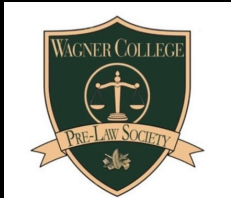


Legal Issues in the Holocaust and Genocide

CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, JUNE 6 @ 5 PM



Organized by Lori Weintrob and Laura Morowitz
Wagner College Holocaust Center
Staten Island, NY
holocaust.center@wagner.edu
718 390 3309

Please RSVP [here](#)

**CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDIT
(CLE) FOR ATTENDANCE.**

Panel 2, 6:30-8:00 1.5 CLE Credits
for Professional Practice

The Richmond County Bar Association is certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York. Program approval is pending for a maximum of 1.0 transitional/non-transitional credit hours.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

5:10- 6:10: PANEL 1: LEGAL CASE STUDIES: GERMANY AND BOSNIA

Resisters. How Ordinary Jews Fought Persecution in Hitler's Germany

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Wolf Gruner, Founding Director, USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research, Shapell- Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and Professor of History, University of Southern California.

Bosnian Voices from the Bottom of the Well

Dr. Alma Begicevic, Adjunct Instructor, Sociology Department, Loyola University Chicago, former representative to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe on behalf of the US.

COFFEE BREAK

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

In Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda, we will observe a minute of silence.

6: 30-8:00: PANEL 2: TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES IN LAW AND GENOCIDE

THIS PANEL IS APPROVED BY THE RICHMOND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR 1.5 CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDIT FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The Compelling Case for Viewing Genocide through a Gendered and Intersectional Lens

Fay Y. Parris, Esq., Co-Chair, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, International Women's Rights Committee

The Enduring Genocide Problem: The Limits of a Concept

Dr. Sarah Danielsson, Professor of History, CUNY Graduate Center and Queensborough, Executive Director of the CUNY Academy, Associate Editor of *The Journal of Genocide Research*, co-chair of the Columbia University Faculty Seminar on Law and Politics

COMMENTATORS

Jacqueline Murekatete Esq., Survivor of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda & Founder of Genocide Survivors Foundation.

Leo Ullman, Esq., J.D. Columbia Law School, President, Vastgood Properties, LLC

CLOSING REMARKS AND REFLECTIONS

Charles DeStefano, Esq., Law Offices of Charles DeStefano, President, Staten Island Trial Lawyers Association

Hon. Karen Wolff, Judge of the NYC Family Court

8:00 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Conference Committee:

Heather Butts, JD, MPH, MA, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management,
Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

Charles DeStefano, Esq., Law Offices of Charles DeStefano, President, Staten Island
Trial Lawyers Association

Jay Duskin, Esq., Duskin and Crowe

Chair, Stephen R. Greenwald, Esq., Member and former President of the American
Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Fay Parris, Esq. International Law Consultant, Co-Chair of the Women's Bar Association
of the State of New York, International Women's Rights Committee

Hon. Marjorie Steinberg, Judge of the NYC Family Court

Hon. Karen Wolff, Judge of the NYC Family Court

PARTICIPANT BIOS

Dr. Wolf Gruner (PhD, Technical University Berlin) is the Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and Professor of History at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles since 2008, and Founding Director of the USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research since 2014. He is an appointed member of the Academic Committee at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum since 2017. He is the author of eleven books, among them *Jewish Forced Labor under the Nazis. Economic Needs and Nazi Racial Aims* with Cambridge University Press (2006), *Parias de la Patria*. *El mito de la liberación de los indígenas en la República de Bolivia 1825-1890* (2015), and the prize winning *The Holocaust in Bohemia and Moravia. Czech Initiatives, German Policies, Jewish Responses* (2019). He coedited four books, including “Resisting Persecution. Jews and Their Petitions during the Holocaust” (2020), and “New Perspectives on Kristallnacht: After 80 Years, the Nazi Pogrom in Global Comparison” (2019). His new book, a National Jewish Book Award finalist, is called: *Resisters. How Ordinary Jews fought Hitler’s Persecution*, Yale University Press 2023.

Dr. Alma Begicevic, Adjunct Instructor at the Sociology Department, Loyola University, is a Chicago-based interdisciplinary scholar and legal researcher, known for her contributions to constitutional law, political economy, human rights, and work in post-genocide, post-colonial transitions, with a specific focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her research spans various topics, including peace and accountability processes, constitution-making, war reparations, and the rights of victims. By exploring complex issues at the intersection of law, politics, economy, and societal structures, she enriches our understanding of post-conflict changes and challenges Bosnia and Herzegovina faces to provide generalizable recommendations to other post-war contexts. Dr. Begicevic's dedication to critical inquiry to investigate the connections between past, present and future—between money, justice, and victims’ recognition-- underscores her commitment to advancing scholarship in the pursuit of human rights, especially for historically oppressed and vulnerable groups. Her work has been featured in the *International Journal of Constitutional Law* (Oxford University Press), *Law & Policy* (Wiley), *International Review of Victimology* (Sage), and the *International Institute for Sociology and Law* (Oñati, Spain), among others.

Fay Yvette Parris, Esq. is an international law consultant, immigration law practitioner, and writer with experience in humanitarian and international human rights law. She served as a Visiting Professional with the International Criminal Court (ICC), Office of the Prosecutor, where she advised the Court on modalities for prosecuting gender-based persecution which occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2011); as Advisor to the ICC Trust Fund for Victims for a June 2009 Board Meeting, and as a Supervising Attorney with the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights advocating before the United States Immigration Court as Guardian Ad Litem for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children entering the United States border. From June 2021-June 2022, she served as President of the Queens County Women's Bar Association, and she is currently a member of the American University School of International Service Board of Advisors, an Ex-Officio Director of the Global NGO Executive Committee, serving in her twentieth year as Co-Chair of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) International Women's Rights Committee and sits on the Executive Council of The Network of Bar Leaders. Fay was the 2019 recipient of the WBASNY Marilyn R. Menge Award for outstanding work on behalf of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

Dr. Sarah Danielsson is Professor of History at CUNY, Queensborough and Executive Director of the CUNY Academy at the CUNY Graduate Center. She has published a number of articles and book chapters, and four books on issues of mass violence and intellectual history, most recently *War and Sexual Violence: New Perspectives* (Shöningh, 2019 [Brill]) She is currently working on two book projects, an edited volume on war and genocide, and a monograph on pan-nationalism. She serves as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Genocide Research*. Professor Danielsson is a member of the International Network of Genocide Scholars (INoGS), German Studies Association (GSA), American Historical Association (AHA), Society for French Historical Studies (SFHS). She is also a co-chair of the Columbia University Faculty Seminar on Law and Politics, and a member of the New York Area Seminar in Intellectual and Cultural History.

Jacqueline Murekatete, Esq. is an internationally recognized genocide survivor and human rights activist. Born in Rwanda, Jacqueline was nine years old when she lost her family in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. She has spoken at schools, NGO events and faith-based communities across the U.S and in Germany, Israel, Ireland, Bosnia, and Belgium. She has also addressed the UN General Assembly. Jacqueline founded Genocide Survivors Foundation (GSF) as vehicle to continue her genocide prevention efforts and raise support for fellow genocide survivors (link: <https://genocidesurvivorsfoundation.org/>). Jacqueline has a B.A. in Politics from New York University and a J.D from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Leo S. Ullman was born in 1939 in the Netherlands, where he and his family survived in hiding during World War II. His story as a hidden child is chronicled in a couple of, self-authored books. He is a graduate of Harvard College (A.B. 1961) and of both Columbia University's Law School (J.D. 1964) and Business School (M.B.A. 1964). He practiced law for some 35 years, starting with Sullivan & Cromwell (1965-1968) and including his own firm, Ullman, Miller & Wrubel. He served as Deputy Assistant General Counsel of the U.S. Office of Foreign Direct Investments and published monographs on its Regulations. For more than 10 years, he wrote a monthly column for the Dutch real estate publication, "Vastgoed", on investment in U.S. real estate and was founding editor of a loose-leaf service on taxation of interest, dividends and royalties in Europe and the U.S. As an Adjunct Professor for several years at NYU's Graduate School of Business, Mr. Ullman taught a course on "Legal Aspects of International Business". While practicing law, Mr. Ullman also started a real estate ownership and management company, which he took to the New York Stock Exchange in 2003. In 2005, he was named "Entrepreneur of the Year" by Ernst & Young for the Real Estate/Hospitality Area. He retired from that company in June 2011 and founded a private real estate company, which he continues to run to date. Mr. Ullman spent 22 years as a director, and 7 years as chair of the Anne Frank Center USA. He presently chairs the U.S. Foundations for the Jewish Historical Museum of Amsterdam and the Netherlands National Holocaust Museum. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve (1959 – 1965).

ABSTRACTS

Title : Resisters. How Ordinary Jews fought Persecution in Hitler's Germany
Dr. Wolf Gruner

Jewish resistance during the Holocaust is still understood mostly in terms of rare armed group activities in the Nazi occupied East, for example ghetto uprisings or partisan activities. This new research is based on a broader definition and countless hitherto untapped sources, including local police and court records as well as video testimonies of survivors. Introducing five new categories of resistance, the talk shows how between 1933 and 1945 Jews performed countless resistance acts in Nazi Germany proper, by destroying Nazi symbols, publicly protesting against the persecution, disobeying Nazi laws and local restrictions, and defending themselves from verbal insults as well as physical attacks. Those caught were charged with various criminal offenses and as result of trials in Special and regular courts sentenced to months and years in prison. The fact that so many German Jewish women and men of all ages, educations and professions defied the Nazis obliterates the common view of the passivity of Jews under Nazi persecution. Their courageous acts, however, still need to be incorporated into the general narrative of the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany and the Holocaust in general.

Title: Bosnian voices from the bottom of the well

Dr. Alma Begicevic

Human rights advocates call for reparation as an important step to acknowledge and repair historical injustice and mass harms. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, victims of war continue to seek monetary reparation for non-pecuniary damages caused by genocide: murder, injury to human body and dignity, and harms inflicted upon a close family member. They seek legal remedies using national, foreign, and international human rights judicial venues. Drawing from qualitative, ethnographic research data and archival documents, the article examines legal claims and public discourse regarding reparation and makes a case for a reconceptualization of reparation by including victim voices. The article concludes that despite being absent from the post-conflict victims' reparation programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, monetary reparation has assumed a social valuation attribute. On the one hand, it is a victim's call for retributive, legal conceptions of justice – that someone who escaped international and national criminal justice programs pays. On the other hand, it is a tool to draw attention to Bosnian victims' present civil and political exclusions that came with the international post-conflict peace treaty. While the post-war reconstruction focused on international trials, democratization, restorative justice, and state building programs, it also restricted socio-economic and cultural rights by redefining the citizenship and dismantling the welfare state. Reparation is a debt owed to victims.

Title: The Compelling Case for Viewing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence as Acts of Genocide

Fay Y. Parris, Esq.

Article II(c) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as “any act deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.” Sexual and gender-based violence which is unequivocally perpetrated to cause indelible physical and psychological harm and crush the spirit of a people, whether as a component of conflict or otherwise, should be regarded as acts of genocide. This presentation will address the legal and theoretical premise for classifying sexual violence as an act of genocide and will also provide an analysis of relevant jurisprudence of international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court. In this analysis, the importance of intersectional feminist practices in international criminal justice will be underscored.

Title: “The Enduring Genocide Problem: The Limits of a Concept”

Dr. Sarah Danielsson

Abstract: From its inception, the genocide concept has been fraught. In broad strokes: first it was mired in a high stakes international political debate that watered down the genocide convention's legal definition; then it was stuck for decades in a historical limbo as scholars debated the appropriateness of the term outside the holocaust; and finally it became unleashed in public discourse as a catch-all phrase for all forms of mass violence. In all its incarnations, the genocide concept has been greatly contested and yet among a few terms that carry potentially grave legal, social, and political implications. This talk will explore both the history and implications of the differing definitions and usages of genocide, and what, if anything, can be done to correct this state of affairs.