Association meeting in New Orleans, LA
June 2004	"Testing the Boundaries of Blackness: African Americans and Narratives of the Death Penalty" presented at the Law and Society Conference in Chicago, IL
March 2003	"Lesson From Karla: The Meaning of When the State Kills Women" presented at "Thinking Gender" Conference at the University of California Los Angeles in Los Angeles, CA
September 2002	Select participant in Women of Color Studies Workshop at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association Meeting in Boston, MA
March 2002	"Gaining Access to Sites and Participants" with Ruth Nicole Brown and Kimala Price. Workshop for the Graduate Student Conference, "The Stories We Tell: Strategies, Experiences, and Innovations in Qualitative Research," at the University of Michigan
March 2002	"Doing Research in Your Own Backyard: The Challenges of Positionality, Objectivity, and Defamiliariztion" with Ruth Nicole Brown, Kimala Price

and Deborah Schwartz. Workshop for the Graduate Student Conference, "The Stories We Tell: Strategies, Experiences, and Innovations in Qualitative Research," at the University of Michigan

March 2001 — Participant. Law Culture and Humanities Conference, at the University of Texas at Austin

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

2007- present — *Member* of Board of Directors
Kentucky Equal Justice Center (a non-profit poverty law advocacy and research center formerly known as Office of Kentucky Legal Services Program)

2008-2009 — Visiting Research Scholar
Capital Punishment Center
University of Texas School of Law

2001 – 2002 — *Student* (Sp 2001) and *Advanced Student* (F2001-Sp2002)
Capital Punishment Clinic
University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX 78705
Duties: Researched points of law and legislative history for post-conviction appeals to state and federal courts; traveled to prison to consult with inmates; prepared report on mitigation factors for inmate on federal death row

2001 (Fall) — *Law Clerk*
Political Asylum Project of Austin, Austin, TX 78752
Duties: Completed initial interviews with clients interested in filing asylum applications; researched country conditions in support of asylum applications; organized training for pro bono attorneys affiliated with the project

2001 (Summer) — *Law Clerk*
Federal Public Defender-Southern District of Texas
Houston TX 77002
Duties: Researched points of law; observed and participated in litigation proceedings in federal court; participated in client interviews; assisted in trial preparation and investigation

2000 – 2001 — *Law Clerk*
Texas Defender Service, Austin, TX 78704
Duties: Contributed to study of death penalty published by TDS—*A State of Denial: Texas Justice and the Death Penalty*; helped prepare federal and state habeas petitions for death row inmates; traveled to death row to interview and update clients

HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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

HONOR SOCIETIES

Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics)
Alpha Kappa Mu (National Honor Society)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Texas Bar Association
American Association of Law School
Law and Society Association
American Political Science Association
National Conference of Black Political Scientists

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2006 – present Kentucky Equal Justice Center, *Board Member*
2007 – present Maxwell Street Legal Clinic, *Volunteer*
2007-2008 Lexington Public Library Village Branch, Bilingual Volunteer with After School Homework Assistance Program
2003 Facilitator and Member of Organizing Committee for *America through the Lens of Race* Film Series at the Michigan Theater commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. the Board of Education* as part of community outreach for the theme semester in the College of Literature Science and Arts
1999, 2000 AIDS Walk Austin
1998 – 1999 University of Michigan Hospital Women's Health Resource Center, *Volunteer*

1998, 1999 Prostate Cancer Awareness Screening, Coalition of 100 Black Men
1992 – 1995 Prairie View Volunteer Firefighters Association, *Volunteer Firefighter*